

As she eases comfortably into middle age, Bonnie Hunter notes that she and her dentist in Raleigh, Dr. Steven Andraeus, have much in common.

“He’s equal parts artist and perfectionist,” she says with a laugh, “and it’s quite amazing how he simply will not let go of the smallest detail until it is resolved to his satisfaction. He is so focused and so intent—and I think those are the hallmarks of a first-rate artist.”

Notes Dr. Andraeus, “In patients who are 45 and older, such as Bonnie, we’re often dealing with problems of occlusion—the normal spatial relation of the teeth when the jaws are closed—and quite frankly, I often down-play the type of dentistry many of these patients think they want.

“Some patients are influenced by the ‘extreme makeover’ approaches they may see on TV, where people are having extensive dental work that is permanent to their beautiful teeth. When I say ‘permanent,’ I mean it is work that is permanently changing the surface of the tooth—and no restoration is as good as a healthy natural tooth.

“With that in mind, in this practice we prefer to serve the patient by minimizing the cosmetic work, and we end up with a more natural appearance because the majority of the teeth are still their natural teeth. Matching restorations to natural teeth is one of the most challenging things we do.

“I’ll often use an approach such as Invisalign® (see box) and perhaps consider using bonding as a minimally invasive procedure. Often it’s necessary to do significant restorative work on teeth that have had restorative work in the past, such as an old crown, big fillings, or an old veneer.

“As we’re using Invisalign to straighten teeth, we often use a highly effective teeth-whitening process. Even patients in the 45 to 65 year-old group with tetracycline stains from childhood can have success in removing those stains within six months to a year.”

The results of this careful, artistic, and conservative work have won national attention. Dr. Andraeus is one of about 500 dentists who have earned accreditation by the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry.

BONNIE HUNTER’S NEW SMILE

When Bonnie Hunter first slipped into Dr. Andraeus’s dental chair, “she had two crowns that were definitely showing considerable wear and tear,” the doctor notes. “They were in need of replacement, if not for aesthetic reasons, then realistically, for functional reasons. There was clear evidence of deterioration of the margins.

“Bonnie is in that mid-life group where occlusion is an issue, which was high on our list for attention and correction.

She is an excellent example of the benefits of bringing aesthetics, cosmetics and Invisalign together in the hands of an experienced practitioner. We were able to remove her failing crowns, and replace them with attractive, high quality provisionals—and so quickly Bonnie was looking quite wonderful even though her bottom teeth were at that time still crooked and crowded.

“With the provisional in place, we are able to continue the Invisalign process and complete whitening at the same time, so at that point she no longer had discolored margins and exposed worn areas. Steadily, Invisalign was moving her teeth into an attractive, healthy position (see photos). And her bite improved as we proceeded with this multi-specialty approach, all under the care of the same experienced dentist in the same office.

“Meanwhile, through this process, we were able to maintain and manage the provisionals throughout the Invisalign process, while at the same time ensuring that the whitening of her teeth was working exactly as she wanted it: not too white, but at the same time a little brighter than before.

“She’s a lovely lady, and she wanted to have a beautiful, natural looking smile—and that’s exactly what we accomplished together.” **h&h**

INVISALIGN®: STRAIGHTEN TEETH WITHOUT WIRES OR METAL

Invisalign® is a blessing for many adults (and teenagers, as well) who want straight, attractive teeth without the hassle of wires or metal in their mouths.

“As the name suggests,” says Dr. Andraeus, “Invisalign is an invisible way to straighten teeth without braces. Rather than metal braces, we use a series of clear, removable, hard plastic aligners (see photo) that over time gently and steadily move teeth into alignment.

“Typically, a patient wears each set of aligners for about two weeks, removing them only to eat, drink, brush, and floss. As we replace the aligners with the next in the series, the teeth will continue to move into the desired position. We’ve had Invisalign cases as short as three months, and as long as 24 months.” Designing the series of aligners is a custom-fit, computer-assisted process.

Dr. Andraeus is a Premier Provider for Invisalign—one of an expert group of doctors who, the company says, “have achieved the highest level of Invisalign expertise.”



Rejuvenation for *Aging Teeth*



Dr. Andraeus and his patient, Bonnie Hunter, share pleasure in the outcome of her aesthetic and corrective dental work.

For more information on dental cosmetic procedures, or on helping to support the “Give Back a Smile” program (which provides free cosmetic dental care to survivors of domestic violence), contact:

STEVEN B. ANDREAUS, DDS
THE FIVE POINTS CENTER FOR AESTHETIC DENTISTRY

1637 Glenwood Avenue
Raleigh, NC 27608

Telephone: (919) 546-9011
www.drandraeus.com

“In patients who are 45 and older ... we’re often dealing with problems of occlusion—the normal spatial relation of the teeth when the jaws are closed.”



Bonnie Hunter’s smile, before and after Dr. Andraeus’s accomplished touch.