



The Science Of The Landscape



Much debate is occurring in the orthopaedic community today regarding the philosophy of the plating of periarticular fractures. While some choose to focus on the issue of fixed angle screws only, successful plating of these periarticular fractures is dependent upon the attention to the details of the contour of the plate or **"The Science Of The Landscape"**. Following are some of those critical design elements.

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Performance



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“Locked plates are best used for **severe** metaphyseal comminution in weight-bearing bones and **severe** osteoporosis. **In other cases, it is better to have pre-contoured plates that provide a buttress for most periarticular fractures.** For instance, tibial plateau Schatzker I, II, III, and IV fractures require the use of pre-contoured, periarticular plates whereas Schatzker V and VI are considerations for locked plates.”

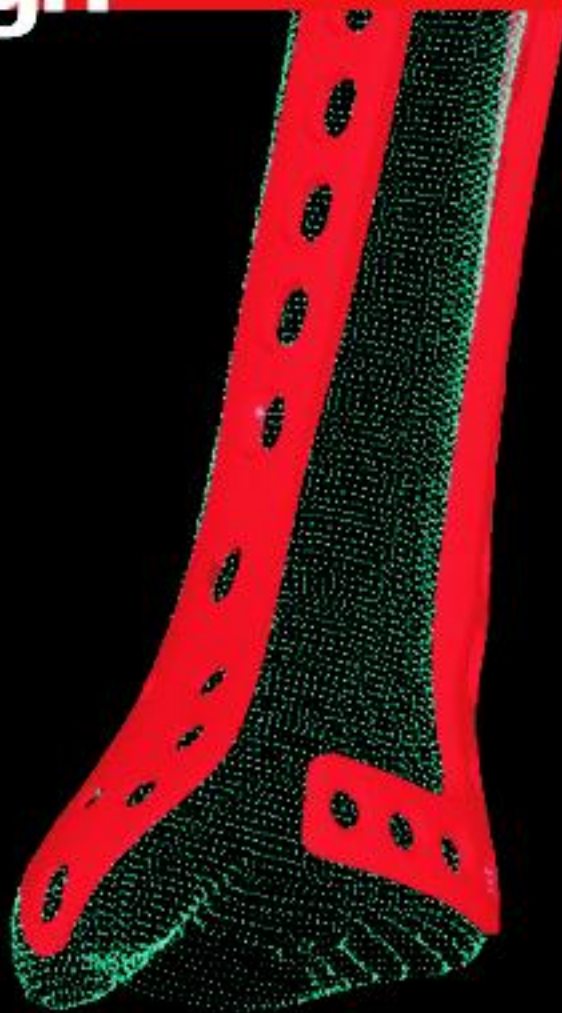


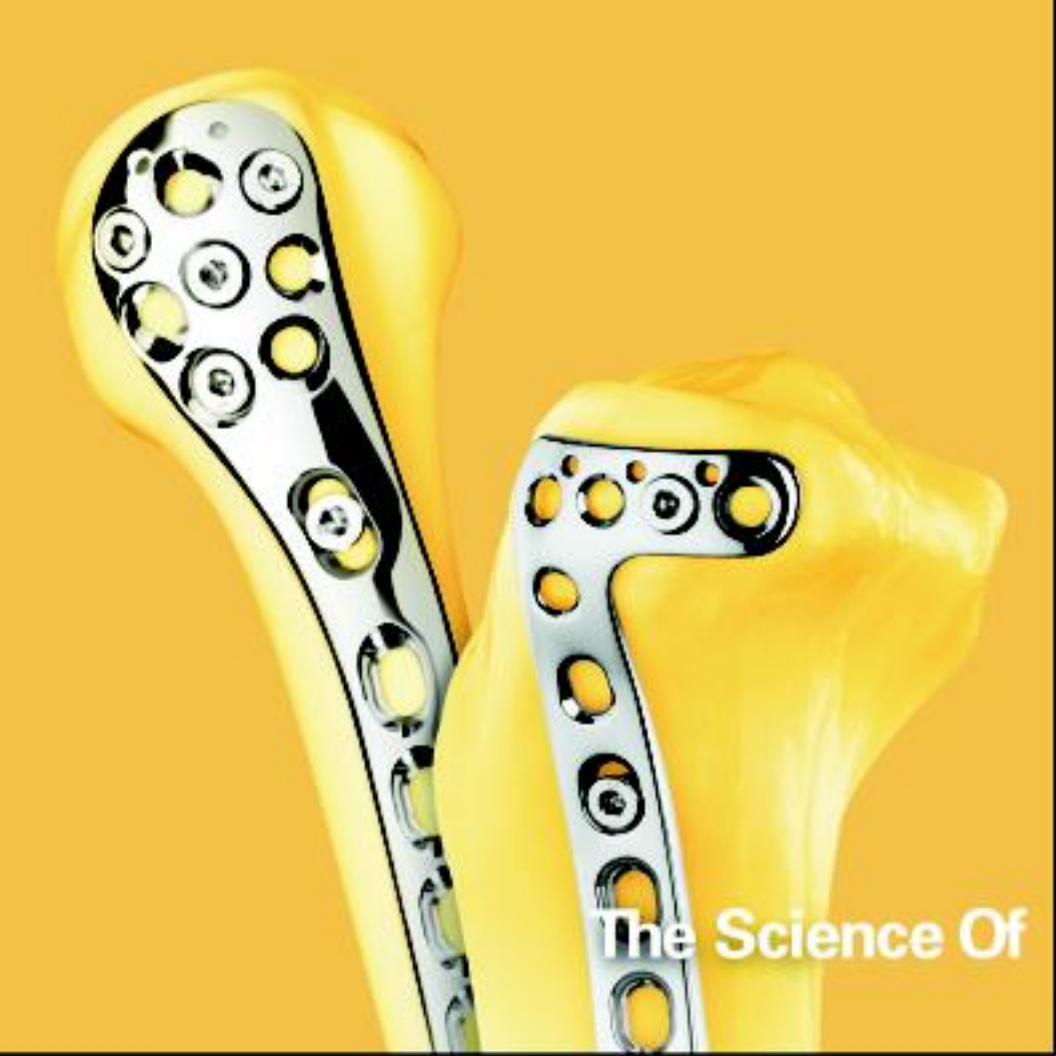
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The design of the *Zimmer*[®] Periarticular Plating System offers surgeons a wide range of anatomical location choices: two proximal humeral plates, three elbow plates, four distal radial plates, two distal femoral plates, four proximal tibial plates, two distal tibial plates, two distal fibular plates, and a calcaneal plate. This system gives surgeons the ability to fix most periarticular fractures with pre-contoured plates.

To help guide advanced fabricating technologies, digital laser bone scanning techniques were implemented to analyze a broad range of cadaver specimens. The gathered data was used by the design team to determine and replicate accurate bony contours.

Design





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This science of the *Zimmer Periarticular Plating System* provides for a plate contour that closely follows the shape of the bone. A fit is created that requires little or no bending and shaping like conventional plates. The patient's periarticular geometry is more closely matched and the surgeon's challenge of modifying straight, thick plates is greatly reduced.

Conformity



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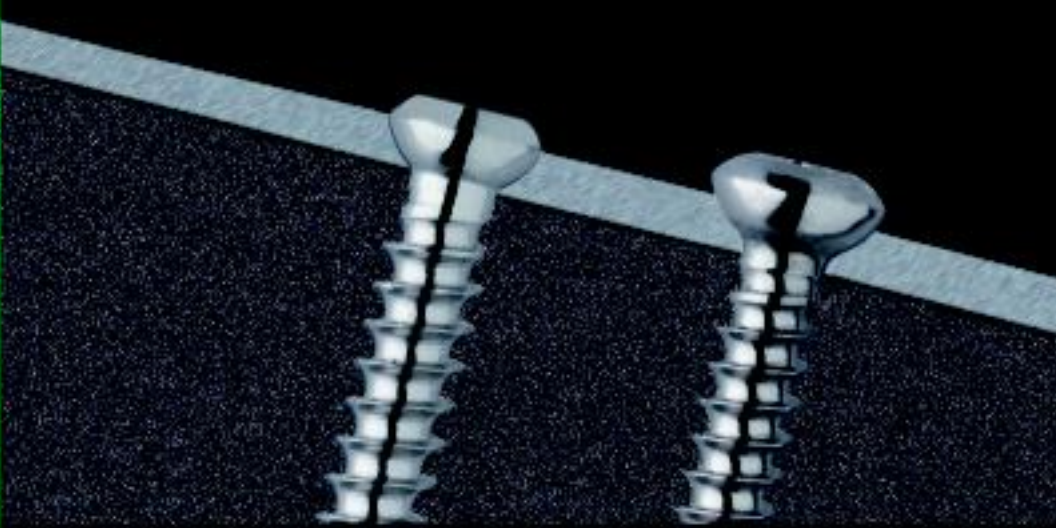
Specificity

An implant that is patient and surgeon-friendly also reduces soft tissue irritation. The *Zimmer* Periarticular Plates are thinner near the joint line. This critical design feature is intended to minimize soft tissue irritation. By transitioning from thin to thicker from the metaphyseal to diaphyseal areas, the plates can also “auto-contour.” This means the last bit of shaping the plate to the bone is actually done by the bone as the screws draw the plate toward the bone.



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Low Profile Fixation

For any system to be truly low profile, the screws must also help decrease soft tissue irritation. To accomplish this, low profile *Zimmer* Periarticular Bone Screws were specifically designed with significantly smaller heads that create a nearly flush profile when used with a Periarticular Plate or independently.

For more information, contact your Zimmer Representative

or visit us at www.zimmer.com.



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