

# Architecture in the Real World

Miles Colescott HC '25 | Field Site & Advisor: AOS Architects & Sam Olshin | Faculty Advisor: Jeff Cohen

## Learning Goals:

- Gain a better understanding of the architectural design process through my work alongside the architects at AOS.
- Improve my competency with industry standard programs like AutoCAD and Sketchup, while beginning to learn Revit.
- Create a thematic research journal, documenting the buildings and architects I examine as I look for precedents to aid upcoming AOS projects.

## Main Project: St. Marks Episcopal Church – Jacksonville, Florida

- Unlike many church communities in the United States, the congregation at St. Marks is expanding. With this growth, the existing facilities have become strained, and the worship service the church is able to provide is less effective.
- AOS did a comprehensive master plan for the congregation over a decade ago, but due to circumstances at the time, the church couldn't go ahead with the plan and start construction. This time around, they have a fundraising system in place and will be able to commence construction following the completion of our design documentation.



Rendering of St. Marks Episcopal Church

## My Role:

- Attended zoom meetings with members of the clergy and congregation, documenting their needs that the new building must address.
- Developed these needs into a detailed program list, with quantities, square footages, and associated adjacencies for each room.
- Created three different schemes, each of which placed slightly greater emphasis on different portions of the program.
- Helped create the floorplans and layout the rooms, starting by hand before moving into Revit to create a more polished set that was shared with the church.



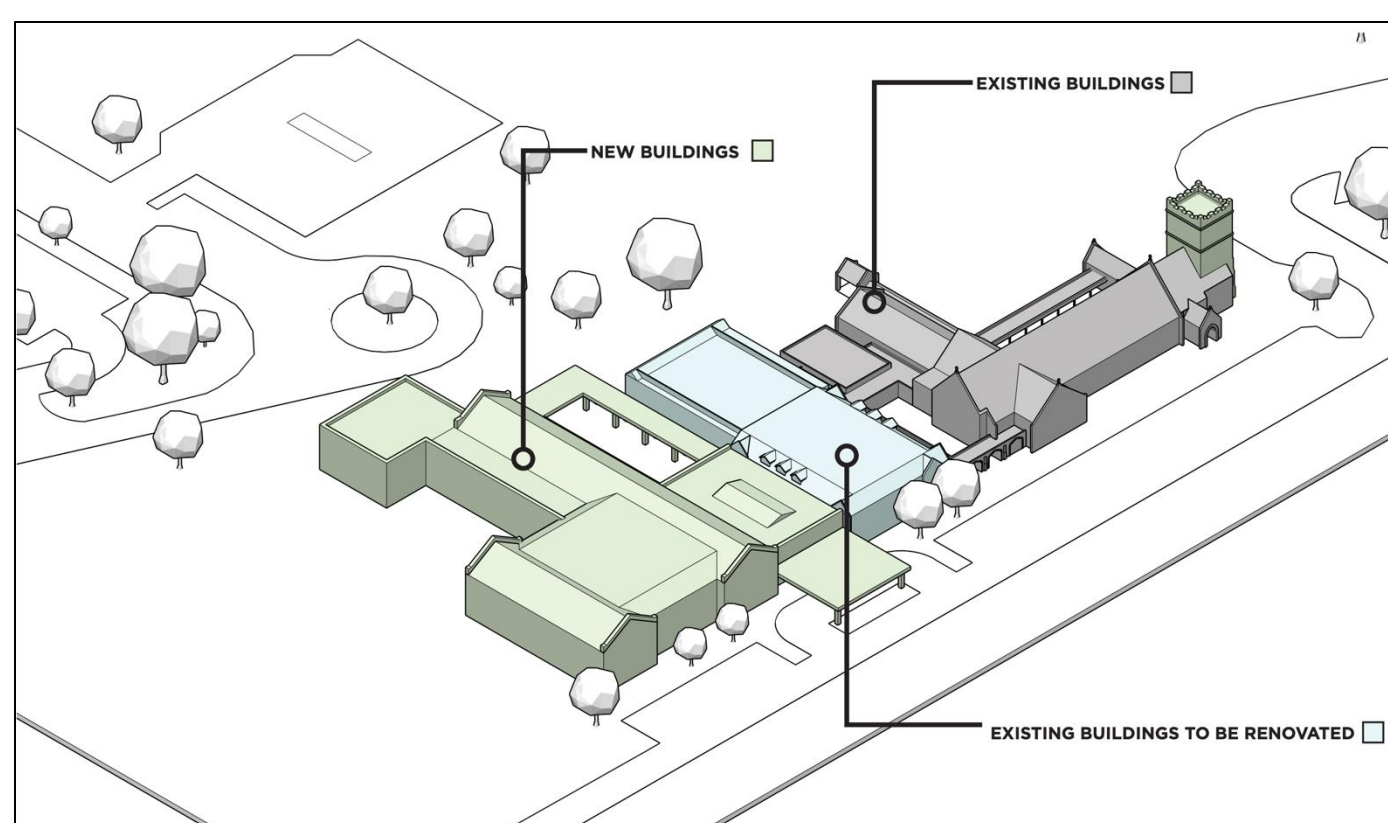
Congregation Shaarey Zedek – Southfield, MI  
Designed by Percival Goodman in 1962

## Additional Projects:

I spent a few weeks diving into the work of Percival Goodman, one of the most prolific designers of synagogues in the United States. For this project, I was specifically looking for synagogues that he designed, which had been recently renovated and rethought, due to falling congregation numbers. I was hoping to find precedent to aid AOS in rethinking a Goodman designed synagogue in Massachusetts as they facing this same challenge. Ultimately, this research led me to the shocking conclusion that despite the prevalence of this problem, most congregations would rather sell their existing, frequently historic building, and build something new instead of reconfiguring their existing space.

## Key Takeaways:

- I became more familiar with the design programs that are standard in architecture firms today.
- Gained insights into the many different stakeholders in each project, and their competing interests and objectives.
- Improved my spatial thinking skills by applying them to design challenges, with real world constraints.



3D Model I created in Sketchup, showcasing the initial massing for the accepted scheme at St. Marks.