Jordan Valley Innovation Center

Springfield, Missouri

"Precast concrete with cast-in thin brick veneer turned out to be the optimal solution. In addition to meeting the structural and aesthetic requirements, the precast towers were able to be erected with minimal disruption of traffic and with very minimal lay down area required. As with any project, especially a project built adjacent to an existing, very out of plumb building, numerous challenges were encountered... I believe the choice of the right material and good teamwork led to a very successful project."

Ben Jennings, P.E.
Structural Engineer & Vice President
Butler Rosenbury & Partners, Inc.

Missouri State University's choice of the 1920's era MFA Mill as the future site for a state of the art research facility created several interesting challenges for the design team, who recognized that floor space was at a premium. They quickly determined that 7 and 8 story stair and elevator towers should be added to the north and south sides of the existing structure. That challenging decision was amplified by limited construction space that required the new tower construction to happen from the busy downtown street in front of the site. Upon further review, the engineer also determined that the new towers must be self-supporting, as no additional gravity loads could be carried by the existing mill structure.

Because of the challenges presented and the owners desire to have a brick veneer to match adjacent construction, precast concrete structures including stairs, decks and walls with integral brick were chosen for the new towers. Precast veneer across the west face of the structure, both in sandblasted finish and integral brick, completed the façade of the project. As an added benefit, street access was closed for less than three weeks for precast erection, which was months less than anticipated for traditional masonry construction. These choices allowed the owner to meet the existing structural needs of the mill while greatly decreasing the time required to erect the towers.

Design Firm: Ross & Baruzzini **Structural Engineer: Butler Rosenbury & Partners**
General Contractor: DeWitt & Associates