

Case Study
University at Albany
Albany, NY



NATIONAL

Furniture with Personality®

The Challenge

The Life Sciences Research Building at the University at Albany is the keystone of a bold initiative to build world-class strength in life sciences research. Work done here has implications of hope for people with diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular disease, HIV and other diseases.

The facility is designed to ease collaboration among 39 research groups under one roof. Their endeavors are enhanced by advanced tools, including a nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer and a 75-node computer server-cluster.



"This project was seen as a celebration of technology and what our university has become. I was attracted to National Office Furniture because of features that answered our needs. And the more we found out about National, the more we liked their products."

Patricia R. Meyer
Architectural Project Manager

The Design Plan

The building also houses a 3,000 sq. ft. fermentation facility for cultivating yeast and bacteria needed to purify enzymes and proteins on a large scale. A high-tech auditorium, equipped for teleconferencing and satellite broadcasting, features data and power ports at every seat.

Unusual design features, such as green glass and aluminum-clad columns, presented a challenge in the search for furnishings. There was a specific need to complement the light and airy character of the building in a way that would enhance comfort and productivity.



The Furnishings

The interior design team selected pieces from four lines of National Office Furniture: WaveWorks® modular casegoods; Mix-it® seating; Zetro™ desks and Reno® lounge seating. The ergonomic design, sleek styling and choices of woods, finishes, fabrics and hardware provided ideal complements to the space.

Features such as open storage cubbies and tapered legs on the Zetro desks enhance the functionality of laboratory areas and contribute to an aesthetic environment where productivity is enabled.

The Results

The Life Sciences Research Building opened in October 2004. The facility dramatically expands the space and tools available to support University at Albany scientists in their quest to decipher the molecular mysteries of life and disease.

The furnishings selected by the interior design team cohere with the architectural elegance and are in perfect tune with the university's commitment to research. Those who work here gain the advantage of a fully functional, ergonomic environment that deftly marries utility and design.

"When I sat in Mix-it, I could feel it was comfortable, and I learned the price was well within our budget. I selected a scheme with green and maple trim to complement the lightness of the building. Our 35-member conference committee approved it for every conference room."



**Project**

Life Sciences Research Building,
University at Albany

Architect

Hillier Group,
New York

Photography

Tim Schemerhorn

*"Little details are one
big reason we chose National.
Features like hutches with
corner shelves...
the quality edge detail
on the P-top...
the functionality
of the nesting table.
Some other manufacturers
don't pay attention to these
kinds of things."*

Size

194,000 sq. ft.

Investment

\$78 million

Furnishings

WaveWorks® modular casegoods
Reno® lounge seating
Zetro™ casegoods
Mix-it® seating



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