

WHAT YOUR SMILE SAYS ABOUT YOU

By Dr. Pamela Marzban

If one of the first things people notice is your smile, what do you think your smile says about you? While that may seem like a peculiar concept, the presentation of our smiles affects our overall image. For example, look at the pictures below:



Mature



Youthful

Notice the one on the left has all the teeth the same level and flat across while in the picture on the right, the teeth are different levels and have points and curvature. Both smiles are white and straight; but, which one do you think looks aged and which one do you think looks more youthful? The one on the left is what dentists refer to as a “mature” smile, while the one on the right is “youthful”. A smile in which the teeth are worn down or are flat can age a smile; while teeth that attain their natural shape, translucency and curvature appear youthful.

Any well trained dentist in the art of cosmetic dentistry understands these concepts. When a client comes into our practice, as I listen to their chief complaint and begin to understand their dislikes and their wants, I start a layout of their new smile. I will consider their age, gender, ethnicity and personality and create a smile design that is completely customized for their face and how they wish to be perceived. This process is a marriage of art and science and requires understanding and empathy.

I think most people understand age related differences in smiles but how about personality?



Softened



Aggressive

The picture on the left we refer to as a “softened” smile and the one on the right is termed “aggressive”. Notice the rounding in the edges of the teeth result in a more feminine or “softer” look. When teeth are pointed or have sharp right angular edges the smile tends to appear more dominant or “aggressive”. Interesting? As you look through the rest of this magazine, look at the pictures and evaluate people smiles.

Normally, most people are not this analytical when they look at a smile; however, they do recognize a smile that does not fit a face. What do you think your smile says about you?



Dr. Pamela Marzban is a dentist in practice in Fairfax County. If you have dental questions you can call her at 703-323-8200 or visit her at www.marzbandds.com