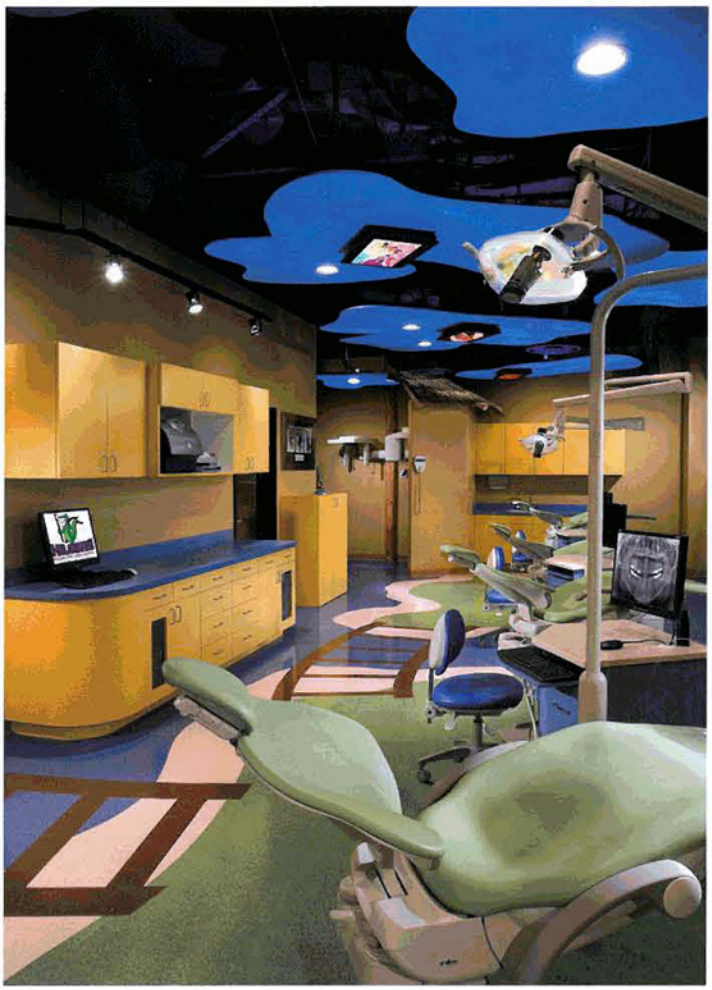

PHOTO BY DINO TONN

Hygiene area where TVs are mounted in clouds over every chair

THE SERIOUS DENTAL OFFICE BEHIND THE WHIMSICAL FACE

Make no mistake, however. Despite the office's whimsical appearance, Hilgers Pediatric Dentistry is a serious dental office that is equipped with state-of-the-art equipment and uses only the highest-quality materials for treatment. Once past the colorful reception area, patients find an open treatment room and three private operatories for more complex procedures. With just enough kid-friendly touches, such as a continuation of the island "walkway" on the floor, blue "clouds" floating above each chair and various sizes of stuffed Charlies perched in the recessed, built-in seats for parents, the treatment area is designed to be nonintimidating while still accommodating high-tech dental treatment.

Patterson Dental Supply, represented by Dave Rosas, provided equipment that is truly state of the art. The fully computerized treatment area includes such modern technology as a panoramic scan machine (excellent for checking developing teeth) that is quick and uses 90% less radiation than older imaging equipment, intra-oral cameras, direct digital imaging, X-rays in each room, a hospital-grade sterilizer and flavored air (in kid-favorite flavors such as grape and cherry) for children who require nitrous oxide. Much of the equipment is used to keep minor problems from becoming severe ones. For example, Dr. Hilgers routinely checks developing teeth in her small patients in order to catch crowding early.

Televisions set flush into the blue "clouds" above each chair also help distract children's attention. As Dr. Hilgers says with a smile, "Watching Alvin the Chipmunk dancing and singing on the screen keeps them from fidgeting and becoming a moving target for me."

A DREAM OFFICE BUILT BY A DREAM TEAM

"This office was a dream for me," claims Dr. Hilgers, "but it was a huge undertaking that would probably not have been possible without the 'dream team' that translated my dream into reality. They far exceeded my expectations." Directed by general contractor Steve Anderson, President of Denco Dental Construction, Inc., and his foreman, Jeremy Faulkner, the team included Leighann Jacobi, owner of Jacobi Interiors, who provided the vision and creative designs; architect Colin Slais, owner of Colin Edward Slais Architect, LLC; and Dave Rosas of Patterson Dental Supply, who made sure each piece of equipment was exactly what Dr. Hilgers needed and that it fit within the space provided in the general plan of the office.

Dr. Hilgers especially applauded Denco's work, noting that the company, which specializes in dental offices, makes it very clear they would rather not take on new business than do anything wrong on a job. Denco's Steve Anderson led the team and coordinated the entire project that was especially detailed. It not only required an ability to coordinate construction, but also demanded close attention to unusually creative interior design elements as well as specification and installation of highly technical elements, all of which had to function perfectly once the project was complete. A master at what he does, Steve Anderson made sure every piece of Dr. Hilgers' complicated puzzle came together like the intricate parts of a beautifully designed watch and he did it right on time.

"I can't praise this team enough, but Steve was really amazing during the building process," enthused Dr. Hilgers. "He kept track of all the details, he fixed problems before they could become major

Left to right: Jeremy Faulkner, Denco Dental Construction Superintendent; Dr. Kelly Hilgers, owner of Hilgers Pediatric Dentistry; Steve Anderson, President and CEO of Denco Dental Construction

PHOTO BY MARK SQUIRE