



Dental School and Clinic
in Maringá-PR

kina

essential balance

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The problem submitted by clients, who had been partners in previous projects, was: “We want a beautiful clinic, which does not look like a clinic.” Challenge posed, we accompanied their search for a place. Address is of great relevance in urban activities.

The architectural design of the building that houses the Kina Essential Balance clinic has taken into consideration two essential factors in the management of its spaces: dentistry services and teaching. Relevant in the organization of spaces was this apparent double purpose of doing and teaching.

Continuing professional development, so dear to professionals, is promoted in updating and improvement courses taught by peers, renowned and endorsed by their competences. The architectural design was, therefore, guided by this professional encounter.

The lot, in the middle of Zone 4 of the young, beautiful and planned city of Maringá, is on the gentle curve of the Rodrigo Silva street, which is undergoing change from residential to commercial area and now has medical and dental clinics, as well as service shops. Important to notice that Kina clinic was one of the first to be installed in this place. With a 14.75-m northwestern face and about 600.000 square meters in area, the lot has an irregular shape, slightly open posteriorly, and a slope of 1.60 m vertical height.

1



Figure 1:

Aerial photograph.

All the characteristics found at the site were incorporated into the design. Each floor plan responded to a certain demand accurately and exclusively, and the building was adapted to and followed the site topography. The plan addressed user needs and ensured that the design and the city complement each other.

The building was planned as a single block, with front and rear setback areas, which allowed for the creation of two gardens — a front garden and a back yard garden, with scenic plans for the development of activities that shall be carried out in a city that is heavily wooded. The pedestrian and vehicle accesses on the right side of the lot form the welcoming area, a space of transition from public to private, from the city to the building. This stands for a transparent announcement: “I’m arriving!”

2



Figure 2 and 3:

Façade, with public right-or-way and welcoming area.



3

The spatial organization has three levels to accommodate the clinic in the original lot. The ground floor has a welcoming plaza and an elevated first floor for a foyer, a gallery and an auditorium, spaces for socializing and teaching activities. The elevated floor makes it possible to have a basement without extensive digging. The garage is a flexible area free of obstacles, so that it may be used for several activities, such as leisure events. Between the ground floor and the upper floor, there is an intermediate story for support rooms, restrooms, kitchen and storeroom. On the upper floor are installations for dental care services, such as a large and comfortable office used by the proprietor, both for individualized patient care and for teaching. There, techniques, practice and sensibility are demonstrated and clarified for students, who remain in the auditorium where they are able to watch the proprietor work by means of a strategically placed high-technology communications system. In a room next to the office, there is a sequence of seven Sirona dental chairs, which are used for the practice courses and to ensure full integration of students and the tutor that is helping them. On the top story, there are also windows designed as amoeboid openings, which let indirect natural light in and configure the poetical atmosphere of the space.

Figure 4 to 6:

Office of proprietor, with multiple spaces for patient care.

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6

Figure 7 and 8:

Area for dental chairs, illuminated with natural light.



7



8

The building's structure is made of apparent reinforced concrete, a contemporary material, and has received other complementary materials, such as wood, glass, steel and red surfaces. Sensations and temperatures are mixed in the definition of the elements that support structures for the internal spaces.

The doors of the office, auditorium and the reception support area are made of 5-cm wide planks of trumpet tree wood, a natural Brazilian material, a solution that has also been adopted for the handrail of the internal stairs. The infilled glass curtain is the plane that separates the building from the city and integrates it into the landscape and the street. Glass also surrounds the elevator shaft, revealing the machine that takes people to the different floors. The doors to the auditorium, as well as to the restroom area, are boards of red melamine, using a color rooted in Japanese culture, which refers us to the Kina identity.

The purpose was to have a building that may hold the unpredictably rich and complex human activities, by, for example, using the garage for celebrations and the auditorium foyer for exhibits. Friends that have already walked by this area felt just as if they were visiting an art gallery.



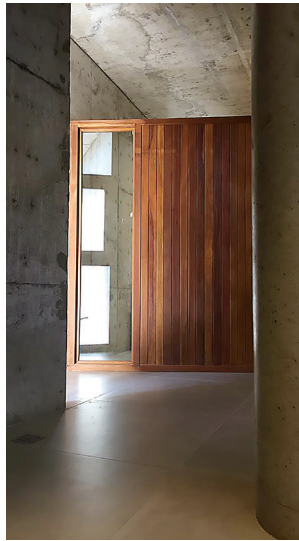
Figure 9 to 18:

Material compositions and internal structural elements.

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Architecture: Verri & Galvão Arquitetos
Client: Kina Essential Balance – Sidney Kina, DDS.
Photograph: Alt Studio – Jackson Yonegura

Figure 19 to 21:

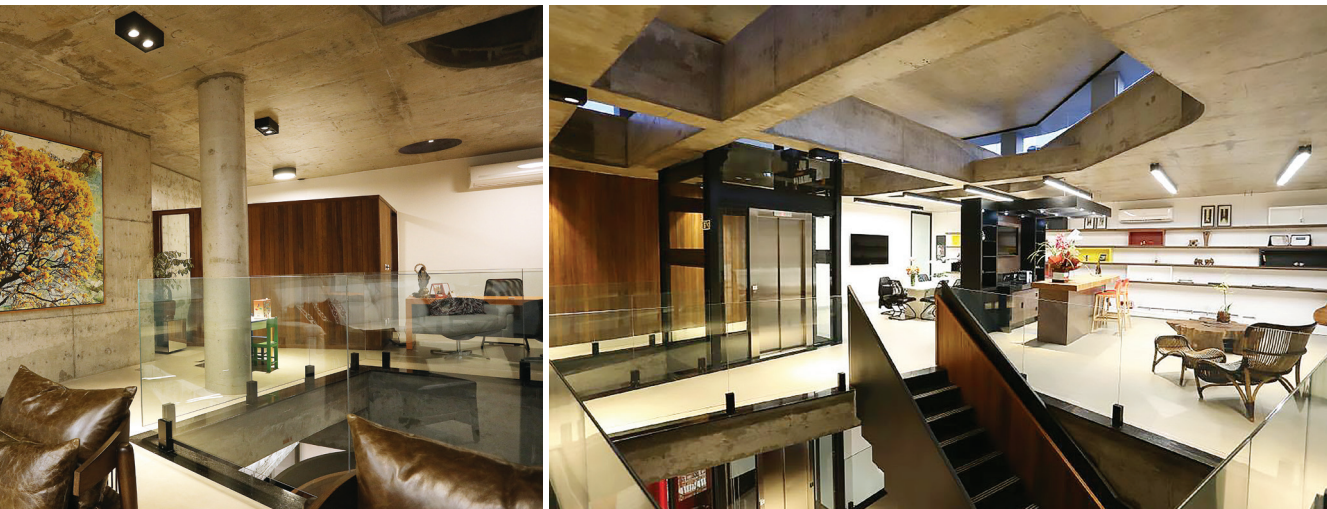
On first floor, area of foyer and auditorium may hold several events.

Figure 22 to 25:

Socializing area, coffee table and meeting area on upper floor.

Figure 26:

Façade — night view.



24 25

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