



Dentistry for Children

Photography by Dawn Boomsma

Written by Steve White

Designed by Ashley Cameron

Dr. Louis Pollina and his pediatric dental team at Dentistry for Children found that even the best-laid plans can get even better. What started as a one-story new construction evolved into a two-story, undersea adventure for patients, staff and the entire community of Gladstone, Missouri. City officials approached Dr. Pollina wanting to share building space to make the property and surrounding grounds a family-friendly destination. From there, both the building and the dental experience gained a depth no one could have foreseen. But one that everyone loves. Especially children.



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The comments when people walk in are ‘Oh my gosh!’ The kids don't want to leave, they want to stay and play. We have all this undersea stuff, plus Xbox, and things for younger kids, touchscreen games. Kids love it, but adults love it, too. We set the alarm off to test it for the police, and the police were like, ‘Can we come here, too?’”

– Linda Beaubien, Office Manager

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Because the balcony part of the ship is so heavy, they had to go back in and reinforce the wall...it's about 8 to 10 feet high. The front of it is utilized as our front desk. The slide is the 'broken' end of the ship. The slide is very heavy, about 8 to 10 feet high, and about 5 to 6 feet wide."

– Dr. Louis Pollina



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It was definitely a joy, we were surrounded by people who knew what they were doing and that we trusted. Goetze was one of those main partners. We've been partners with them as long as I can remember. They were in on the remodel of our Liberty office. Their people were in the meetings with our architects and construction people from the beginning. Great people to work with, always have been."

– Linda Beaubien, Office Manager



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Kids see the dentist's office as a place of apprehension and fear. We thought, let's make them feel relaxed, calm and have a soothing environment. We can help them overcome their fears and apprehension. Two Xboxes, a TV, and a submarine and the ship with the slide...and there are two different stations where they can play games on a touchscreen. We just tried to make it fun for them.”

– Dr. Louis Pollina



View of the kids' slide, tunnel, and hanging boats and sea creatures.





Everyone who helped us design the dental part of it, the flow, including Goetze, was amazing. The theme end of it...we'd sketch stuff up on paper, and give it to DI. Like drawing stuff on a napkin, and turning it into reality. They'd come back to us and show us on a computer screen... and then they also came in with a small sample of objects...like planks, fish, etc. They have their own in-house design team and they also manufacture in-house. Part of the excitement was watching our designs evolve into actual objects and the execution of the building."

– Dr. Louis Pollina

Design Team

Architect

Hollis + Miller

Contractor

Luke Draily Construction Company

Fabricator

Dimensional Innovations

Goetze Dental Team

Sales Representative

Brian Lumbard

Equipment Specialist

Mike McKim

Senior Interior Designer

Inga Paul

Lead Installation Technicians

Ray Browning

Mark Mazurkewycz

Installation Technicians

Dan Blackwell

Dennis Borer

Craig Sublett



Operatory



Hygiene Bay

Cavity-Free Club Wall

Kids without cavities get to choose a magnetic sea creature, write their name on it, and place it on the Cavity-Free Club Wall.



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The flooring...we wanted to follow the lines on the floor...to mimic wave motion and pebbles, sand, water. We wanted to come up with something that would show contrast...blue linoleum mimicking water and a pebble floor that looks like the sand or beach. It continues all the way up the wall to the ceiling.”

– Dr. Louis Pollina



Floor finishes



Pan Room



Sterilization center

“ For the hallway, we were just going to have hanging fish like in reception, but Dimensional Innovations came up with fish that attach to the wall, and then they came up with this idea of LED lights, so it shimmers in there like the fish are in motion, swimming.”

– Linda Beaubien, Office Manager

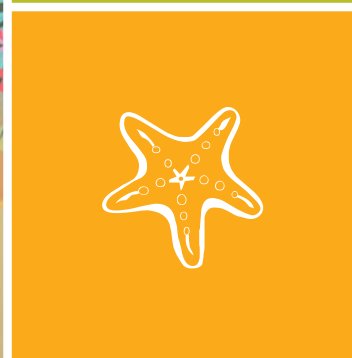


Hallway

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We had to change the structure of the building plans to accommodate the city's request...we originally planned a one-story building but then built a two-story building with a full, divided basement. Where I'm sitting today kind of blows my mind because it wasn't my initial expectation. As we got involved with the city more, it became bigger and bigger. But it's awesome now. I'm glad we did it.”

– Dr. Louis Pollina



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The city of Gladstone wanted a keystone business that would provide family traffic to their Linden Square project — an amphitheater where they hold concerts, have an ice skating rink, festivals, a family gathering place. The city was interested in the second floor...and the building was rented before it was even built.”

– Linda Beaubien, Office Manager



View of Gladstone's Linden Square
from the employee lounge

Be sure to visit Dr. Pollina's website at kidsdentistkc.com. This article along with more photos is available at goetzedental.com/officespace.

