

The principal purpose of this project was to develop a new power plant for Kent State University to provide modern, flexible, expanded and expandable steam generating capability and improved steam distribution. The program required the facility to supplant the existing eighty-year-old heating plant, which was inadequate, obsolete and cramped, and which ultimately would be decommissioned and converted to other uses. A secondary purpose of the new Power Plant was to develop auxiliary electrical generating capability, utilizing excess steam generating capacity to offset the University's need and expenditure for purchased electricity. Irie Kynyk Goss Architects served as architectural design consultants to Fosdick & Hilmer, Inc. for this project.

The Power Plant is located on the edge of the campus on a major campus entry thoroughfare, and next to a new student recreation center. The site is small corner lot, sandwiched between a city electrical sub-station and the major southern roadway entry to the campus. The size of the lot forces the building to be located closer to the roads than other buildings in this area. Irie Kynyk Goss Architects designed a large expanse of curtain walls to visually improve the setback from the roadway and to provide views of the building functions. The sloped roof provides additional interior volume where it is required, relates to adjoining structures surrounding the campus and provides a screen for the rooftop cooling towers.

The University's program for the Power Plant required development of the building in multiple phases. The first two phases have been completed: construction of the plant, installation of two boilers, two generators, and tunnel links to the existing campus system. The open-plan design of the building will accommodate future phases, and will accommodate future technologies as they become available.



Power Plant, Exterior



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