Inspired by the power and simplicity of the industrial silos that form a visual and spatial backdrop to the site, the project draws from the atmospheric implications of the program within its urban context and from the Capuchin Order’s open-arms social outreach mission. As an urban microcosm in which differentiated elements are linked by a common infrastructure, the building attempts to meld the two overlapping neighborhood scales; it is organized as a series of programmatically distinct spaces within a thickened wall, separated by large-scale voids that frame vistas beyond. These spatial voids, including the rooftop garden that serves as the cloister, are in turn either naturally abundant (prairie grass), populated sparsely by slender birch trees, or organized as orchards and gardens. With an ambitiously restrained scheme for wall apertures and a deliberately simple material palette applied in precise tectonic assemblies, we sought a visually quiet aesthetic reduced to its essential components, consciously articulated with minimal detail. Interior spaces provide continuity with outdoor spaces and moments of communal interaction. The design of the friary complex underscores our thematic embrace of the program’s inherent contradictions of grandiosity and restraint, shelter and openness, and, perhaps most importantly, the extremes of spiritual purity and earthly humility.
opposite:
- exterior corner
- section through church
	right:
- floor plans
- site plan
from left: massing studies exploded axon
opposite: soup kitchen
left:
cloister
section through clinic and friary

opposite:
partial wall elevation
partial wall section
site model
section model
left: partial wall elevation
partial wall section

opposite: sanctuary