St. Anthony’s under construction, with new construction inserted into the fragments or “ruins” of the old church.

A lattice of wood is attached to the underside of four laminated wood arches, with a view up to the gabled framing above.

An early plan sketch of St Anthony’s Church, with 1854 stone walls shown in gold.
St Anthony the Hermit Church offered the challenging problem of how to enlarge a small 300-seat 1854 church into a 1000-seat worship space without destroying all that was precious to the congregation in the historic original. The solution was to retain the three most important features of the 1854 building: the tall stone bell tower, the buttressed stone north façade facing the old cemetery, and the historic stone apse with its carved wood tabernacle reredos. Carefully preserving these three elements, the remainder of the 1854 building was removed. The interior plaster was removed from the 2-foot thick solid stone walls, revealing the original masonry craftsmanship on the interior surfaces as well as on the exterior. Into this U-shaped “ruin” of old stonework a series of four great laminated wood arches were inserted, arches which framed a new space large enough for 1000 persons protruding to the south out of the old “ruins” (see plan and aerial photo above). Under these arches a wood lattice was attached which helps to articulate the vaulted form of the space. The new walls of this space were built of burnished concrete block, clad in the same limestone as the historic original. Against the old north façade facing the cemetery, a new narthex atrium was framed in laminated timbers bolted onto the old buttresses, and supported by new piers and a services building all built of limestone matching the historic original.
Translucent scrims catch the light from skylights and from side windows, producing a luminous setting for the new stone liturgical furnishings.
Section looking North towards the old Bell Tower and Apse through the new wood arches.

View from the central aisle of the enlarged worship space