The students greatly benefited from the sharp eyes of our invited critics, a group of distinguished practitioners and academics from here and abroad whose constructive input at critical junctures of our semester-long design investigations was invaluable: Brian Phillips, Principal at Interface Studio Architects in Philadelphia, PA; Kay Hartmann, Design Director at KLH in London, UK; Scott Pollock, Department of Architecture at Jade University of Applied Sciences in Oldenburg, Germany; Matt Christianson, P.E., Principal at Core4 Engineering; and local practitioners Chris Ludwig, AIA, Tom Joy, Eric Ponto and Marc Roehrle; and from the Department of Architecture, Associate Professor and Chair Karl Wallick, Assistant Professor Kyle Reynolds, and Associate Professor Gil Snyder, whom we thank for sharing our enthusiasm about the emerging field of mass timber technologies and its ramifications for contemporary architecture.

Acknowledgments

Funding for this book was provided by the UWM School of Architecture & Urban Planning. Special thanks to Bob Greenstreet, Dean, and Karl Wallick, Chair, Department of Architecture, for their support and their sincere interest in our studio, and to Steven Heidt and Dee Nordgren for their assistance and advice throughout the semester.

This studio would have been impossible to organize without the generous help from the Capuchin Province of St. Joseph and from Colleen Crane at the Provincial Public Relations Office. We are indebted to Capuchin Friar Mark Joseph Costello, a trained interior designer and liturgical consultant from Chicago, who generously donated his precious time to visit the studio several times throughout the semester, patiently sharing his knowledge and wisdom with the students.

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“Again we decree that the monasteries which are to be built shall be built as humbly as possible, from mud and twigs, or from rock and clay where twigs cannot be had easily. We also decree (...) that absolutely all vanity, superfluity and precious things of gold, silver, silk or velvet shall be banished from our churches...”

from the Capuchin Statutes of Albacina (1529)