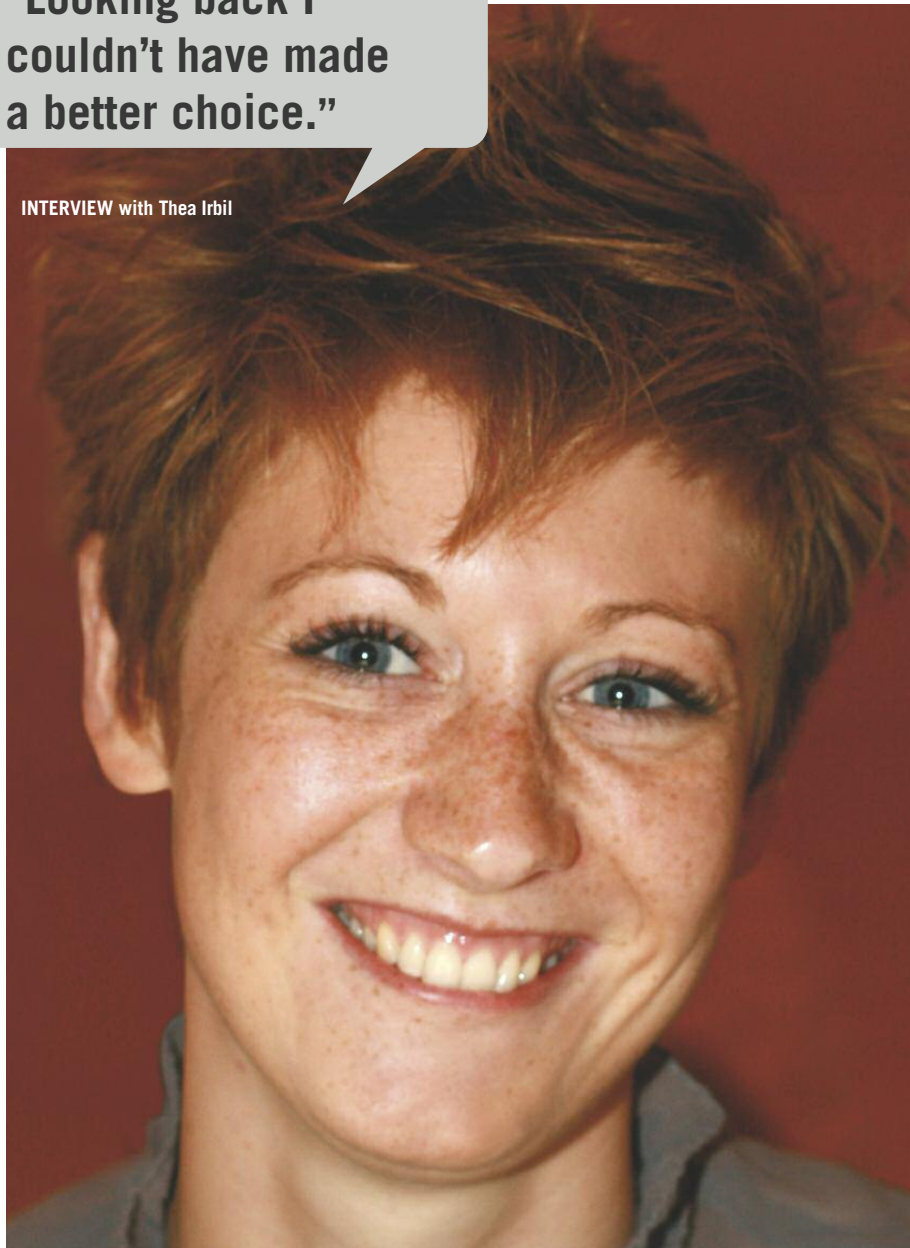


**“Looking back I  
couldn’t have made  
a better choice.”**

INTERVIEW with Thea Irbil



*Thea Irbil graduated in June 2010 and practices in Frederikshavn, Denmark.*

**AIM: Why did you study dentistry and how do you think about it today?**

It was almost by coincidence that I started studying dentistry. After high school I actually considered studying psychology or teaching based on the assumption that I would be able to help and pass on knowledge to others this way—something I wished for my career to contain. There are no dentists in my family or among my near associates, so at that time I had no idea how much you can actually accomplish exactly this by being a dentist. In the end it was also a matter of practical details (for instance the job security and the great amount of possibilities that come with the degree) and advice from dear ones that brought me to dentist school. Now, I realize, of course, that dentistry is so much more and looking back I couldn't have made a better choice.

**AIM: Where do you practice dentistry and what is special about it?**

I signed a special kind of contract with the navy, Admiral Danish Fleet, which lasts only a year and combines pediatric dentistry with general dentistry. It means working at Frederikshavn naval station three days a week and at the public pediatric clinic in Frederikshavn two days a week—a long way from my home in Copenhagen.

**AIM: Why do you love dentistry?**

There are so many reasons that I love dentistry. First of all, I enjoy being able to help and communicate with so many different persons. This contact results in every day being different from the other. At the same time, I find it so gratifying to focus on doing something to perfection, whether it's with regard to composite fillings/root canal treatments/extractions or something else. In addition to that, treating children in the pediatric clinic gives me a whole other kind of personal satisfaction. It feels great having succeeded in gaining the trust of a nervous or frightened child and motivating them to relax and receive treatment.

**AIM: Are you specialised or planning to be? Why did you choose this field?**

There are only two specialties in Denmark, orthodontics and oral surgery, however, neither of them really speaks to me. A close contact with my patients who present me many different issues is of great importance to me and the right way for me to accomplish this is by working as a general practitioner.

**AIM: What does YDW mean to you?**

YDW gives me the opportunity to meet old and new friends who share some of the same interests as me. Moreover, it keeps me updated on what's going on in the dentist world around the globe.