

Alton Works

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small businesses, startup businesses, are the progenitor of most of the growth that exists across the nation. So, the more we can do in Illinois, and especially here, the better off we all are.”

The Wedge was constructed in 1904 as a wedge-shaped building designed by Victor J. Klutho. It resides on the “Y” at East Broadway and Henry Streets.

The Elfgen Building, built in 1868-69, spans the west half of the triangular block known as The Wedge, from East Broadway to 3rd Street.

Now combined, The Wedge will house SIUE offices, a Fortune 100 healthcare company, start-up companies, MAIN Labs, entrepreneurs and people looking for co-working space.

The Wedge will also serve as a workforce training center, digital hub for the \$20 million AltonWorks Fiber-Net, and will help move Alton into the digital economy. It will further include retail space and restaurant space.

Nearly everything in the two former buildings has been gutted and restored, preserving its historical beauty while also providing state-of-the-art infrastructure, amenities and the highest speeds of broadband available on the market.

In keeping with AltonWorks’ commitment to history, the public spaces like the lobbies, public corridors, and public stairs will be retained and where original finishes remain, they will be restored.

The restoration of the two building exteriors includes roof replacement, parapet cap restoration, brick, and stone cleaning and tuck-pointing, window replacement, and retail storefront renovation with improved visual connection to the street.

The Elfgen building restoration brings in circa-1955 aesthetics, with large-format tile and trim to match a Vitrolite façade that had been lost to subsequent alterations. The original flat-iron entry of the Wedge building

is also being brought back to life.

Inside the Wedge building, restoration includes the historic Wedge Bank Lobby with terrazzo floors, marble and wood wall finishes, and domed ceiling lights. Retail spaces will feature restorations of wood floors and 12-foot hard ceilings.

Reconfiguration of private portions of the buildings that once housed commercial office space support the needs of modern commercial office and co-working space users and tenants. A new atrium with skylight has been designed to link the roof level and two upper levels of The Wedge building, bringing natural light down into the building while offering access to roof terraces.

The main stairs and elevator in the Elfgen building extend to the fourth level, solving code and accessibility issues, while also offering access to roof terraces on both buildings that take in sweeping views of the Mississippi River.

BSI Constructor’s Inc. of St. Louis is the construction company hired to renovate the Wedge, and Crossroads is BSI’s demolition contractor. Kiku Obata & Company is the architect and design firm for the project. Engineering firms include Mazzetti, KPFF, and Grimes. RBLD did the exterior lighting. Over \$15 million in labor, materials, and specialty items have been contributed by local Alton businesses.

When asked for his thoughts on historic building renovations that retain the charm and aesthetic of the past with capacity to serve as a modern structure for the future, such as The Wedge, Pritzker said: “Can I say that, it is spectacular that these buildings are being revitalized? The look, the feel – it has this very cool vibe as a result of the mixture of what’s happening inside, which are modern businesses being created, and what is on the outside that people can see. There’s a real history to honor and cherish; that is being done by the supporters of this. This is about as cool as it gets.”



A view of the Wedge Innovation Center, housed in the historic former Wedge Bank and Elfgen buildings in the 600 block of East Broadway in Alton. The Wedge is scheduled to open by February 2025. (Courtesy AltonWorks)

And when asked about the value of public-private partnerships in revitalizing southern Illinois and connecting states across the country, AltonWorks CEO John Simmons said, “Well, we couldn’t do this without

the help of the state and the federal government. The legislatures, the city of Alton, the state of Illinois have all been great. We’ve truly melded these dollars, and I think, maximized it.”

Carrollton

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or catering to outside investors,” says Hough, “thus preserving our independence for the long term.”

“Carrollton Bank focuses on building long-term personal relationships with local business owners and all other success-minded individuals,” Hough explains.

Illinois community locations for Carrollton Bank include its flagship in Carrollton, as well as in Edwardsville, O’Fallon, Alton, Jerseyville and Springfield. Missouri locations are in Arnold, Clayton, Creve Coeur, Des Peres, St. Charles and St. Louis Hills. With 11 full-service locations including nine in the St. Louis metro region, the bank’s assets today are at \$3.4 billion.

For more information about Carrollton Bank, visit online at www.carrolltonbanking.com.



The members of Carrollton Bank’s Edwardsville team include, as shown from left, in the front row: Matt Warren, Nick Tannahill, Shannon Bond, Tom Hough, Sheila Johnson, Michelle Briney and Steve Laceyfield; middle row: Melanie Smith, Grace Reese, Beth Mathis and Leslee Mitchell; and back row: Tom Holloway, Bill Barlow, Kevin Zhu and Dan Abegg. (All photos courtesy Carrollton Bank)

Right: Shown is a rendering of the new full-service banking facility being constructed by Carrollton Bank in Edwardsville on Buchanan Street, next to its drive-up facility that opened in July 2024.





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