





EXCELLENCE IS BLACK!

"I walked up the stairs. It was all dark. Walls and doors, steps and floors. The Gregorian music filling the air evoked a dark feeling of mystery, something ancestral. The gloomy environment conveyed a kind of bewilderment. I was feeling as if transported to a different dimension, where time was suspended. Those short moments seemed eternal.

DT Michele Frapporti "The Zirkonzahn School is a real school of thought, which involves not only learners but all those who, in one way or another, are part of the Zirkonzahn world".



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I have never attended a course at the Zirkonzahn School ("Die Zirkonzahn Schule") as a student — only as a teacher. As a teacher, I discovered that the Zirkonzahn School goes far beyond the notions, the technical skills and the trainings it offers. The true Zirkonzahn School is a concept itself upon which the school is built. Within each of us lives an innate talent that you need to grasp by listening to yourself. Without being afraid to face the difficulties that everyday life imposes on your profession, this talent must be nourished with the right tools, with sacrifice and dedication, up to excellence. Whatever you do, your talent and excellence have value, because they are the engine of innovation".

DT Michele Frapporti during one of the international Zirkonzahn events organised at the Mountain Monastery, in the heart of the italian Alps.





COMPLETE, COMPLEX REHABILITATIONS

RESTORATION MADE FROM PRETTAU® ZIRCONIA ON TITAN 5 BARS WITH TECNO MED FRICTION COPING

Time, patience and training are the ingredients needed to achieve great results. The work described below, carried out by DT Michele Frapporti, is an example of a complete and complex case with high aesthetic value, where the components have been designed and milled in a single project exploiting the potentials of CAD/CAM. The main challenge of such restorations lies in the ability of the dental technician to integrate his artistic talent with a deep mastership of the tools and materials used, qualities that can be developed through a continuous exercise and training.

Implant-supported dental restorations can be designed to be fixed or removable. Both variants have advantages and disadvantages. The decisive factor to make the best choice is usually the patient's needs. This restoration described combines both solutions: while the upper restoration — with tilanium bar and friction coping — was designed to be removable, the screw-retained lower jaw restoration was conceived as a fixed rehabilitation. Both restorations were made of Prettau® zirconia, the translucent zirconia that — thanks to its high flexural strength (1,200 MPa) — can be used to fabricate monolithic bridges with up to 14 elements: the Prettau® Bridges.

The production process with CAD/CAM was very similar for both restorations. First, the models were scanned for virtual wax-ups. Based on the wax-ups, the titanium bars were designed, milled, made parallel, polished and then anodised in a golden shade.



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The friction coping was fabricated as a secondary structure based on the digitised maxillary titanium bar and wax-up. For material, Tecno Med was chosen, a high-performance resin that allows easy cleaning of the removable denture and is suitable for long-lasting restorations.

After completing the set-up in the design software, the two Prettau[®] Bridges were milled. The milled frameworks were then manually reduced in the anterior and gingival areas for subsequent ceramic layering.





The colouring of the restorations is what emphasises the artistic skills of the dental technician. In this case, in order to give the two prostheses an even more natural and individual appearance, the staining phase was performed according to several work steps:

- Application of Colour Liquid Prettau® Aquarell prior to sintering zirconia. The colours used are characterised by bio-pigments, which help the dental technician select the most suitable shade for the restoration:
- Layering of the gingiva and anterior teeth with ceramics. In the gingival areas masses characterised by different shades of pink have been applied to recreate the natural anatomy of the gingival tissue (ICE ZirkonCeramics);
- Characterisation of restorations with stains (ICE Zirkon 3D Stains by Enrico Steger).



After the necessary firings, the restorations were polished with glaze. The work was completed by bonding the coping and the titanium bar to the Prettau® Bridges.

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