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## DENTUS DENTAL CENTER WINS NATIONAL DESIGN CONTEST

Vancouver, WA; Dentus Dental Center has taken first place in the Multiple Practitioner category of the prestigious Matsco 2002 National Dental Center Design Contest. The prize included \$4,000 cash and a feature story in the Sept. 2002 issue of Dental Economics Magazine (co-sponsor of the competition), along with other forms of industry and public news coverage. Drs. Joseph Opray, DMD, and Andre Kaindl, DMD, DDS, are the two partners in the Vancouver-based practice.

Winners were selected by a panel of experts in design, architecture, ergonomics, equipment and high-tech integration. Contest entrants were evaluated on the basis of site plan, floor plan, interior and exterior photographs and other exhibits. A total of 62 entries were submitted from around the U.S.

The modern exterior of the award-winning facility is finished with copper composite, stone and generous windows, and features a grand half-arch covering the front entrance. Contrasting with the high-tech look of the exterior, the interior is softly illuminated with modern, "indirect lighting" fixtures, and decorated with large, colorful fine art pieces, set against the muted earth tones of the finish materials. Fully open to the view of visitors is the centerpiece of the interior: a "Sterilization Center" that is visually suggestive of a space shuttle lab, and is used for cleaning equipment.

"We want our patients to feel comfortable knowing their dental health is our top priority," says Dr. Opray. "Our focus is on improving their experience, and making our state-of-the-art equipment part of the decor helps provide that reassurance."

Among the practice's advanced tools and techniques are Digital Radiography, which reduces exposure to x-rays, and Air Abrasion, used in some cases to replace drilling. Anesthesia is painlessly administered with a device called "The Wand", and Nitrous Oxide is offered free to patients who are apprehensive of dental procedures.

But according to Dr. Opray, the main asset of the practice is the friendly staff of 17 people, and the gentle chairside manner of the two practitioners. "We're a team here," he says, "and all our people have a special feeling for the needs of the busy families who visit us." The understanding treatment of children is a particular source of pride, he adds.

Dr. Opray has traditionally focused on children's and family dentistry, and has been practicing in Clark County since 1983. In 1990, he was joined by Dr. Kaindl, who added his special training in restorative care and oral surgery, including implants, periodontics and cosmetic dentistry. In 2001, the pair established the name "Dentus" and built their current facility about a half mile from their previous location.

The name Dentus symbolizes the union of technology and community that the dental center embraces, says Dr. Opray, with the "us" in the suffix alluding to the relationships the doctors build with their patients. Similarly, their slogan "A Community of Smiles" reflects not only an emphasis on enhancing physical appearance, but also a commitment to the local community.

As Dr. Opray sums it up: "Lots of people who drive by our building are intrigued by its distinctive design...but in more ways than one, it's really 'what's inside' that counts".

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