



**HISTORIC SPACE
NOW STATE OF THE ART**



FORMER MAIN CLINIC TRANSFORMED TO THE ROBERT I. SCHATTNER CLINIC

ON JANUARY 2, 2018, the doors opened on a new era for Penn Dental Medicine's storied Main Clinic when students, faculty, and staff welcomed patients to what is now the Robert I. Schattner Clinic and a state-of-the-art facility throughout. This 11,170-square-foot space has been the hub of clinical instruction and patient care since the School's Thomas Evans Building opened in 1915 — heralded, at that time, for its advanced features and dramatic architectural elements, today, it can be as well. From the incorporation of computer-assisted design and manufacturing (CAD/CAM) technology and custom-designed operatories to the dramatic wall of windows, the space is designed for optimal educational and patient care experiences.



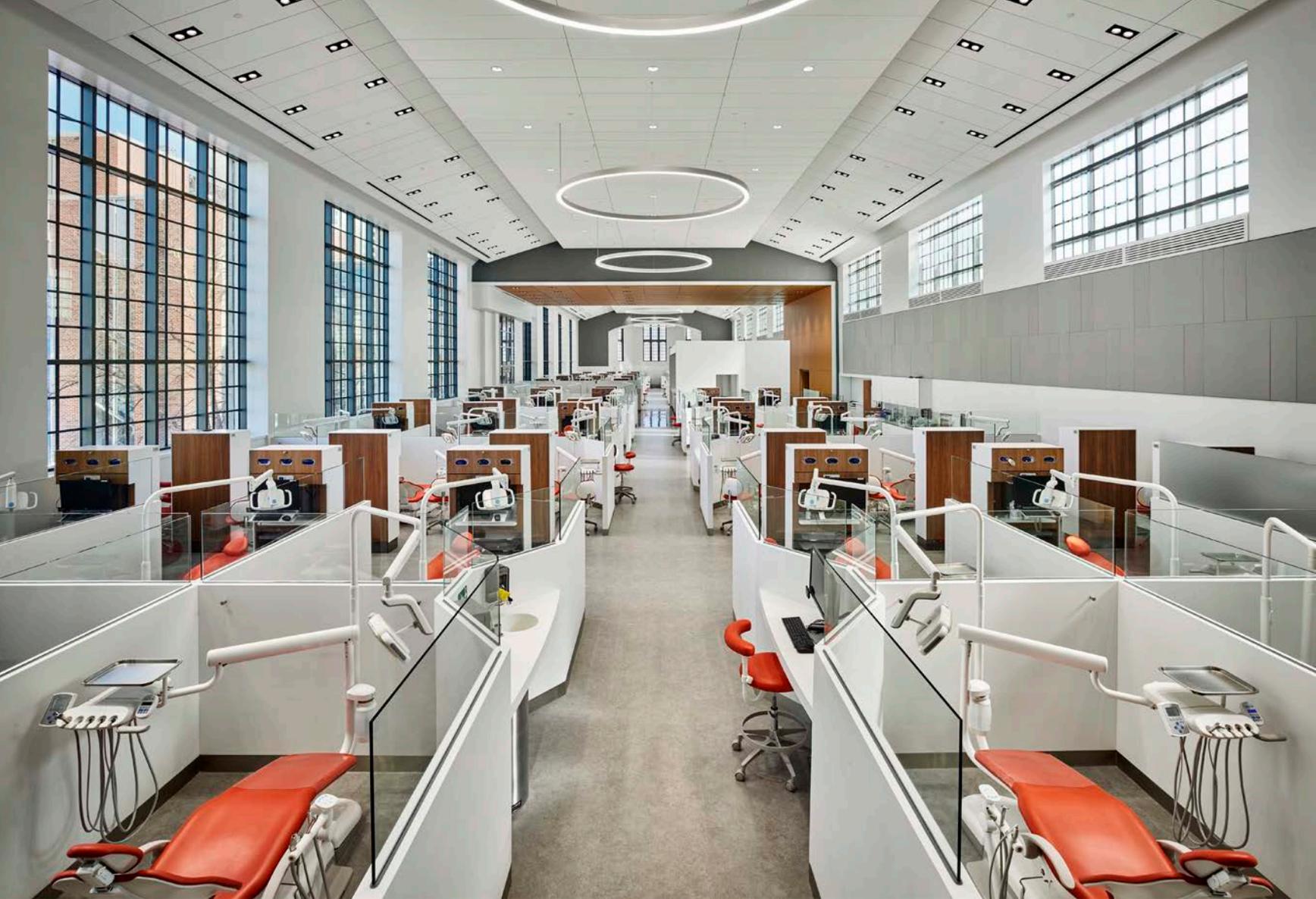
“Within our Restorative Department, this facility is the stunning centerpiece of our comprehensive care clinics,” says Dr. Markus Blatz, Professor and Chair of the Department of Preventive and Restorative Sciences. “It is equipped to educate students and treat patients with the absolutely latest techniques and technologies, geared toward extensive integration of digital technologies, and readied to accommodate future developments.”

The clinic renovation, completed over the past year, was made possible in large part through the generosity of the late Dr. Robert Schattner (D'48), an alumnus who contributed \$15 million to this project and the new Schattner Pavilion that will be completed in June (see story, page 4). They culminate a series of major facilities projects for Penn Dental Medicine since 2015 as part of the Evans Building Centennial Renaissance project that transformed all four levels of the School's historic Thomas Evans Building.

“The Schattner Clinic truly is the crown jewel of the Evans Building renaissance,” says Dr. Mark Koup (D'04), Associate Professor of Clinical Restorative Dentistry and Director of Comprehensive Care Clinics; he and Dr. Patrice Ierardi (MT'80, D'84), Clinical Assistant Professor of Restorative Dentistry and Assistant Director of Comprehensive Care Clinics, oversee faculty, students, and the delivery of care in this clinic and the Edward & Shirley Shils Clinic, which opened in September 2016.

Renovated by the Philadelphia-based architectural firm of EwingCole, the Schattner Clinic includes 74 operatories (four devoted to radiography), CAD/CAM and wet laboratories off the west end, a faculty meeting area on the east end, a streamlined dispensing area on the south side, and a centrally located work station for clinic staff that provides a welcoming entryway for patients.

“The Schattner Clinic has been universally well received and will have a positive impact on multiple levels related to the education of our students and patient care,” adds Dr. Najeed Saleh, Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs. “The modernized equipment will allow us to continue providing state-of-the-art, patient-centered care with lower levels of patient anxiety due to the more soothing, welcoming nature of the clinic.”



THOUGHTFUL DESIGN

Creating a space that functions well for both teaching dentistry and treating patients was a top priority, and care was taken throughout the design process to achieve that goal. “This clinic was planned over several years with a vast amount of information and experiences from prior clinic renovations and other dental schools taken into consideration,” says Dr. Blatz, “including a great amount of input from our faculty and students.”

Before final decisions were made on equipment and layout, Dr. Blatz explains that sample operatories were set up in the former Main Clinic so faculty and students could evaluate the ergonomics and share their preferences. A-dec equipment was ultimately selected, and among design qualities incorporated are the following.

Ample room for 4-handed dentistry. The operatories are sized and equipment placed so students assisting, students providing care, and observing faculty can all work comfortably within the space. “The rear-hand delivery system will allow for more effective four-handed dentistry and will enhance the experience during dental assisting,” says Dr. Saleh.

Patient privacy & open site lines. The individual operatories provide patient privacy, yet were designed with glass panels on the upper portion to create open site lines that ease faculty supervision and student/faculty interaction.

Custom cabinetry. “We consulted with faculty and then worked with the vendor to custom design cabinets that would function well in our teaching environment,” says Dr. Koup. They feature two retractable shelves that can be repositioned in a variety of ways, a mount for the computer monitor that moves fully from one side to the other for flexibility in positioning, extra storage, and even a clock built into the front door. Within the operatories, the cabinets are positioned to allow for a comfortable amount of room behind the chair when providing care, while also being easy to access.

“The cabinets also have outlets galore and USB ports,” notes Dr. Koup. “We added to the power capacity with an eye to accommodating equipment we may acquire in the future. It’s a forward thinking space designed for today and tomorrow.”

**WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT
ENHANCING PATIENT CARE**

A room with a view. Perhaps the most striking aspect of the Schattner Clinic is the abundance of windows, and thus, natural light. With a nod to the original architecture of the historic Evans Building, there are eight, 17 ½-foot windows on the north side of the clinic in the same footprint as the building’s original windows. In addition, original windows at the top of the south wall and a large bay window on the east end of the space were also revealed. Faculty, students, and patients alike agree the dramatic wall of

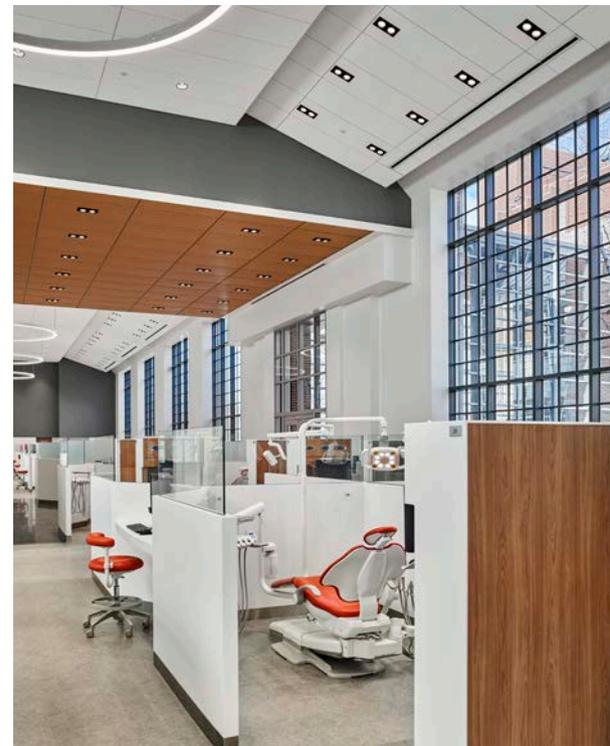
windows and bounty of natural light make it a positive environment for patient care.

“The patients love coming here and that is the most important thing. They love all the light and the view out the windows,” says fourth-year student Frank Shannon (D’18). “I think it calms them, and if they are comfortable, it is much easier to work with them and provide care.”

Dr. Koup also notes that the natural light is a benefit for shade matching and making decisions on restoration colors.

Peace and quiet. Another noticeable quality that makes the space welcoming is the low noise level. A major factor in creating a quieter environment is the switch to all electric dental handpieces. However, acoustic solutions were also incorporated into the design, including acoustic ceiling tiles to absorb high frequency sounds and 1,300 square feet of absorptive wall panels installed on the south side of the clinic to offset the hard surfaces of the large windows across the entire north wall of the clinic.

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(photo credit: pages 10-12 and bottom right by Halkin Mason Photography courtesy of EwingCole)







SUPPORTING DIGITAL INNOVATIONS

In terms of clinical instruction and state-of-the-art patient care, the Schattner Clinic is advancing the application of the latest technologies in digital dentistry. “The rapid advancement of digital dental technologies is changing restorative dentistry and prosthodontics like never before,” says Dr. Blatz, “and it is important that we expose our students to these technologies as early as possible.” The

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 ABOVE: Dr. Mark Koup (D’04), Director of Comprehensive Care Clinics, and Dr. Patrice Ierardi (MT’80, D’84), Assistant Director of Comprehensive Care Clinics, consult with a student reviewing an intraoral scan taken with the mobile scanning units now used by DMD students in the new comprehensive care clinics.

LEFT: (bottom right) The new CAD/CAM lab off the west end of the Schattner Clinic is outfitted with a chairside CAD/CAM milling machine and speed-fire furnace. (top right) Adding to patient services is a mobile checkout/payment station within the clinic.

resources within the Schattner Clinic are supporting that goal and the digital innovation initiative being implemented schoolwide.

As part of Penn Dental Medicine’s progressive incorporation of digital workflow that includes digital radiography and digital patient records, all DMD students are now gaining exposure to intraoral scanning and chairside CAD/CAM technology. Mobile intraoral scanning units are available for chairside use within the Schattner Clinic and the CAD/CAM lab on the west side of the clinic enables fabrication of same-day, milled restorations.

The laboratory is outfitted with a chairside CAD/CAM milling machine capable of milling a wide array of restorative materials as well as a speed-fire furnace. “This is a new kind of furnace that enables us to use even the most current restorative materials, like zirconia, and mill and fire smaller restorations like crowns and onlays within hours,”

says Dr. Blatz. “So this lab is a convenient extension of our CAD/CAM Ceramic Center, which is geared toward fabricating larger and more complex dental restorations in a true laboratory setting.”

“Having this CAD/CAM laboratory adjacent to the Schattner Clinic and in close proximity to the Shils Clinic enables us to practice this kind of dentistry more readily and conveniently, so it is a huge advantage,” adds Dr. Koup. “It is expanding our students’ exposure to this modality that they didn’t have before, so the clinic is changing the way our students are able to learn.”

Third-year student Bret Lesavoy (D’19) agrees. “The clinic is awesome,” he says. “For us to see where we came from and where we are right now, it is exciting to see the school is placing so much emphasis on our clinical care experience.” ■

— By Beth Adams