

A MINI-SMILE MAKEOVER CAN SPEAK VOLUMES

Brian Simcock liked the idea of improving his smile. “When you look at someone, one of the first things you notice is their smile,” reflects Brian, “and I realized mine could use some help.”

Brian discussed his cosmetic concerns with his dentist of 15 years, Stephen G. Blank, DDS, who practices cosmetic and functional dentistry in Port St. Lucie. Mindful of each patient’s expectations, Dr. Blank chooses his cosmetic dentistry procedures and methods carefully. He takes his time in evaluating both the patient’s dental condition and how a new smile will fit with other facial features.

“Although Brian’s teeth were functionally adequate, cosmetically they were discolored and rotated,” remembers Dr. Blank, “and on the lower arch his gums were very high, making the teeth look small.”

“My first concern was how badly stained my teeth were,” confides Brian.

“To brighten his smile, we took

Stephen G. Blank, DDS



Stephen G. Blank, DDS, is a graduate of Northwestern University Dental School in Chicago. He has since completed intensive continuing education studies, and he and his dental team have completed the Dental Organization for Conscious Sedation program. Dr. Blank has taught continuing education courses for dentists, dental assistants, and hygienists in conjunction with Indian River Community College’s Dental Science department, and he is a facilitator/mentor with the Dental Boot Kamp program and a supporter of the Smiles for Life Foundation. Dr. Blank enjoys teaching dental teams around the country.

impressions of Brian’s teeth and made professional whitening trays that he could wear to bed with a professional-strength

whitening gel,” describes Dr. Blank. “His teeth lightened up beautifully.”

Next on Brian’s agenda were his four crowded front teeth. Although Brian was a candidate for braces, he was not interested in going through a long process to straighten his teeth, so Dr. Blank suggested a mini-makeover to match his new lightened back teeth.

Ceramic restorations

Dr. Blank designed a plan for Brian using four individual all-ceramic restorations for his upper arch.

“Dr. Blank is great to work with,” notes Brian. “He explains everything in detail and showed me before and after photographs of his previous patients.”

During the smile design visit, Dr. Blank plans for the size of the teeth, their morphology or shape, coloring, and any other aesthetic concerns that will help meet patients’ goals. “In Brian’s case, the main goals were to have the rotations of his teeth corrected and to provide a stable color that would not easily stain like his natural teeth do,” says Dr. Blank.

“After defining the goals we take study models and photographs of our patients that we send to the laboratory for the wax-up.”

A wax-up, or a wax model of how the enhanced or repaired teeth will look, is completed by the laboratory. It is used to make any necessary changes before the lab proceeds to make the patient’s new restorations.

On the second visit, the patients’ teeth are prepared for the new restorations, and any old dentistry is removed. Impressions are made for the laboratory, and temporaries that match the

wax-up are placed.

“The final step was to bond the porcelain restorations to Brian’s teeth,” recounts Dr. Blank.

Brian was so happy with the results that he decided to have the four front teeth of his lower arch done the following year.

“To address the high gum line on Brian’s lower arch, we used a laser to reshape his gums and to allow more of his natural teeth to be exposed,” explains Dr. Blank. “Unlike the traditional gum surgery of the past, the laser is so dramatically less invasive and kind to the adjacent tissue that patients have little, if any, postoperative complaints. Brian had no problem tolerating his laser reshaping.”

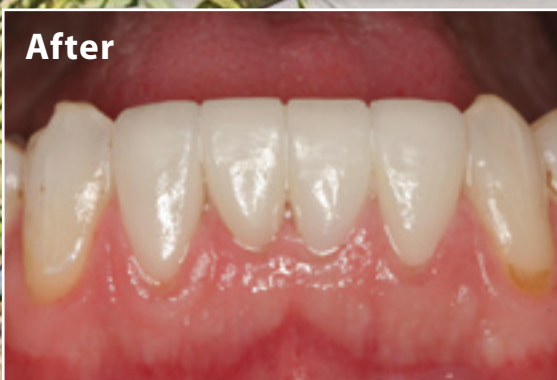
For Brian’s lower arch, Dr. Blank used porcelain veneers. Veneers are specially made thin porcelain shells or laminates bonded to the front of the teeth.

“I’m having no problems whatsoever in caring for my new teeth, and people noticed my new smile right away,” reflects Brian. “I am very happy with the results.” **FHCN**—Kris Kline

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.

Dr. Blank invites you to visit his website at www.PSLDENTIST.com.



Brian is grateful to Dr. Blank for his mini-smile makeover.