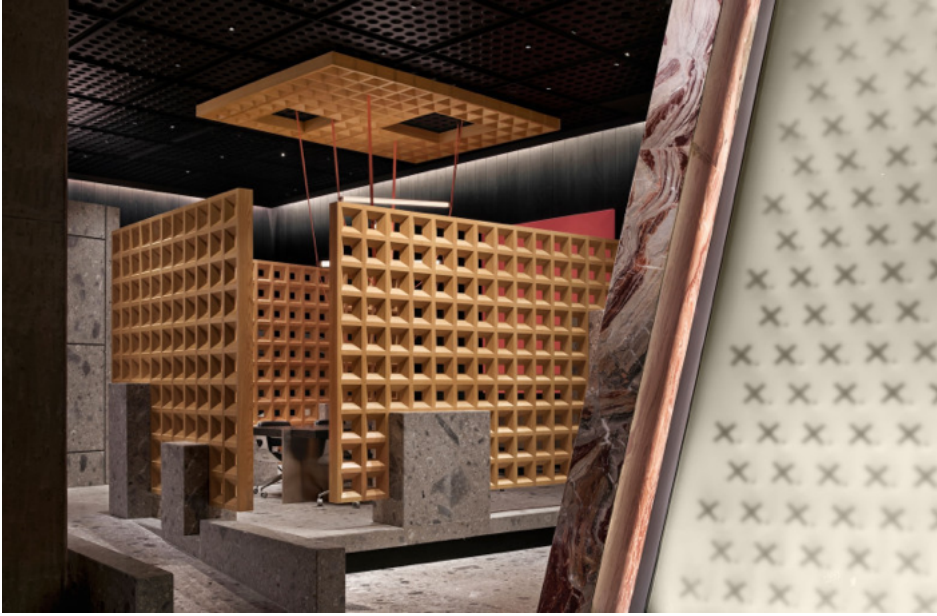


A TURKISH DESIGN STUDIO CHANNELS ARCHITECTURE GREATS TO MAKE THE DENTIST'S OFFICE FEEL LIKE A GALLERY

PREMIUM 04 SEP 2025 • INSTITUTIONS

BOOKMARK ARTICLE



Location	📍 Kanuni Sultan Süleyman Bulvarı, Vitrin Bevişene Is Merkezi, Bevişene, 5345. Sk No:2, 06810 Cankaya/Ankara, Türkiye
Design	Wangan Studio
Client	Smiles
Completed	2025

Wangan Studio transforms turns the traditional dental practice on its head, crafting a design-forward environment where art and architecture ease the prototypical pre-appointment anxiety.

FRAME'S TAKE

Healthcare design certainly is not what it used to be. Vet clinics are slick and Instagrammable, while behavioural health clinics pay as much heed to lighting and wayfinding as they do treatment plans. The profound shift in interior design for medical facilities sees studios moving away from stark white boxes and barreling toward environments that create a sense of brand loyalty.

'Modern care facilities... are swapping sterile aesthetics for spaces with soul, colour and genuine personality,' we noted in a recent roundup on FRAMEweb. Wangan Studio, a practice based in Istanbul, has deftly applied this principle to an Ankara dental clinic. Walking into Smiles, patients might think they've stumbled into a member's club or gallery. Think: rich colours, funky patterns, unexpected furniture and bold art. Your mother's dentist's office this is not. According to the designers, visitors are 'not treated as cases to be processed but as guests to be welcomed'. This welcome is happening somewhere that – like Depo Architects' concept for Ed Clinic – is both fun *and* functional. Studio Wangan's approach acknowledges that healing extends beyond medical procedures; positive patient experience is critical, and the sensory experience of being in a facility helps shape that.

KEY FEATURES

The clinic bridges post-industrial aesthetics and neo-modernist sensibilities – echoing the work of Carlo Scarpa and Tadao Ando, according to Wangan Studio. Spanning 1,100 sq-m the free-plan space is divided into clinic zones – for patient procedures – and campus zones – kitchen, changing rooms, a laboratory and a lounge for employees. Clinical units are dotted throughout Smiles' open layout: monolithic, freestanding volumes are encased by translucent partitions.

Soft greys and warm taupe bring calm, while jewel tones and pastels create moments of visual interest. Brushed steel, black-stained oak walls and veined pink marble add textural complexity. The lighting is subtle and inviting, rather than bright and harsh, as you find in more traditional healthcare facilities. Colourful geometric rugs bring tactility and serve as space-defining features, carving out separate zones in the waiting room. Wangan Studio has made art a guiding force in Smiles' design. Works by both Turkish and international artists and iconic design pieces, like Gaetano Pesce's 'Donna' chair and Seletti's monkey lamps, are installed throughout.

WORDS Hayley Daen

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GREY	MARBLE	SPACES	MEDICAL FACILITY	INSTITUTIONS	PINK	OAK
BURGUNDY	TAUPE	SMILES	WANGAN STUDIO	SAGE GREEN		
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