

# Desert Dental Arts

*This comprehensive dental practice features cosmetic, preventive, periodontic, endodontic, and implant services.*

BY JUNE ALLAN CORRIGAN  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK DAVIDSON



Dr. Cris Durghinescu, D.D.S.

■ Even in a world as precise as dentistry, fate has a way of intervening. Before Cris Durghinescu D.D.S., ever began practicing in the field, it was almost predestined that he would pursue a medical career. After all, his father was a dentist and his mother a pediatrician, while his grandfather was a general surgeon. Fate also played a significant role in his acquisition of Desert Dental Arts, a long-established practice in Palm Desert. Dr. Gary Hopper was retiring after 40 years, and he was looking for a qualified and experienced dentist to continue the level of care patients had come to expect.

Enter Dr. Durghinescu — or Dr. Cris, as patients like to call him. “I’m very pleased to have found someone of such integrity to take over my practice,” Dr. Hopper says. “Dr. Cris shares my philosophy of comprehensive dental care coupled with a personalized approach and genuine concern for patients. I’m very proud to have left my patients in his care, and the feedback I’m getting even now is that they’re all extremely happy with my choice.”

Supporting staff members at Desert Dental Arts feel the same way. The majority, like registered dental hygienists Kathy Bobst and Andrea Smith, are approaching 20 years of service working in the same warm and welcoming office. For his part, Dr. Cris, who first practiced dentistry in his native Romania, then in Orange County and later in Los Angeles before moving here with his anesthesiologist wife, says he is happy to have found “the practice of his dreams.” “We’ll be keeping up with the latest technological advances, of course, but mostly we plan to adhere to the same philosophies that worked so well for Dr. Hopper all these years,” he says.

Dr. Cris Durghinescu graduated from the University of Medicine and Pharmacy, School of Dentistry in Timisoara, Romania, in 1994. Relocating to the United States in 1999, he passed his boards in California and then completed extended training in implant dentistry at the Medical College of Georgia. He is a member of the Academy of General Dentistry and American Academy of Implant Dentistry.

**Desert Dental Arts**  
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