

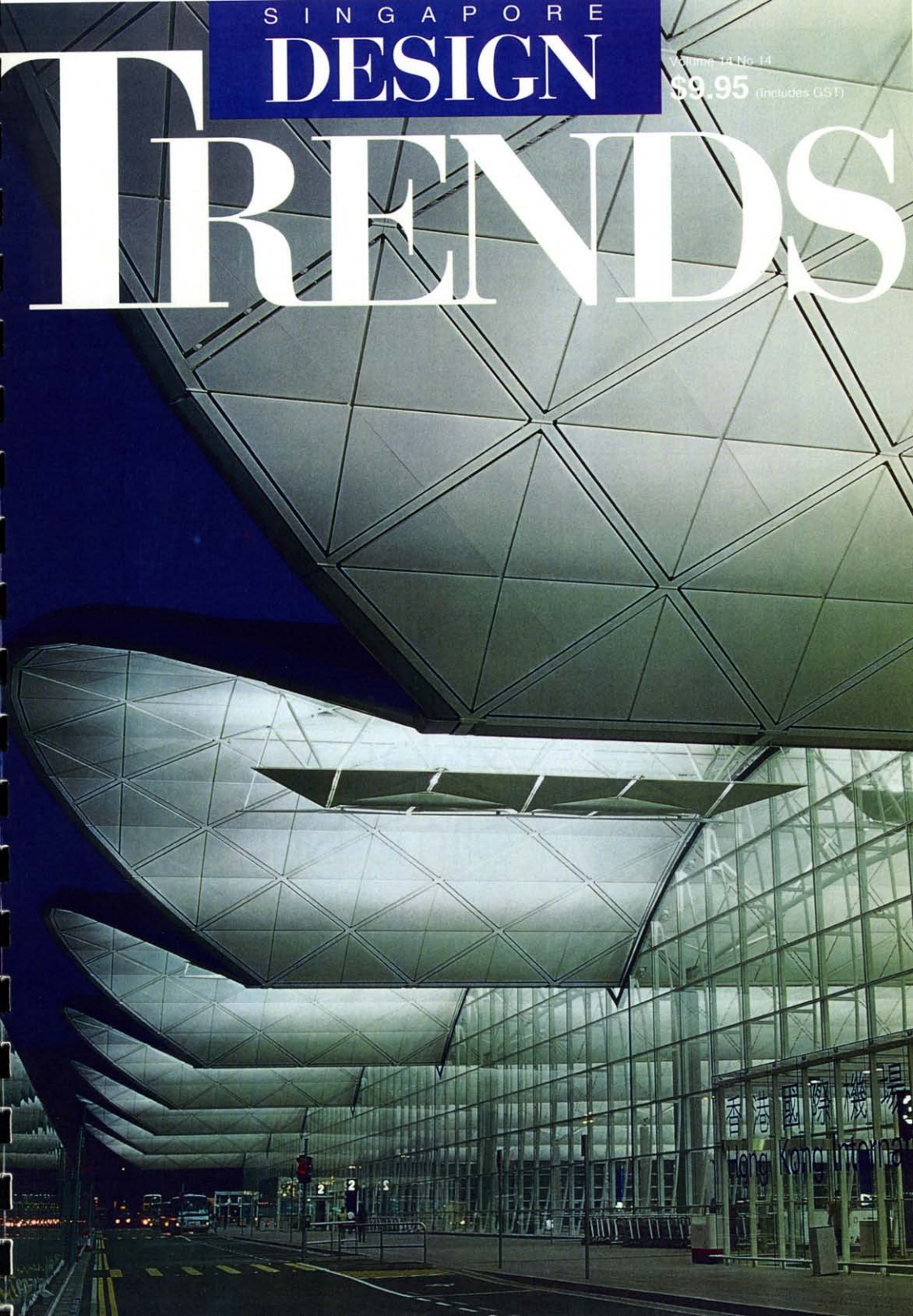
SINGAPORE

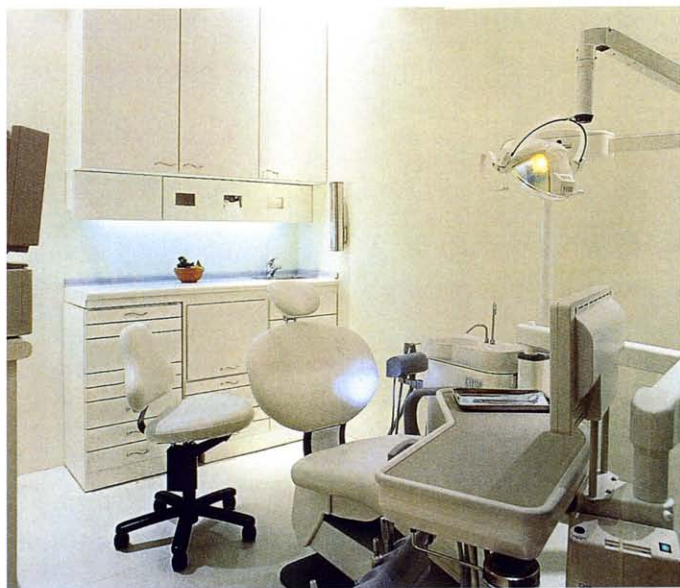
DESIGN

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TRENDS





Sit down, relax, rinse and smile

This new dental practice was designed to take the fear out of visiting your dentist

Let's be honest: when it comes to visiting our dentist, most of us can think of things we'd rather do. Being eaten alive by carnivorous spiders, for example.

Most dentists do little to allay these fears. Institutional green tends to dominate most waiting rooms, and those uncomfortable tubular stacking chairs don't help either.

Not at Smile. This new dental practice, located at Suntec City Mall in Singapore, was designed to minimise patients' anxieties. Director

Grace Chong Tan, responsible for the design, says that her main aim was to set patients at ease.

"People tell us our practice looks like an advertising agency or a modelling agency," she says.

"That's not a coincidence. We've deliberately created a warm, cosy ambiance in our reception area."

The area features cherrywood panelled furniture and a wave-shaped white leather couch. There's even a TV to distract nervous patients.

Take a closer look and you'll find

that the fitout is well detailed. For example, the handles on cabinetry are all custom made.

"The other important design element relates to hygiene and high technology," says Grace Chong Tan. "We needed to accommodate a sterilisation room and the latest equipment, from an intra-oral camera to a huge X-ray machine."

The final ingredient in this mix between cosy and high-tech is feng shui, the Chinese design rules reputed to attract good fortune.





Facing page and above: Minimise patients' anxiety – that's the design philosophy behind Smile Inc. Dental Surgeons in Singapore. The reception area (above) is modern and comfortable, with cherrywood panelling that adds warmth to the overall look of the practice. Treatment rooms (facing page) are in Nippon Lily White, to emphasise their hygienic, high-tech nature.

Left: Even Smile's location is unusual: the practice is situated in Suntec City Mall, Singapore's largest shopping mall.



Top and facing page: Comfortable furniture and a TV help to relax waiting patients. The white leather couch was custom made to fit the corner space.

Above: A small office, positioned behind the reception area, is used for administrative purposes. The two doors that provide access to this space are positioned in accordance with feng shui rules.

Location: Smile Inc. Dental Surgeons, Singapore
Design: Grace Chong Tan Mo-Ai
Design consultants: Smile Inc. Asia
Main contractor: Singconex Engineering Services
Light fittings: Lighting Incorporated & Services
Paint: Nippon 3 in 1, Lily White
Carpet: English Ivy 202, Cumberland range, from Network
Couch: Chin Khor Kee
Cherrywood veneers: Cherry Crown
Vinyl: Daikin Non Asbestos Floor Tile No 9308
Trendsfax: For more information on these products and services, fax +64 9 373 2173

Photography by Gérald Lopez

