

Albano Fills a Tall Order



Staff

Inside her Campus Services Building office, Robyn Albano is surrounded by samples of fabric, carpet and furniture finishes and catalogs showing chairs, tables and desks.

Robyn Albano, interior services coordinator, has been poring over architectural floor plans and meeting with user groups for the

Regnier Center and the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art since she began work at JCCC in January 2006.

Albano has the responsibility of planning, ordering and managing the installation of furniture for three floors in the Regnier Center and two floors in the Nerman, a total of 167 rooms and 192,000 square feet.

“It’s a challenge, but rewarding to see this project come together from the ground up,” Albano said. “My job is to provide a continuity of the whole experience and get users what they want within the allowed budget.”

Albano, who has a bachelor’s degree in architectural studies from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, brings with her a background in corporate facilities design. Decisions about space planning were made before Albano came on board, and hard surfaces such as granite, limestone and flooring were specified by Gould Evans Associates, the architects. Albano is working in tandem with one of the architect’s designers.

“In the Regnier Center, we are trying to evoke a ‘techie’ feeling, something upscale with higher-end finishes and woodland tones of gold and olive to soften hard surfaces,” Albano said. “Everyone who is fortunate enough to be moving into the Regnier Center will be moving to a warm, inviting space. The architect has brought in a lot of light.”

Albano’s office in Campus Services Building is filled with samples of fabric, carpet and furniture finishes and catalogs showing chairs, tables and desks. She points to each office space, conference room, seminar space, classroom, computer lab, testing site, biotechnology lab and hallway in the Regnier Center and then details the corresponding furnishings and floor and wall finishes – from lab stools and student worktables to the upholstered lounge chairs in open foyers.

Albano has made the same decisions for the Nerman, only here the design is “minimalist.”

“We want the furniture to carry the same aesthetic – no patterns or adornments that would



Robyn Albano, interior services coordinator, dons a hardhat to inspect plans inside the Regnier Center.

Albano’s responsibilities for the Nerman Museum and Regnier Center

- Number of rooms for both buildings: **167**
- Number of cubicles (Regnier): **111+**
- Private offices (both buildings): **66**
- Computer labs (Regnier): **27**
- Classrooms (lecture only) (both buildings): **5**
- Conference rooms (both): **10**, plus the large 1st-floor conference center in the Regnier Center
- Auditorium (Nerman): **1**
- Seminar Rooms: **9**
- Number of chairs to order for both: **1600+** (includes task chairs, lab stools, classroom chairs)
- Number of tables to order for both: **750+** (includes lab tables, classroom tables, conference room tables)
- Number of staff moving to new buildings: **200+**

distract from the art,” she said. “The Nerman is not furniture intensive.”

Albano is in the process of selecting gallery benches. The auditorium’s chairs are very simple, not over-stuffed. Albano describes the chair for the Nerman’s Café Tempo as an “iconic” chair designed by an architect in the 1950s, matched by clean-lined tables. Office furniture has a natural beech finish and no exposed hardware – an austere European look.

“We want a Zen-like experience, light-filled without a lot of distractions. The design of the building should stand on its own, and the art should speak for itself,” Albano said.

Besides the broad philosophical and design considerations, Albano also writes meticulous specifications on every piece of furniture that goes out to bid so the vendors deliver exactly what she wants, right down to the gauge of the metal used on a chair. Once every specification is written and out to bid, Albano will meet with Campus Services to begin scheduling and coordinating moves. More than 200 staff and faculty will move to the two new buildings.

“The Regnier Center and Nerman Museum are both really nice spaces,” she said. “People may not pick up on all the details, but the details contribute to a unique atmosphere.”

