



McGaw Memorial Hall is a steel frame structure that serves as Northwestern University's basketball arena. The building has 8 separate roof sections. The largest roof section consists of a gable roof that covers the majority of the arena and measures approximately 60,000 square feet in plan.

The gable end roof is supported by long span steel trusses that span the entire width of the building. The roof deck consists of cast-in-place gypsum supported by steel purlins and sub-purlins. The remaining roofs are also supported by steel framing and have cast-in-place gypsum decks.

When the building needed a new roof, BTC was commissioned to evaluate various roofing options and the Owner's available budget. Due to aesthetic considerations, the Owner originally desired a metal roofing system. However, after an evaluation of the Owner's budget, a 3-ply modified bitumen roofing system was specified by BTC. To avoid potential unsightly seams of a conventional granule-surfaced modified bitumen roofing system, a gravel surfacing was specified. The specifications took into consideration the slope of the roof and included stringent quality control and mock-up provisions to ensure that the roofs would look as good as they performed.

The smaller roofs on the building received a fully soldered lead-coated copper roofing system.

BTC also provided bidding assistance and field observation services during the construction phase of the project.

Project Name:
McGaw Memorial Hall, Northwestern University

Project Location:
Evanston, Illinois

Client:
Northwestern University
2020 Ridge Avenue
Evanston, Illinois 60208

Approximate Construction Cost:
\$400,000

Year Completed:
2001

Nature of Services:
Evaluation of Existing Roofing Systems, Design of New Roofs, Bidding Assistance, and Assistance with Contract Administration

