

Our Simple Wish:



Dr. Edward Lowe



All models are actual patients of Dr. Lowe

Is to inspire you to embrace life. To celebrate the joy, the friendship, the happiness, and the pure and simple pleasure, of a smile...and all it can bring into your life.

"If the best in you is hidden by the appearance of your teeth...
It is my pleasure, my passion, and my humble responsibility
to offer my help to set you free ...because you deserve it."

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before

after



before

after

Dr. Edward Lowe is one of North America's experts in the field of cosmetic dentistry. At his West End Dental Centre on Davie Street where he uses state-of-the-art technology, he brings smiles to the faces of his many patients. In addition to his Vancouver practice, he is an international lecturer and educator in cosmetic and clinical dentistry and admits he is a life-long student of his chosen career.

GLV: What drew you to dentistry? Looking into people's mouths all day doesn't seem a particularly sexy profession?

EL: When I was in university, I was interested in the health sciences. What drew me to dentistry was the opportunity to be with people, which I love, as I am a socializer, and to work with my hands to create something artistic. When I decided to transform my practice to concentrate on smile makeovers, I knew I had found my passion in the profession. Every client to me is a potential work of art!

GLV: How would you describe the focus of your work? For example, what part do you play in the process of cosmetic dentistry?

EL: The focus of my work is the aesthetics and function of the human dental composition. An analogy I often use is this - think of the teeth as the actors, the gum tissue as the curtains, the lips as the stage, and the face as the theatre. The role I play in the process of cosmetic dentistry is designer and architect. My ceramist in Los Angeles, Nelson Rego, is the builder... and he is a fabulous one.

GLV: Realizing that each patient is an individual with individual dental wishes and requirements, what are the most common existing imperfections and challenges that you encounter?

EL: The most common existing challenges I encounter are crowded teeth, spaces between teeth, dark, stained, discoloured teeth and ground-down, worn-out teeth. A gummy smile, missing teeth, and old ugly crown and bridge work also frequently appear in my office.

GLV: Can you describe a particularly challenging "mouth" you have worked on and the results?

EL: There are a number of challenging mouths that I have worked on, but the most interesting one took about three years to complete. The patient needed orthodontics, gum reshaping, bleaching, aesthetic bridgework and bonded porcelain restorations to complete.

GLV: What is the average time required to reconstruct a smile?

EL: The average number of appointments for a simple smile makeover is three. A consultation and record-gathering appointment is the first step. This takes about an hour. The next step is the preparation of the teeth to receive the bonded porcelain restorations. Depending on the extent of the makeover, we schedule between four and six hours. The client leaves with acrylic prototypes of their final smile temporarily cemented in place.

These allow them to test drive their final smile and make any desired modifications. There is a three- to four-week time period prior to the last appointment. At this time, the restorations are custom crafted by master ceramist Nelson Rego at his dental lab in Los Angeles. They are then shipped back. The final bonding and insertion of the new restorations takes place back in my office in Vancouver and requires between two and three hours.

GLV: How much can I expect to pay for your services? Do you work in conjunction with other specialists?

EL: My fee for a 10-teeth premolar-to-premolar smile is \$15,000. The investment for a smile makeover involving 28 teeth is \$42,000... not for the faint of heart! I work with several of the top specialists in their field in the city. However, their fees are separate from mine.

GLV: In the past, the average person's expectations were considerably more modest - reasonably straight teeth, no cavities, and if required, the occasional crown or bridge. To what do you attribute the present enthusiasm for perfection?

EL: Why, our eternal quest for youth, of course! Even though I am 43 years old, I feel like I am 23... and I never want to stray from that vision. Wanting the perfect white teeth comes from the influence of the media and Hollywood. The availability of tooth-whitening agents has even forced the dental industry to look at whiter-than-white shades to accommodate public demand. We know teeth are seldom whiter than B1 (dental whiteness scale) in nature, but we accept it because it is better than nature. A thin girl with breast implants is not often a natural occurrence in terms of proportion. However, our skewed views of what is natural makes it acceptable as the norm. Science and progress in the health sciences have allowed us to mimic nature and often exceed its limitations.

GLV: Is there a psychological reason for the pursuit of perfection?

EL: There may be in the case of some individuals who are obsessive-compulsive. However, I think we all pursue perfection because it makes us feel good about ourselves. There is nothing better for the ego than when an attractive total stranger says, "I love your smile..."! ■

Dr. Gerald Boey is a partner in the Arbutus Laser Centre and has been practicing laser surgery for the past 16 years. 11 of those in Vancouver. He devotes his time to investigate, evaluate, and utilize the latest in laser technology, and is actively involved in teaching the art. He recognizes that the trend is towards less invasive procedures which improve the skin in general, in addition to helping the more specific concerns his patients may have. The centre's web site is at www.arbutuslaser.com

GLV: What kinds of laser treatments do you offer and what do you treat?