



Two Lights Dental

FIRM: BOWERBIRD DESIGN COLLECTIVE
INTERIOR DESIGNERS: MELANIE SCAMMAN; LAURA ZOULAMIS
ARCHITECT: MARK MUELLER ARCHITECTS
BUILDER: BENCHMARK CONSTRUCTION
BRANDING: MAKEWELL
PHOTOGRAPHER: ALICE & CHRIS PHOTOGRAPHY
LOCATION: CAPE ELIZABETH



Bowerbird Design Collective (BDC) teamed up with the Portland architectural team Mark Mueller Architects to create a calming and comfortable vibe for a new dental office. The focus was on using natural light to set the tone. When patients walk through the doors, they are greeted by a sunlit-drenched waiting room, helping to ease any pre-dental-visit jitters. This light-filled entry provides a perfect backdrop to a large, beautiful plant wall that brings in texture through biophilic design. The building was intentionally designed so that all operatories and treatment rooms wrap the perimeter, each with oversized windows featuring views of the forest beyond. Special consideration was given to the ambient light in each treatment room, designed to run along perimeter walls, freeing up the ceiling for individual flat screens that patients can view while reclined.

Because the program called for a certain number of operatories, space planning and arranging the chairs was the main challenge; chairs were centered for optimal views out of the windows while allowing space for the dentist and the hygienists to move freely. BDC collaborated with Patterson Dental to create an ergonomic and functional environment for the team and patients. The ceiling and lighting create a space that is calm and not jarring as patients look up toward the ceiling.

The color palette was intentionally kept minimalist. The light-colored wood-slat walls encapsulate part of the desk and return on the back reception wall, which features a newly designed logo by Makewell. The waiting room gives a slight nod to midcentury design with Eames side chairs upholstered in a sunny yellow fabric that complements tables by Hay, a sectional sofa in teal by Herman Miller, and a dalmatian puppy sculpture by Magis.