As one of Sydney’s top oral and maxillofacial surgeons, Dr Khaled Zoud is a busy man. A visiting specialist to three Sydney Hospitals, a private practitioner in a Parramatta specialist practice and a senior lecturer at Sydney University, Dr Zoud has also recently established his own private practice at Burwood in Sydney’s inner western suburbs.

It just adds substance to the old adage: “if you want something done, ask a busy man”.

After a search for a suitable location, Dr Zoud was able to find a large Victorian-era building located close to other medical practices, and although it required complete refurbishment, the size of the rooms was ideally suited to his needs.

The new practice, located in a 100-year-old building at 56 Burwood Road and opposite a park, is like a professional ‘sanctuary’ away from Dr Zoud’s busy life as a visiting specialist.

The grand façade of the two-storey building, with its Victorian lace ironwork verandahs, leads through a leadlight-panelled door into a spacious and bright waiting room and a fully renovated interior.

The building features high ceilings and the original staircase with its turned balustrades, but has been tastefully modernized with a glass-fronted reception desk, comfortable patient wall benches and modern light fittings.

The ‘Wisdom Centre for Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery’ caters for private patients from a ready source of referrals from the surrounding suburb, which has a concentration of dentists and doctors in a multicultural setting.

Dr Zoud chose an inner west location as there are only two maxillofacial surgeons in the area and it’s convenient to both Strathfield Private and Concord Private hospitals where he has admitting rights, in addition to treating general anaesthetic patients at Sydney Day Surgery (part of Royal Prince Alfred Hospital) and Westmead Private Hospital.

Prior to embarking on the internal fit-out, Dr Zoud consulted with Sydney A-dec dealers, Mike and Justin O’Connell from Critical Dental of Castle Hill in north-western Sydney.

Mike O’Connell was able to assist with a workable layout for the space, including location of surgeries and even workbench space and storage, plus the ideal location of the chair using templates to work out the optimum space from the chair to the workbench and monitor.

“Critical Dental were very helpful and I used Mike for ideas right at the start,” Dr Zoud said. “They also gave me ideas on furniture, the heights of cupboards and I incorporated a lot of Mike’s ideas into the final design of the surgery.”
The result is generous sized surgeries, but which also work ergonomically enabling Dr Zoud to easily access patient records from the dentist’s stool and provide comfortable consultations for patients while seated in the patient chair.

Each surgery also includes an A-dec supplied x-ray unit and digital sensor system and corner sink with ‘hospital style’ forearm-operated taps for preparing for procedures.

There is also a large sterilization room and storage for portable equipment including a W&H Implantmed surgical motor and stainless steel procedure trolleys, reminiscent of hospital surgical trolleys.

The retention of original features such as polished floorboards, large windows in the two front rooms and clever use of skylights in the rear surgery provide good working light and very pleasant ambience throughout.
Dr Zoud said he wanted to retain the original character of the building, but to make the surgery feel modern, yet ‘calming’. This was achieved by an aesthetically pleasing colour palette of soft ‘Jodhpur Blue’ and ‘Antique white’ walls, complemented with warm beige cabinetry capped with Caesarstone benchtops.

“I looked at many surgery designs in this magazine, but at the end of the day, we knew how things were going to run in our rooms and with Mike O’Connell’s help, we got exactly what we wanted.

“As oral surgeons, about 90% of our work is wisdom teeth and extractions, which are a major source of referrals,” Dr Zoud said.

When it came to equipment, Dr Zoud visited the A-dec showroom at Mascot to work out which chairs would be suitable.
“I think you have to see and feel a chair, sit down in it for at least 15 minutes and ask yourself, if I was the patient what chair would I want?

“The A-dec 300 is comfortable and streamlined and it’s not a big, ‘thick’ chair, however with the sewn upholstery it ‘looks’ very comfortable and inviting as well.”

Dr Zoud also had to be mindful of making minimal alterations to the building. “If I owned the building I would have gone for a ceiling mounted A-dec light, but the pole mounted light is not really an issue because it is so well positioned,” he said.

The other main advantage of the A-dec 300 ‘Radius’ chair without delivery system is its superior patient access (A separate trolley is used for a standalone W&H Implantmed surgical motor with saline solution and specialised W&H surgical handpieces).

“I operate on whatever side of the patient that the tooth is located so I can swivel the assistants instrumentation out of the way for better access.”

The practice is set up to allow Dr Zoud to operate from two rooms located either side of a central sterilization room, with provision for a future third surgery.

“That way we can clean up in one surgery and have a second surgery prepped and ready to go. I can perform the LA and then the assistant wheels in a trolley behind the chair and the patient. In this way, the patient doesn’t see the instruments or any blood.”

As a fully qualified doctor of surgery and being used to working in hospital environments, Dr Zoud observes strict infection control protocols including a deep sink for pre-cleaning, instrument cassette system, washer disinfector, double instrument wrapping and W&H Lisa traceability system. The latter involves a W&H Lisa sterilizer linked to a Lisasafe barcode label printer which allows all sterilized instruments to be scanned into Oasis software at the point of use to record sterilization details.

“It’s the same as a hospital protocol so if there ever was a breakdown in sterility, we’d need to be able to trace it and the Lisasafe gives us evidence of the sterilized instruments used in every procedure,” Dr Zoud said.