

New Beginnings



Dr. Gina K. Garner experienced two new beginnings this year: she became a dental practice owner and a mom at the very same time.

In February 2008, Dr. Garner gave birth to her first child – just a month after construction began on her new practice. Though she was on maternity leave, she remained 100 percent involved in the building of her new practice. “It was challenging...I had two new ‘babies’ at one time,” she said.

Patterson Sales Representative Monetta Reyes was impressed with Dr. Garner’s strength during two life-changing transitions. “I never saw her angry or impatient,” Reyes said. “When adversity comes, she welcomes it.”

A Hometown Success

A 1998 alumna of the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio Dental School, Dr. Garner returned to her hometown of The Woodlands, Texas (a Houston, Texas suburb) after graduation, where she took a job as an associate for an established dental practice. During her 10 years at that practice, Dr. Garner built up a long list of patients, including former classmates and teachers, friends from church and sorority sisters.

In late 2007, Dr. Garner felt it was time to branch out on her own and open a solo practice. She chose to locate her practice in a newly constructed three-story professional building in The Woodlands across the street from the largest hospital in the area. Because her location was adjacent to a major interstate, Dr. Garner hoped she would attract patients from other suburbs of Houston, as well as The Woodlands.

Dr. Garner had worked with Reyes and Patterson Equipment Specialist Skip Fortune at her previous practice. After selecting her location, she turned to them for their expertise on design and equipment. “I picked Patterson because of the people. I knew that they would help me make the best selections and listen to what I wanted instead of pushing materials or equipment I wasn’t interested in,” she said.

After a three-month construction process, Dr. Garner began seeing patients at her new practice, Gina K. Garner, DDS, PC, in April 2008. She hit the ground running and immediately attracted dozens of new patients, including many she had seen at her previous practice. “She had patients waiting to see her,” Reyes said.

In pursuit of maximum patient comfort and excellence in dentistry, Dr. Gina K. Garner equipped her new practice with the latest technology and patient amenities. Her 2,251-square-foot practice opened its doors in April 2008.





Going Above and Beyond

Dr. Garner went with a four-operator design for her practice – two treatment rooms for hygiene and two for operative treatment. Each treatment room is equipped with A-dec chairs and delivery systems, computer monitors and mounted televisions. The semiprivate rooms are separated with a divider wall, significantly reducing noise in the rooms and halls while increasing patient comfort and privacy.

Equipping her practice with the latest equipment and technology was a top priority for Dr. Garner. “I had the privilege of working in a practice where the owner was well-versed in new dental technology and I wanted to maintain that, if not exceed it, in my new office,” she said. “I was used to a certain caliber of dentistry and I wanted to continue providing that level of dentistry with the addition of even more state-of-the-art equipment.”

Dr. Garner succeeded in her quest for excellence. Her 2,251-square-foot practice is packed with the newest technology designed to provide maximum patient comfort and convenience: Schick digital imaging, EagleSoft Practice Management Software, CAESY® Patient Education Systems, Planmeca ProOne Digital Panoramic X-ray and Planmeca Intra intraoral X-ray. “When it comes to technology, the cost is not the determining factor with Dr. Garner. She bases her decision on whatever she feels is best for her patients,” said Reyes.

Dr. Garner also implemented the latest CEREC technology in her new practice. “CEREC® 3D MC XL milling unit is quieter and mills faster,” she said. “That’s been a really nice addition to the practice because we’re able to be more efficient with patient care and the crowns are fabricated quickly.”

Dr. Garner’s four semiprivate operatories are separated by divider walls, which reduce noise in the rooms and halls. The cutting-edge sterilization center ensures cleanliness and safety. A hand-painted poem on the staff lounge wall captures Dr. Garner’s vision for excellence.



Comfort Meets Function

To create a comforting and relaxing atmosphere in her office, Dr. Garner chose warm paint tones in khaki, moss green and brick red for the reception area, hall and treatment rooms. Cabinets in a wild cherry finish lend a feeling of warmth and coziness to the treatment rooms. Patients are treated to a refreshment bar and may watch the ceiling-mounted televisions wearing headphones during procedures. "I try very diligently to provide an atmosphere where patients are relaxed, so that they will want to keep coming back," said Dr. Garner.

A unique element of Dr. Garner's office is the relatively small reception area. Dr. Garner prides her practice on its short wait time for appointments – 10 minutes or less, so there wasn't a need for a large reception area. "I don't like making patients wait," Dr. Garner said. "As a patient myself, many times I've had to wait over an hour for appointments. I will not do that to my patients."

Patient consultation and education were an important component in Dr. Garner's new office. The perfect blend of style and function, her consultation room is the ideal space to discuss diagnoses and treatment options with patients. With a stunning curved glass wall and two computer monitors – one for her and one for the patient – Dr. Garner can effortlessly display a chart, digital X-ray or intraoral photograph in EagleSoft and show CAESY videos.

Passion for the Best

According to Reyes, Dr. Garner's passion for providing her patients with the best of everything dentistry offers makes her office truly special. "She's a very strong, confident and gentle person," said Reyes. "When you walk in her office, you know you're in the right place."

Dr. Garner's passion for dentistry extends beyond the dental office. She's involved in several community organizations, including a study group she and two other women founded 10 years ago, called the Women of The Woodlands Dental Study Club. The group started out with only six members, and has grown to over 20 members today. The group meets at least quarterly in one member's home or practice to discuss topics such as dental procedural techniques, technology and business management. "It's a nice way to get continuing education and stay current on new trends in dentistry in a very relaxed setting," Dr. Garner said.

This community involvement has also helped Dr. Garner boost her patient load. "Not only does being involved in the community make you well-rounded, it helps bring in patients, too, because people see you in other walks of life," she said.

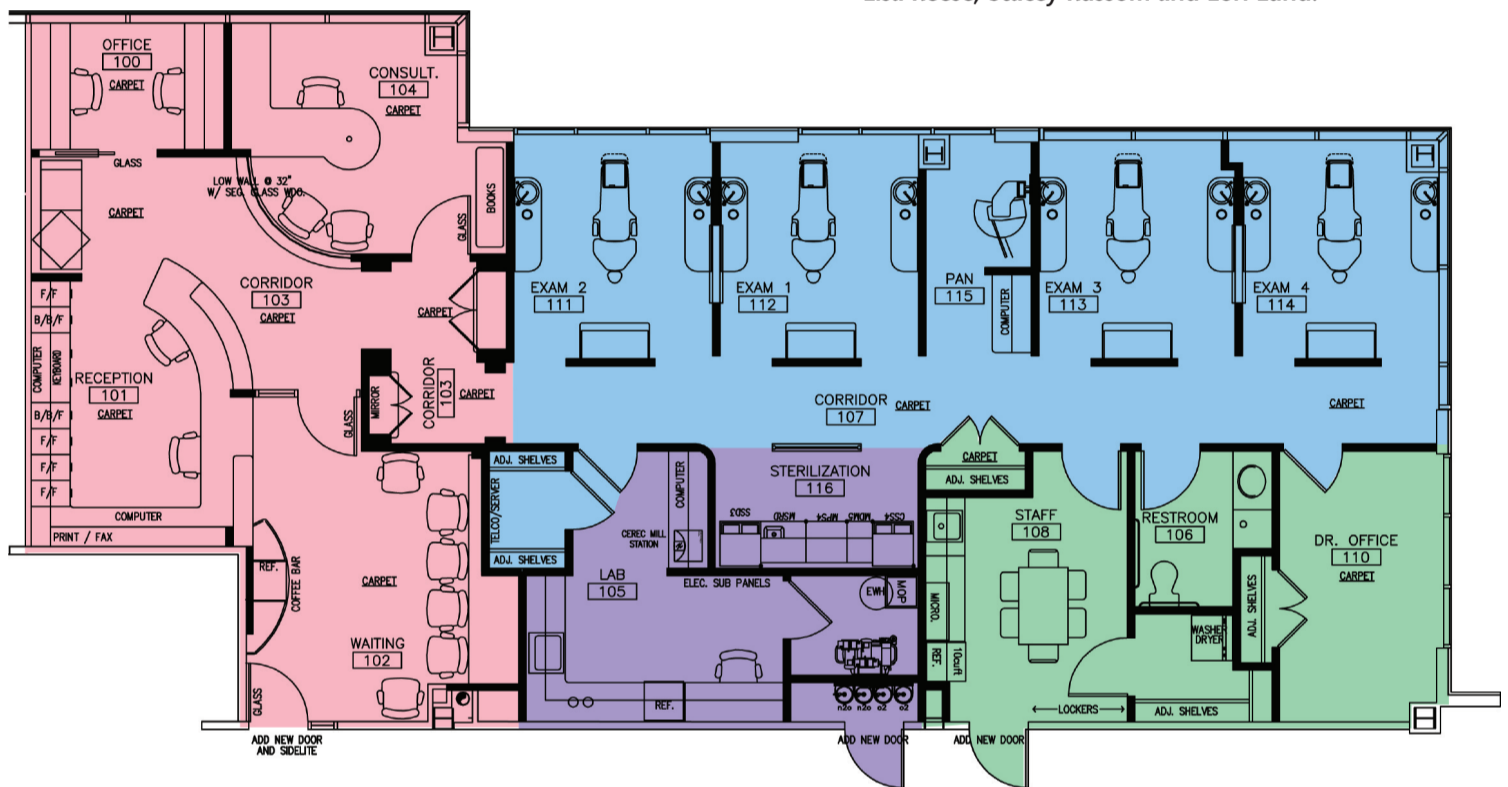
As Dr. Garner reflects on her recent new beginnings, she offers some advice to other doctors who are considering setting up a new office: "You need to find someone you can really trust to help you. Find a great sales representative and equipment specialist."

She also urges doctors not to settle in their quest for excellence: "If you know what you want, you need to do what you can to achieve that vision."

Explore Dr. Garner's practice online! Visit www.pattersondental.com for an interactive floorplan, video and more!



From left to right: Beverly Sisk, Amy Dutton, Dr. Garner, Lisa Reese, Stacy Russom and Lori Lund.



Practice Profile

DENTAL PRACTICE

Gina K. Garner, DDS, PC
The Woodlands, Texas

Dr. Gina K. Garner
www.gkgdentistry.com

OFFICE

Square feet: 2,251

This practice is a member of
Patterson PlusSM Gold.

OPERATORY EQUIPMENT

- A-dec® 511 chairs, stools, delivery units and dispensing units
- A-dec cabinetry, treatment consoles, accessory consoles and track-mount lights
- Planmeca ProOne Digital Panoramic X-ray
- Planmeca Intra intraoral X-ray
- A-dec Preference ICC Sterilization Center
- A-dec Lisa MB17 Sterilizer
- SciCan Statim 2000 Autoclave
- A-dec Assistina Plus
- Porter MXR-1 Flushmount Flowmeter
- Porter Vanguard Manifold
- Midmark ClassicSeries Single Water Recycling Vacuum
- Midmark PowerAir Oil-less Compressor
- A-dec handpieces
- Schick digital sensors
- CEREC® 3D CAD/CAM system
- EagleSoft Practice Management Software
- CAESY® Patient Education Software

PATTERSON TEAM

- Tim Wagstaff
Branch Manager
- Skip Fortune
Equipment Specialist
- Monetta Reyes
Sales Representative
- Sam Thomas
Charles York
Shelby Collins
Angel Acevedo
Service Technicians
- Mac McAninch
Russ Lyon
Kevin Pickens
Technical Service Technicians
- David Langley
Office Design



From left to right: Tim Wagstaff, Dr. Garner, Monetta Reyes, Skip Fortune and Sam Thomas.