

Book Reviews

Atlas of Cosmetic Dentistry: A patient's guide. Mark J. Landau. Quintessence Publishing Co., Inc. ISBN 0-86715-428-4

This large “coffee table in the waiting room” book (37 x 32 cm) is a series of beautifully illustrated and expertly photographed cases showing what can be done in order to improve a patient's dental appearance. The book has been designed for patients to flick through and get a feel of what may be possible to do for them. The author sees the atlas as a tool to help the patient communicate to the dentist exactly what it is they are seeking for themselves.

The book is divided into seven sections; porcelain laminate veneers and crowns, composite bonding, tooth-whitening, bridges, dental implants, periodontics and orthodontics. Some of the sections are limited in the cases presented. For example in the tooth whitening and orthodontics sections only single cases are presented. Each case is illustrated with before and after photographs. Relatively simple explanations of the procedures performed are presented to the patient. All the results are most impressive. From a readers point of view the only annoying thing was the repetitive use of the comments that the result is natural, bright, warm or beautiful. It is obvious what the results are!

In any book like this, there is also the perennial problem that the results shown in the photographs are that...after photographs...not follow ups after five or ten years! I would also have liked to see just one or two explanations on what can go wrong; perhaps not good business sense but certainly well advised. If nothing else it would alert the patient to the fact that nothing is permanent or

forever. Equally unclear to patients, but mentioned in the acknowledgments, is the need for a small army of people on occasion to produce such excellent results.

The book does its best to cover the cosmetic procedures available to patients in the independent sector, and it does it well. I feel it would certainly act as a medium for discussion between patient and dentist in independent practice or a practitioner with a special interest. It would act as a starting point for discussion but, obviously, each case would need to be individually tailored and discussed in greater detail than the book portrays with estimates of time-scales, anticipated results, whether or not a proposed procedure is possible or not and so on.

As I have said before, the illustrations and photographs in this book are most excellent and Dr Landau deserves much credit in the production of his atlas. Its value outside the independent sector is probably limited. There are other dental atlases available to dental practitioners and I am sure it will be a matter of personal choice as to which one is plumped for. Additionally, patients can also get a lot of information on-line these days! Dr Landau's patient atlas is excellent but perhaps not everyone's cup of tea!

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Smile Design: A Guide for Clinician, Ceramist and Patient. Gerard J Chiche and Hitoshi Aoshima. ISBN: 0-86715-435-7. Published by Quintessence

This beautifully presented text follows in the strong tradition of the Quintessence publishing house in providing a textbook of the highest quality in terms of illustration, reproduction and binding.

The book's title suggests that it is a guide for clinician, ceramist and patient in relation to “smile design”. Its layout is effectively that of a casebook, presenting a range of cases (over 40) where cosmetic improvement in the anterior smile zone is the main objective.

As such, it attempts to detail the need for close and detailed communication from patient to clinician to technician in order to produce ceramic work of the highest quality to address the patient's goal of an improved smile. The text is minimal and in many respects this is the main criticism of the book. The 31-page introduction of the book uses text and illustrations to exemplify the somewhat idiosyncratic “ABC/I”, system used by the authors,

world-renowned specialists in their clinical and technical fields, to communicate Alignment, Brightness, Character and Incisal effects required of the final restoration. It also shows examples of appropriate tooth preparations and their associated restorations, and includes useful and well-presented examples of how the smile may be “previewed” with the patient by way of temporary chairside additions, matrices, provisional restorations and digital imaging.

The main body of the text then goes on to provide a series of cases with very brief notes on treatment planning issues, patient objectives and the clinician's translation of this into aesthetic objectives. These cases all illustrate different combinations of the ABC/I system, particularly in relation to shade selection, ranging from tinted and natural shades to high value maximum whiteness shades, with different chapters illustrating examples of these different shade types. It is interesting to note

that, with the exception of the chapter on “Tinted Shades”, the majority of cases illustrate a shade choice of A1 or A2 or even lighter shades, indicative of the North American preference for the bright white smile.

The book also disappoints in that, while it is evident from illustrations that orthodontic or periodontal surgical preparation has been required in some cases, this is not sufficiently expanded on in the text. The fact that, in most instances, the clinical illustrations used for each case number between 4 and 6, means that much useful visual information which could have replaced the missing text is not available either.

It is undoubtedly the case that the book is a very effective sampler for the clinician, technician and even, in certain carefully chosen cases, the patient of what can be

achieved in the field of aesthetic enhancement with porcelain restorations. However, it ultimately fails, in my view, to provide the clinician seeking guidance on “Smile Design” with the detailed tools or strategies to achieve the illustrated outcomes.

In summary, this is much less of a “how to” and more of a “here’s what you can do” text, acting as a stimulus to clinician and technician to recognise what can be achieved for patients with high aesthetic demands.

It is a book that those involved in the ever-expanding field of aesthetic dentistry will perhaps keep on their shelf to look at from time to time to remind themselves of the standards achievable by a combination of world class clinician and ceramist.

Stewart C Barclay