

Dentist to the Stars

For the high-profile clients of Dr. Pio Tripon, his dental aesthetics is something to smile about

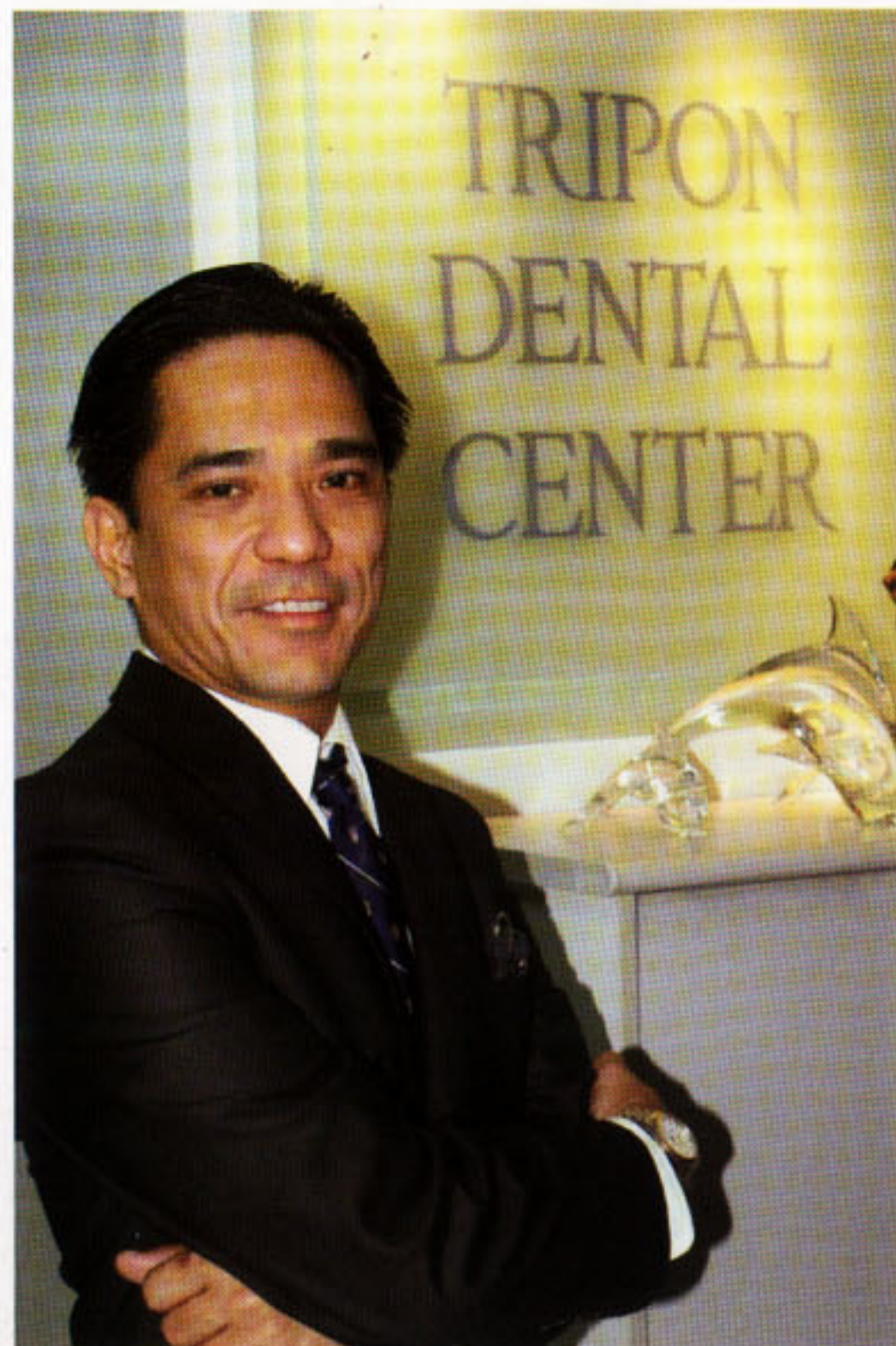
We've heard about the doctors to the stars, those heavily publicized surgeons and cosmetologists who have embraced the limelight and cater regularly to celebrities of all stripes. But where do they go to when they want to have a perfect smile which they can flash in front of cameras or their amigas?

Enter Dr. Pio Tripon.

With a suave demeanor and slickback hair, Dr. Tripon is the well-kept secret of high society. His reputation for rendering a flawless, natural-looking smile has grown steadily through the years. Clients would even fly from different parts of the world just to visit his clinic in Makati City just to have their teeth, as one columnist describes, "Triponized."

What is the easy mystique then of dentist? "Guests come to my office because they want me to make them beautiful," he begins. "You see, after having designed so many smiles for so long, you develop a certain signature look. A unique style. And that is the style that people come to see me for."

It is not an exaggeration to say that the dentist is, at heart, an artist. After all, a smile is all about balance, proportion and symmetry and one needs experience, and innate talent, to accomplish it. Dr. Tripon even goes to the extent of calling each of the smiles he designed a "masterpiece."



"I use parameters to plan out each and every smile to fit each person's face," he explains. "I depend on guidelines like the golden proportion, as do many of the world renowned architects and artists, to create my masterpieces. So, whether it is through veneers or laminates, crowns, bridges, dentures, implants, or simple reshaping, my vision must come first. And if the patient agrees with my plan, then everything else is automatic."

No wonder that the well-heeled set descends on his clinic regularly. But Dr. Tripon maintains that all clients that he sees are all considered VIPs and treated with equal importance and respect whether they are "in the list of the 40 richest in the Philippines, politicians, diplomats, flight attendants, socialites, actors, balikbayans or even an average joe or jane." His clinic is also known for strictly maintaining a line: If the schedule is tight, one has to wait to see Dr. Tripon give his full care and attention. No primadonna can readily sashay into Dr. Tripon's chair without a prior appointment.

What keeps Dr. Tripon endeared to his clients is his doing the extra mile in providing his service. The UP alumnus heavily invests in new technologies such as the intra-oral cameras, a digital library of cases he has accomplished for easy reference, decay diagnostic laser equipment, practice integrated computers, decay reversing techniques and the "only proven long-term bleaching system that even whitens tetracycline teeth."

Dr. Tripon claims that his clinic is more equipped and offer more high-end services than 90 percent of the offices in the United States, something that has deliberately envisioned and set up to do when he felt that dentistry in the Philippines needed a shot in the arm. His renown has resonated the world over. Dentists from different parts of the globe know his works through his growing list of international clients, remarking the world-class standards to which Dr. Tripon subscribes.

Providing Dr. Tripon the support, the inspiration, and no doubt the impetus for his success is his wife Jane, his college sweetheart. If his role is akin to being an "architect and builder," his wife "handles the operation, making sure that everything goes to plan." To make his decisions uninfluenced by monetary concerns, he leaves the nuts and bolts of day-to-day concerns such as cost analysis, scheduling and payment schemes to her. He adds, "She unburdens me by finding the best way that the patient can have the work done, in the time frame that they have, in the best he or she can have it."

On a personal level, Dr. Tripon sees their marriage as destiny, stating that "I can't imagine my life without my wife beside me" and that he is grateful that "she has stuck it out with me through thick and thin." Their lives now revolve around their son Gio who is "the beginning and the end of everything that we do."

Dr. Tripon has every reason to be fulfilled: He does the work that he loves and spends time with his wife while doing it. His clients definitely benefit from his happiness, generosity and sense of fulfillment. "Every smile that I get to design and deliver for a guest, I give part of my soul. And the joy that I get to impart to every patient fuels me and gives meaning to my very being," he concludes. ■