

# A Smile with Attitude

Your smile is your number one accessory, so if you want to improve it, look for a dentist who is highly skilled in clinical cosmetic dentistry.

B&amp;A PHOTOS COURTESY OF DR. BLANK



Stephen Blank, DDS

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PHOTO COURTESY OF JAN ZEEK

## Jan loves her new smile.

Jan Zeek was not satisfied with her smile.

"Several years ago, when my husband, Bob, and I still lived in the Minneapolis area, I had some veneers placed in the front of my mouth," confides Jan, "but somehow, they just didn't look right. They didn't blend well with my natural teeth; they were even a different color.

"I don't think my dentist had been properly schooled in cosmetic dentistry. I really believe he thought he knew what he was doing, and he wanted to do a good job, but when you are doing something that significant, you need to see a real professional."

As years went by, says Jan, and her husband was getting ready to retire, he decided to have a full-mouth restoration to improve his smile: "I had already moved down to Florida, but he was still seeing a very good dentist up north. As it happened, he needed to have a filling done before his restoration, and because of his schedule, it was more convenient for him to have that done down here. Bob asked his dentist if he could recommend anyone in our area, and he referred him to Dr. Blank."

Stephen G. Blank, DDS, practices cosmetic and functional dentistry in Port St. Lucie.

"The first time we went to Dr. Blank, we were so impressed. His staff was very, very welcoming. They made us feel so relaxed. Then, when we talked to Dr. Blank, I could tell he really knew what he was doing. It just felt wonderful.

"I said, *This is our new dentist. We need him.*"

Jan says that Bob went ahead with his scheduled smile restoration up north: "Bob looks great. He looks younger. I thought, *I want the same thing.*"

"So I started the process with Dr. Blank."

"Jan is a very social person and

her smile is very important to her," observes Dr. Blank. "Your smile is your most important accessory; it's what people will notice even before you speak. It can enhance your appearance, it can be neutral, or sometimes it can take away from it."

Dr. Blank says he remembers that when he first saw Jan, she had a few issues going on: "Jan had some older porcelain-baked-over-metal crowns, and there was some metal exposed in a few areas. The crowns were wearing down, and her veneers were not adding to her smile. There were dark spaces showing up between some of her front teeth where the gums had receded, so the veneers actually drew attention to it. Her smile looked a little worn.

"Then, on the upper left, behind her cuspid tooth, she had an implant with a metal portion that was holding on the crown. It gave her gums a grayish color."

Dr. Blank's treatment plan included changing that by using an all-ceramic support made of zirconia, which would leave the gums near her implant looking natural.

"Jan also had a lot of wear on her back teeth. There was a bite discrepancy where the left side was contacting before the right side.

"Finally, she had some mild but persistent gingivitis that required some basic periodontal maintenance care. We also got her started with a Rotadent appliance to use at home. It cleans the teeth more like the polisher that the hygienist uses.

"Now, her mouth is impeccable."

### Devil's in the details

Dr. Blank's smile design visits begin with an evaluation of his patient's current smile. He designs the size, shape, color, and position of the tooth restorations, which are

typically a combination of crowns and veneers. Study models and photographs of his patient's mouth are taken and sent to the laboratory for a wax-up.

A wax-up, or a wax model of how the enhanced or repaired teeth will look, is completed by the laboratory, following Dr. Blank's prescription. It simulates the new teeth and is used to make any necessary changes before the lab proceeds to make the patient's new porcelain crowns. It also enables the patient to see what changes are going to be made to the shapes of the teeth and the spaces between the teeth.

"During the next step, the teeth are prepared for the new restorations, and any old, obstructing dentistry is removed," says Dr. Blank. "Impressions are made for the laboratory, and temporaries that match the wax-up are created."

Copies of the temporaries are sent to the laboratory technician for better results.

Following this visit, patients leave Dr. Blank's office with resin temporaries that look bright, healthy, and attractive.

"The temporaries look just like the new teeth are going to look," adds Dr. Blank.

The final step is to bond the porcelain crowns to the patient's teeth.

"Once we placed Jan's crowns, we were able to use the Tek-Scan III to measure her bite digitally and verify that we had all the teeth contacting at the same time, with the same amount of intensity," says Dr. Blank.

"His attention to detail was incredible," reflects Jan. "It was a real experience. He and the entire staff are very kind and understanding, and his follow up is great. He phones, checking in to make sure you are doing well.

"I can't say enough about their professionalism and attention to detail."

### The results

"I love my new smile," admits Jan. "I smile more. I feel friendlier, more confident.

"My gums are much healthier, too.

"I don't know if I'd go so far as to say that it's changed my life, but it's definitely changed my attitude. I just know I look better.

"Bob said to me, *You always had a pretty smile. You always did. But now, it's just sparkling.*

"My teeth feel better. I feel better. It's great to have a real professional looking after my health care needs." FHCN—Kris Kline

Dr. Blank invites you to visit his website at [www.PSLDENTIST.com](http://www.PSLDENTIST.com)

### Gold Medal Winner

Dr. Blank was awarded four gold medals at the 2007 Florida Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry (FACD) Annual Scientific Session competition, which was designed to reward excellence in clinical cosmetic dentistry. The FACD is an organization devoted to seeking improvements in the science and art of cosmetic dentistry.



Stephen G. Blank, DDS, is a 1982 graduate of Northwestern University Dental School in Chicago. He has since completed intensive continuing education studies. Dr. Blank has studied TMJ under Mark Piper, MD, DMD, at the Piper Education and Research Center. He has completed the course continuum at the Dawson Center for Advanced Dental Studies.

Dr. Blank was a clinical instructor with the Hornbrook Group, teaching dentists from all parts of the country in live, hands-on courses on the various aspects of smile design, occlusion, full mouth reconstruction, and complete patient care. He is a facilitator/mentor with the Dental Boot Kamp program. Dr. Blank enjoys teaching dental teams around the country.

### For that healthy smile

Dr. Blank and his staff look forward to meeting the readers of *Florida Health Care News*. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call (772) 878-7348. His office is located at 184 NW Central Park Plaza in Port St. Lucie. Call today for a complimentary cosmetic consultation to learn what Dr. Blank can do for your smile.