

Modern Art & Craft

Remodel/Addition

A local dentist aims to improve his patients' smiles with a focus on the art and craft of dentistry, a goal that is also expressed in the architecture of this 600 sf addition and remodel of an existing 840 sf space.

Located on the border of a Tangletown business node and residential neighborhood, the design created a well-placed buffer between the two. Scaled to the adjacent homes, the massing does not overpower its neighbors, but now has a substantial presence.

The original building has always been a dental office--a tiny, unassuming & unadorned post-war cape cod having equally tiny treatment rooms inside. Not only was the size inadequate for today's dentist office needs, but the structure needed some repair. The location was ideal...great traffic, close to major streets, and in a vibrant neighborhood. The only problem was no one ever seemed to notice it was there. It became the dream of the owner to expand the space and create an artistic design that ties into the neighborhood aesthetic.

The design brings lots of natural light into an open, circuitous floor plan that doesn't compromise patient privacy. With only two treatment rooms before, the expansion created a total of four and included enlarging the lab, reception and waiting areas. Though still a modest addition, it now feels spacious. The lower level was also expanded but remains unfinished. In the future, it will be used for storage and a staff break room area.

New roof framing allowed for adequate insulation and energy efficient upgrades, but also provided a raised ceiling height and new forms in the building envelope. New windows and doors also added to the improved energy efficiency.

To help alleviate some of the excess street parking and benefit the adjacent businesses, off-street parking was added. Permeable pavers and a rain garden were used to mitigate the additional storm water runoff created by the lot, which also enhanced the exterior.

Traditional exterior materials of cedar lap siding, shakes and brackets plus natural stone fit well into the Southwest Minneapolis palette. Yet the details and formality have a fresh, modern expression with attention to clean lines. Standing seam metal accents the roof while a soft and colorful landscape frames the approach. A recessed entry provides a covered porch with bench seat welcoming the entrant with human scale proportions. The owner's creative vision is expressed in the old and new with a nod to the craftsman era.