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**“The goal is to give the building a lot of life, to make it alive at night.”**

# A whole new light

## Intermodal Station creates a totally different impression

By John Rondy

If train stations say a lot about a city, then the old Amtrak terminal at Fourth and St. Paul wasn't making much of an impression on first-time visitors to Milwaukee. Dark and dank on the inside and uninspired on the outside, the old station was badly in need of a makeover.

When architect Greg Uhen of Eppstein Uhen Architects looked at the building, he sought to come

up with a design that countered the previous one. Based on the finished product, the Milwaukee Intermodal Station creates an entirely different statement with its transparent glass that glows at night, and greets bus and rail travelers with an open, airy space.

“Railway stations have always been important in world travel,” says Bob Greenstreet, director of Urban Planning for the City of Milwaukee. “They should be great public buildings, and I think we now have a great public building. In terms of its importance to Milwaukee, it's as important as the Milwaukee Art Museum.”

What started out as a low budget renovation of \$2.5 million turned in to a \$15.8 million project that celebrated its grand opening two months ago. The new facility, which is owned by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and also houses the relocated

Greyhound Bus terminal, is the result of a public-private partnership that includes the state and the City of Milwaukee along with Milwaukee Intermodal Partners, a private developer.

“The city was not happy with the building as a statement of entrance for travelers coming into the city,” said Bill Rusk, the studio director for Eppstein Uhen. “So, this project became a more of a public-private partnership. The state challenged the city to get involved, and they did.”

The new facility has virtually three times as much interior space as the former version, with clean lines and interesting architectural details. Its transparent exterior glows like a beacon at night.

“I wanted a building of today and tomorrow,” Uhen said. “The image is that Milwaukee is a very progressive, forward-looking city, and diverse, and I felt that the building should portray that.”

What looks like a new building is actually a renovation. The skin of the old building was removed, leaving just the structure. The addition of the glass box galleria, which spans the entire length, width and height of the existing structure, served to reinvent the building.



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**The new 3-story glass atrium provides a comfortable waiting area for visitors.**

**Congratulations** to the State of Wisconsin, the City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee Intermodal Partners for collaborating on an exciting new landmark for Milwaukee.



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