

## Blair Hall Addition and Renovation

Eastern Illinois University  
Charleston, Illinois

### Award Recipient

Grantor: Midwest Construction Magazine

Award Date: December 2006

Category: Project of the Year - Renovation/Restoration

#### Project Team

Owner/Client: Eastern Illinois University

Architect: RATIO Architects, Inc.

General Contractor: English Brothers Company

Mechanical/Electrical Engineer: KJWW Engineering Consultants

### Range of Services

- Structural design from schematic phase through construction documents
- Construction administration and observation

### Project Overview

This historic 1911 limestone clad building, which suffered severe damage from a fire on April 28, 2004, has been entirely renovated, plus a new 3 story addition was added to the west. Wickersheimer engineers assisted in the fire evaluation, the roof re-construction, and now full circle as the structural engineer for the renovation and the new addition. There were numerous structural challenges. Most notable were the creation of a basement adjacent to the crawlspace on the west side to house the mechanical equipment, and the elimination of the west masonry bearing wall in the lower level. Support for the limestone along all three elevations of the new addition posed another challenge, due to the irregular spacing of the tube columns. There was no repetition on any elevation. The basement walls were punctured with openings, which made it difficult to create shear walls and tie to the first floor diaphragm. This project received an award from the Midwest Construction Magazine in the Renovation/Restoration Category in 2006. The difficult detailing of steel at the interface of old masonry and concrete with new steel are shown in the images below.



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