

Looking Good

IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Dr. Eric Fugier a dentist who combines

art & science



Dr. Fugier is soft-spoken, intense and sincere. He speaks of his work with love and of his patients with affection and respect. A native Parisian, Dr. Fugier was a practicing dentist in Monte Carlo when he met his mentor, the late Dr. Charles Pincus of Los Angeles. (Dr. Pincus was the founder of the Academy of Esthetic Dentistry along with Dr. Ronald Goldstein of Atlanta. Dr. Pincus was a well-known dentist to major and minor movie stars, international travelers, and celebrities.) Dr. Pincus invented the first "Hollywood Laminate" in the 1950's that has since become the Porcelain Veneer of the 80's — the corner stone of esthetic dentistry. Dr. Fugier moved to the U.S. and began working with Dr. Pincus after he completed his postgraduate work at U.S.C. When Dr. Pincus passed away in 1986, Dr. Fugier acquired his practice and has carried on the tradition of providing the ultimate in dental and health and beauty to his patients. He is a doctor of Naturopathy as well, blending holistic and natural health principals with his medical and technical expertise.

What is it like to come to your office?

Dental work involves all five senses: taste, smell, touch, sight and hearing. My theory is, you have to work with the senses in a positive way. I have put this theory to work in my office. The smell of traditional dental offices reminds us of bad memories when we were children. My office does not smell like a dental office. We incorporate aromatherapy to infuse scents of essential oils for relaxation as well as relaxing music. When you walk into my waiting room it looks like home. It is comfortable. There is a flowing water fountain, candles, beautiful art, and relaxing positive music. People fall asleep in my waiting room! They tell me, "I love to come here, I can relax." Every dentist can do this with a little bit of effort. But not many do, so I think we're somewhat on the cutting edge.

Describe a typical client consultation?

I have patients from all walks of life. Some of them are stars like Jodi Foster, Bruce Willis and Lionel Richie. Some are people like you and me. Some want a more "artificial beauty." Most want a more natural look (laughs) I'm French so I understand what natural beauty is ... and I prefer natural beauty.

Whether you are building a house, or rebuilding a mouth, you have to properly plan and execute it. So how do we do that? We start with a consultation: we do a smile design using computer imaging; we talk with the patient; find out what they want. Communication is vital!

I have a marvelous staff. We use digital and video camera to create a new smile. We need to consider the patient's facial

expressions, bone structure, lip support, skin tone and personality — so many factors. We create a blueprint, work with it, and go through many possibilities. Otherwise, you just get a lab-manufactured smile. One smile does not fit all faces. A young woman came to me recently. She had had some problems with her teeth and had gone to a "celebrity dentist." She was very disappointed with what I call the "chiclet effect." She proceeded to another dentist and again was disappointed. After our design consultation, she wrote me a letter. She said "I thought it was going to be the same thing all over again... but when I walked into your office waiting room, I felt like was in a resort in Bali... it was a good start. And after our consultation, it got better, the smile design was great.! For the first time I felt like someone was listening to me." We were able to give her exactly what she wanted, design her smile together and fine tune it before we made it permanent. This is a true story and it happens over and over. We change people's lives on a daily basis. What I do is a combination of art and science. But there has to be interaction with the patient — you do it together.

What is your philosophy?

I am a Buddhist. About ten years ago I began doing yoga. Yoga brought me to spirituality, to naturopathy, to myself. In Buddhism we learn of the human aspiration to seek happiness and avoid suffering. I believe that there is no happiness without beauty and no beauty without health. A beautiful smile starts with a healthy mouth.



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