



Institutional

The Blackhawk Generating Station

Beloit, Wisconsin

Originally built:
1908

Type:
Coal-fired

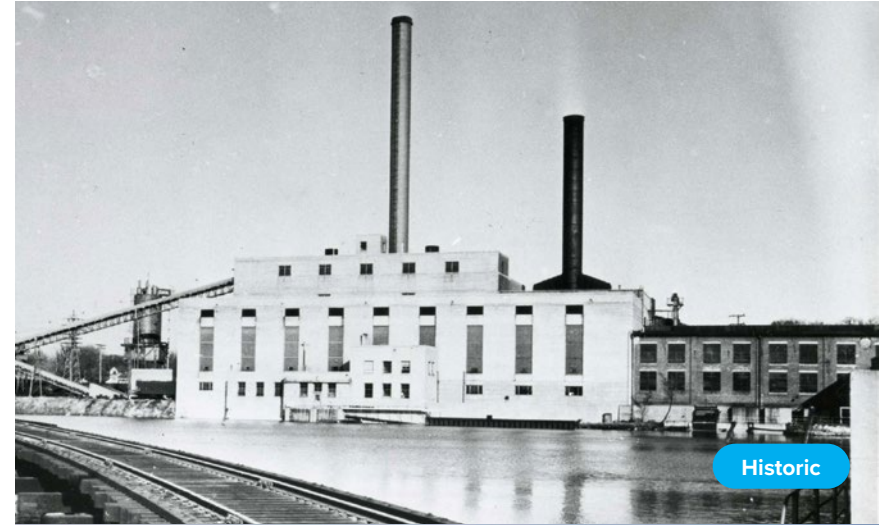
Decommissioned:
2010

Project Completion:
2020

Site size:
2.75 acres

Project cost:
\$48.5 million
(construction)

Beloit College partnered with Alliant Energy and Studio Gang to transform the former Blackhawk Generating Station to a student and athletic center for Beloit College known as the Powerhouse. The Powerhouse retains the existing building while incorporating modern amenities such as an 8-lane swimming pool, a suspended running track, and an indoor turf field house. The project incorporated a radiant panel and slab system to harness energy from the adjacent Rock River for the majority of the Powerhouse's heating and cooling needs. Students had the opportunity to identify which fixtures and machinery from the previous use to retain. The facility opened in 2020 and is available for use by both students and the public. The construction was funded largely through private donors.



Historic



Existing



Key Findings

Reconnecting the site

The project included the construction of a pedestrian bridge to connect the facility to the Beloit campus and the adjacent community.

Importance of planning

The Powerhouse created a much needed student lifestyle center while connecting the facility to the larger community.

Listening to the community

The design team worked with students from the college to help shape the future of their future student union.

Energy efficiency

The Powerhouse restoration was able to integrate new energy-efficient technologies into the historic structure.