Va-va voom your practice

If you want to brighten up your practice, Kathy Adams suggests adding a feature wall. It will help add a bit of colour without going over the top.

One good way of adding interest to an area and creating visual impact is with a feature wall, commonly used in shops and retail premises. Whether you are decorating or having a complete practice refit, a feature wall can easily add impact to a room. It’s a simple, cost-effective solution, using either colour and/or a change in materials.

While feature walls are most commonly used as a highlight in a neutral-schemed space, they work well to define areas rather than having expanses of the same colour. If you would like to draw attention to the reception area or waiting room, then a feature wall will accent it perfectly.

Why not use it to delineate an area for merchandise, promotions or behind reception? Try to use a wall that is dominant in the room and wash it with light or use an internally illuminated sign or display to draw the attention of your patients.

Add a touch of colour

The most important thing to remember when adding colour into your practice is not to have a disorganised approach. When colour is used inappropriately it can be counter productive. Colour needs to be co-ordinated; for example, why not use your corporate colours? These could be displayed in a variety of shades, or you could even introduce another colour to complement them. Take some time to experiment with colour, one suggestion is to get a few sample pots to paint panels and see how the colours look.

A feature wall will have a dramatic effect on the whole room and works just as well to alter the room shape. A dark colour will make the feature wall advance and appear closer, while a lighter shade will make the wall recede and appear further away. So if you want to make a long room appear squarer, paint the far wall in a darker colour to draw the wall into the room.

With a variety of materials to choose from, a feature wall is an attractive and practical option that works every time. Different options include paints, an inexpensive yet effective route; wood for that classic quality solution, a light wood for a more contemporary high-street solution or a dark wood such as cherry, for a luxurious hotel feel. If you have that little bit extra to spend, why not install a wall of coloured glass? This creates a dramatic impact and is surprisingly easy to fit. Lacobel glass comes in many stunning colours and is certain to make an instant and lasting impression.

About the author

Kathy Adams is design director at Admor. For more information, contact Admor on 01273 555078 or visit www.admor.co.uk.