



POVERTY



“POVERTY IS LIKE A PUNISHMENT FOR A CRIME YOU DIDN’T COMMIT”

- ELI KHAMAROV



POVERTY

EDITED BY ERIC MARCERO
UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE
MARK FARLOW, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

2011-2012





CONTENTS

1
4
6
13
17
19
21
24
30
38
47
52
58
63
81
107
111

THESIS

ABSTRACT
THESIS PAPER

RESEARCH

SAMUEL MOCKBEE
CAMERON SINCLAIR
MICHAEL REYNOLDS
INTERNATIONAL
NATIONAL
REGIONAL/LOCAL

SITE STUDIES

SITE SELECTION
SITE ANALYSIS

PROGRAM

DESIGN

CREDITS

BIBLIOGRAPHY

**“PEOPLE OFTEN SAY THAT MOTIVATION DOESN’T LAST.
WELL, NEITHER DOES BATHING.
THAT’S WHY WE RECOMMEND IT DAILY.”**

-ZIG ZIGLAR

**DEDICATED TO MOM AND DAD
I FINALLY DID IT!**

T

H

E

SSIS

“POVERTY IS THE WORST FORM OF VIOLENCE.”
-MOHANDAS GANDHI

THE practice of an architect means to offer or render professional services in connection with the design and construction of a building, or group of buildings and the space within the site surrounding the buildings, that have, as their principle purpose human occupancy or use.

It is fair to say that our profession is a social profession and should ultimately deal with the human condition. However, does the profession tend to this rigorously? Do most architects embrace this? It seems that architects today are commissioned to design buildings that are not necessary built for the client and his exact needs. It seems that more of the architect's preferences are used instead. An example of this would be work done by Richard Meier. He does amazing work, but everything is done in a white tone. An everyday person could not commission a design from Meier that is any other color than white. Also, whom do architects design for? It seems that architects design for the clients that have large capital resources to pay the fee's and rarely for clients with no fiscal resources. Do architects build with environmentally friendly ways in mind? Some architects do follow these green concepts, but many do not practice these techniques simply because these concepts are fairly new and have a large up-front cost. Some less expensive ways are to use materials that are locally grown or produced. Why do architects design for the wealthy? Quite simply, they have the capital to hire architects. Ar-

chitects have always thrived on designing for a lucrative profit. An example would be the Medici family. They designed for a profit which set the initiative early on of what architecture was. The evolution of this definition has led architects, then and now to regard profit over service. One of the goals of this thesis is to contemplate the way we think about architecture and challenge the evolution of the profession, so that social interaction becomes the main focus.

While architects are designing for the clients with capital, who is designing for the clients with low income? Poverty rates grow every year. Poverty has become one of the most pressing issues in the world; can architects with a social conscience help? Poverty has grown every year in this country and around the world. How do we design for the people that really need our help, the people where 1 in 5 children suffer from being in unsafe living conditions and parents struggle to put food on the table for all family members to eat? This problem is the growing problem that architects could focus on. Poverty has almost risen to a quarter of the population. That translates to 1 in 4 people that you see walking on the street. It is distressing to imagine this and know that there are only limited amounts of help that actually want to help. How could/should architects help fight the battle on poverty? Could architects using their design talent, serve their profession and community, if they focus on those with housing needs?

**“WARS OF NATIONS ARE FOUGHT TO CHANGE MAPS.
BUT WARS OF POVERTY ARE FOUGHT TO MAP CHANGE.”**

-MUHAMMAD ALI

WHAT is the role of an architect? Should they just keep social issues on the back burner or do they address them? These are some of the questions that will be addressed in this thesis. One of the pressing issues is poverty. Poverty is not just the homeless, it can also mean anyone that has, say, lost their job and can not afford to pay for everyday needs. This issue is a growing problem that needs addressing from both the architects and society. This thesis is based on the architecture profession. It raises many ideas about what architecture really means. Merriam-Webster dictionary defines architecture as “the art or science of building; specifically: the art or practice of designing and building structures and especially habitable ones”. This definition stands to be true to an extent, but architecture is more than just building and designing structures, it also takes into account many different social needs. When architects are designing these buildings, they design them for clients. Even if the client does not inhabit their buildings, someone will. With this in mind, when an architect designs dwellings, they need to take into account the human element. This aspect makes architecture seem more of a social humanitarian profession than anything else. A building that is just built to be a building is a place that no one is happy. The scale could be completely wrong or the spaces do not function. This brings up questions on what architecture really is. Is it just designing, or is it more? For whom do we design? Is it just the clients that have the capital to pay the architect, or do architects

design for everyone? Many architects would say you design for the clients that will pay (it is not fiscally attractive to design for clients that cannot afford our services). What about the clients that cannot afford even a house, should architects ignore them? This demographic that cannot afford a house could use the architects help the most. The demographic that cannot afford architects are the people living in poverty, including homeless. Those with low-incomes deserve the best architectural design. If architects contribute, showing that they care, it could be a definite help. Their contribution could be the one thing that gives them hope and dignity. This pressing issue is not getting resolved in a timely manner and brings to a head more questions about poverty; what is the role of the architect with this issue? Does the architect deal with it or just let it keep getting progressively worse? This question is one that could probably go either way with the profession at this time and place. The goal here is to motivate architects to design for everyone, including equal design for low and high-income clients with help in the form of a partnership with the parish.

Poverty levels in Michigan’s rural counties have a higher poverty rate than urban, Wayne County. Poverty is not just an urban problem, it happens in every type of living condition. All the previous research has explained why this issue is such a pressing issue. Now that we know what the issue is and how the architect can help mitigate it, it is just a matter of choice as to where a proper site would be located. Looking at poverty and how it is a worldwide issue, the site could be placed anywhere

around the world. Being that the bases of this research is in Michigan, looking at a more regional scale is better suited. According to the Associated Press, of the ten (10) poorest counties in Michigan, nine (9) were rural and just one was urban. Homelessness and poverty are seen more clearly in the urban setting because of the nature of this setting, and rural counties are far less desirable and go relatively unnoticed. Clearly the design should be tailored to the urban or rural condition. However, another option could be the suburban condition where poverty goes relatively unnoticed. This thesis will attempt to test it in the suburban condition, where the social characteristic will play a major role. Most suburbanites moved from the city to get away from all the poverty, crime and tightly placed housing. Many suburbanites may be opposed to the idea of helping this demographic of impoverished in their neighborhood. To further support this choice, the Wall Street Journal stated in an article “For the first time, more than half of the metropolitan poor live in suburban areas”. While thinking of a place to house a site, a church, St. Johns Lutheran church located in a small suburban town came to mind. This church takes homeless people into their church for a week every year and gives them shelter, a place to shower and eat. The program is called MCREST, which stands for Macomb County Rotation Emergency Shelter Team. This is a program that is partnered with the churches in Macomb County and they rotate every week to a different church to take in homeless people and try to get them on the right path. After learning this and actually going to the church to see these people and meeting with April Fidler, the manager of

MCREST, the church in the small town contexts seemed to be the perfect site.

In this meeting with the manager of MCREST, I asked a series of question and she gave a series of responses. The format of this meeting is going to stay with the question-answer format. My name is Eric Marcero (EM) and the manager’s name is April Fidler (AF).

EM: Thank you very much for taking time out of your day to talk to me about MCREST and homelessness.

EM: What is MCREST?

AF: MCREST is a program based in Macomb County and we take homeless people in to local churches in the county for 30 days at a time and give them food, shelter, and someone to talk to if they need it.

EM: How many people and what type of people do you house at a time?

AF: Right now we house 30 men or women at a time per church. We have to house the men and women separate because of social issues that come up between the single ones.

EM: When I went to the church, I was amazed at how many younger males were being housed there. It is sad to think that so many young people, just starting out on their own, are living in poverty.

EM: How does one get into this program?

AF: Our program is an application only program. They are mandated to take a drug test and Breathalyzer every time they check back into the church. If they need help, say a bus ticket or if they have a car, a gas card, they are allowed only a limited amount of those. We don't just completely bring them in under their wing and give them everything they need; we actually make them work towards certain privileges.

EM: Do you have any other programs?

AF: Yes, we also have another program that is called CAPS, and this program is an intense 90 day program where the clients loses possessions that are not necessary, like a cell phone, and go through life classes to get them on the right track and back into society as a living, working human being.

EM: What is the most common demographic to come into the program?

AF: The most common demographic is a single female parent with an average of 4 kids.

EM: I just can't imagine how these kids grow up and go to school living in poverty, and they probably do not have a clue what it even is.

EM: Are these kids acting different then the kids that

are not in poverty in the classroom?

AF: These kids tend to do worse in school and get into more trouble than the rest. Their grades are substantially worse in the different academic categories and they tend to miss more school days.

EM: After a homeless person goes through your program, where do they go after?

AF: We have what we like to call this idea of sprawl housing. We use sprawl housing because the citizens do not want anything to do with homeless people, even if they are getting helped back on their feet. An interesting story that pertains to a co-worker of mine, deals with this sprawl housing idea. My co-worker had purchased a house with his own money and moved some transitional homeless clients in. These clients had jobs and lived pretty much like a normal person lives, except that they were transitioning from homelessness. The man had to get every promise from his clients that they would never talk about how they were homeless because the neighbors would be against it. This worked till our economy went bad and the clients lost their jobs. The neighbors started to think something was up because they never left the house. Finally, the neighbors complained because they caught on to what was going on at that house, and they went to the board of the city and those

clients were kicked out, left to be homeless again.

EM: It's a sad story and it is pretty bad to think how a community really thinks. They may know what poverty is, but they aren't in it and want nothing to do with it. Poverty has been a huge issue, and it's just getting worse and people want nothing to do with it, not even to help these helpless people out.

AF: In using this idea of sprawl, it's sad to say, but it disperses the transitional clients throughout the city and helps to keep them "off the record". This way they can finish up the final stages of their transition and finally be out on their own.

Instead of architects always designing for the client with plentiful capital, let's start designing for the demographic that needs the help the most. One may ask, how does an architect design for a client that cannot pay for the services that are provided? Well it is easy, partnership with a single person, or many to make it happen. Some good examples of how a partnership has helped architects with their cause can be seen through the work of some key precedent studies.

There are many famous architects that have worked on the solution for housing and the homeless, but more architects still need to help out the cause. Samuel

Mockbee, Cameron Sinclair, and Michael Reynolds have made it their career to help others that cannot help themselves. It seems like human nature to help others that need help. These architects have made an influence on the path of this thesis, not just because they are all great designers, because they recognized that people that need their help the most are not getting it. How did they go about helping? These architects recognized that the issue was becoming worse, and they could not help fix it alone, so they did the next best thing and formed a partnership with another source and then went about tackling the issue.

While trying to fight this ongoing battle between the economics of whom an architect should design for, some key precedent studies came up that really helped in shaping this thesis. One of the first people that inspiration was drawn from was Samuel Mockbee. He designed down in the Deep South, Rural Alabama, and designed for the poor. He created a partnership with Auburn University and together they created Rural Studio. Mockbee would head the class as a professor, explain his reasons for designing this class, and as a whole, Mockbee and his students would visit the site, meet with the clients, and tailor a design to their liking. He really promoted the idea of integrating his students into the field so they could really get to know the clients. Their clients were poor, living well below the poverty level, so they would come up with creative ways to design and build for their clients. Many of their ideas used recycled materials that factories, businesses, etc. would be discarding. For instance, one

house was built entirely out of carpet squares, and a community center had an all glass facade of car windshields. With studying Mockbee and the others that will be talked about, it is not about what they build, but it is about how they recognized the issue at hand, and found a way to help with the issue through partnerships

The next precedent study deals with Cameron SinClair. SinClair is an architect that was born in England, and has really turned into more of a coordinator than an architect. He created Architecture for Humanity whose goal is to “build a more sustainable future using the power of design.” He created a network of architects called Open Web Architecture Network. It networks architects from around the world. The idea is that if a natural disaster hits, for example in Japan, they would have an architect in their network from Japan. They would be familiar with the place and design appropriately, trying to recover from the disaster as quickly as possible. SinClair’s company is a nonprofit company where they rely on contributions and grants to keep spreading the help around the world. Of the money they receive, 88% of it is spent on construction and design services. That suggests that they are bringing in capital, and spending it wisely on people that really need the help. It also shows how SinClair recognized the issue and found a way to help the issue through partnership.

The third precedent study is the architect Michael Reynolds. His goal is to build self-sustainable buildings where you could live off the grid and never need

to go to a grocery store, or pay a heating bill. He also designs with simple materials, like glass bottles, aluminum cans, or tires and good old mother earth. These houses are easy and inexpensive to build and are self-sustainable. Reynolds was a precedent in this thesis because of his drive to fight the wasteful system that we live in and his use of recycled materials that many people would just discard. Reynolds made huts for a foreign country that was wiped out by a tsunami. These huts would use their roofs as a rain gathering element, and the water would be filtered and stored under the hut for the occupants to drink. For his work on these huts, he won design awards and started building these huts all over the world. Reynolds showed the villagers how to build these huts so if another disaster were to wipe out their village they could rebuild it themselves. Reynolds is a precedent because he developed basic, simple, affordable housing solutions that could be built almost anywhere. These units prove that architects, when challenged, deliver creative solutions to pressing problems.

St. Johns Lutheran Church is located in the downtown area of New Baltimore, and has an auxiliary building along with a parking lot on the site. The church has limited sleeping areas for the homeless and obvious social issues between the males and females. The current church can only hold 30 men or women at a time. Proposed design for the site would be that the auxiliary building be demolished and a series of adjacent buildings are placed in the remaining footprint and parking lot. These adjacent buildings would house the dorms for the men

and women with secure entries to each building. Also the remaining adjacent buildings will house the classrooms, kitchen/cafeteria, community space, and administration offices. These groups of proposed buildings would be a community oasis. Not only would the community oasis give the impoverished a place to eat and sleep, they would have the ability to engage in life classes. These classes would consist of finance, life coaching, economics, house keeping, etc. Also these programs would help get the homeless people prepared to be put into single family homes around the New Baltimore area as a sort of graduation for the homelessness to home owner. New Baltimore was chosen as a site because it is a small town on the banks Lake St. Clair that is mostly suburban subdivisions. They have a very small downtown that can be walked in 20 minutes end to end. Navigating on the city's website, one notes that the worst percentage of poverty at over 10%, is located in the downtown area. Being that the church was situated in the middle of this, it seemed like it could do the most good here. Some challenges that are lurking in the near future to face are the parking, and to get the city, not just the board members, but the citizens as well, to approve this build. My grandpa works at the church, and after meeting with Gayle LeClair, the president of the church, she was excited to see this happen, but the city's answer is still undecided. After meeting with the manager at MCREST, she talked about how they wanted to expand their headquarters, which is located in Roseville, but the city will not allow them. She said they had a building all lined up that they were going to redo and make it so they could accommodate the homeless

as well. After the city discovered that they were going to house homeless, and it was located near residential, it was not approved. That is going to be one of the hardest things to deal with, the city and its residents. It is going to be hard to overcome this but it is an issue that keeps getting worse and needs to be addressed.



FREE

ARCH

**“ARCHITECTURE, MORE THAN ANY OTHER ART FORM, IS A
SOCIAL ART AND MUST REST ON THE SOCIAL AND
CULTURAL BASE OF IT’S TIME AND PLACE.”**

-SAMUEL MOCKBEE



PRECEDENT STUDIES

Samuel Mockbee and Auburn University were the founders of the Rural Studio. Mockbee wanted to find a way to design buildings for the people that could not afford it. On his own, Mockbee did not have the capital or resources to make change, but the partnership with Auburn University provided the missing link. Mockbee focuses in on the fact that poverty is a huge issue everywhere and something needs to be done about it. His studio is a class offered at Auburn University that deals mostly with the rural parts of Alabama. The students are sent out into the field (with these clients) and they are to sit with them, eat with them, clean with them, so they get the feel of what the clients want and need. This is a key feature to the design for these clients; they actually design for exactly what the client wants. Not only are they helping the helpless, they are designing and building with materials that may be waste to others. The Rural Studio finds use for these materials and saves a great deal of capital by using them.





SAMUEL MOCKBEE



THE BUTTERFLY HOUSE



STRAW BALE HOUSE



MUSIC MAN'S HOUSE



WINDSHIELD CHAPEL

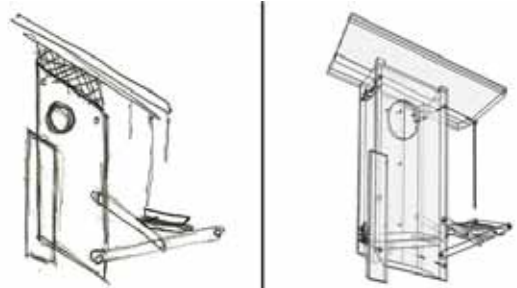


SMOKEHOUSE



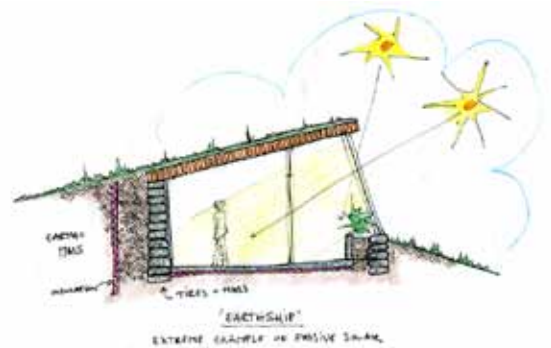
ANIMAL SHELTER

Cameron Sinclair is the founder of Architecture for Humanity. This is a volunteer non-profit organization set up to promote architecture and design to seek solutions to global social and humanitarian crisis. Sinclair, like Mockbee, could not help on his own, but through a partnership with many other professional architects and engineers, he was able to create what he likes to call Open Web Architecture. This idea was formed to help the helpless. Open Web Architecture is an organization where professionals from around the world are brought together with their main goal being to help people. It is a great idea, because if a natural disaster hits, say Hawaii, there is a professional in this organization that is local to Hawaii and knows the building typology. This in turn, could lead to faster planning and designing of new structures to re-erect that region.





Michael Reynolds starred in a film called Garbage Warrior. This film captured how Reynolds thought outside of the box and designed these “earth ships” that were environmentally friendly. He would design these earth ships so that they were built out of recycled materials, such as aluminum cans, glass bottles, and tires. He was chosen as a precedent study because of his ongoing search for materials that the majority of society would just throw away. Eventually he created housing that were totally self sustainable. One would be off the grid and could live a perfectly happy and healthy life. He also bought up acres of land where he would build these houses and allow people to buy the house and just use the land that he owned. It created a huge ruckus with city officials and he got into a 3 year legal battle to allow this non conforming sub division to continue.





MICHAEL REYNOLDS



SIMPLE SOLAR HOUSE



ALUMINUM CAN WALL



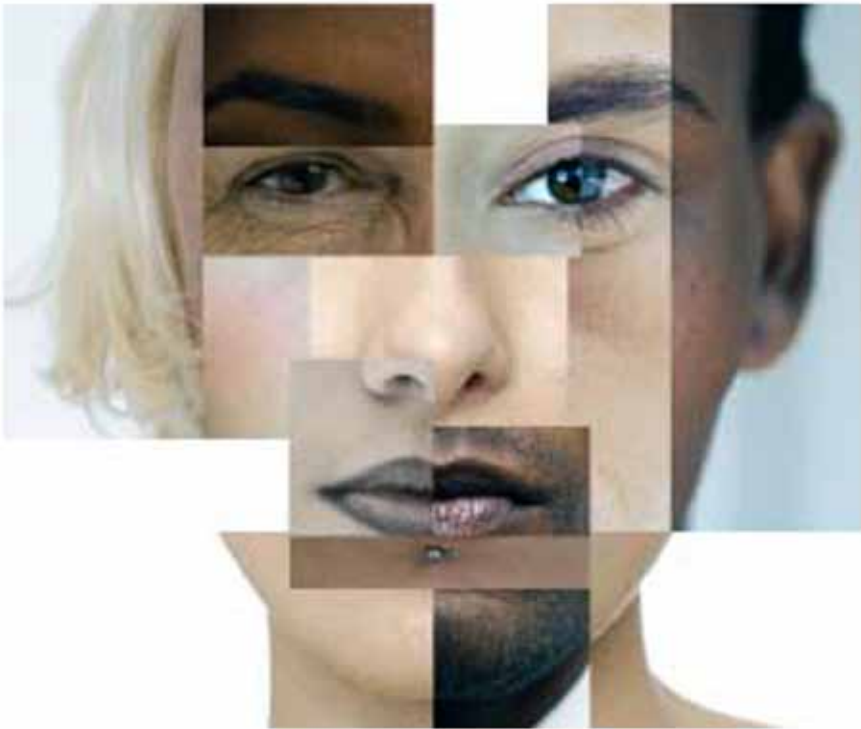
RECYCLED TIRE WALL



COURTESY TP 2012

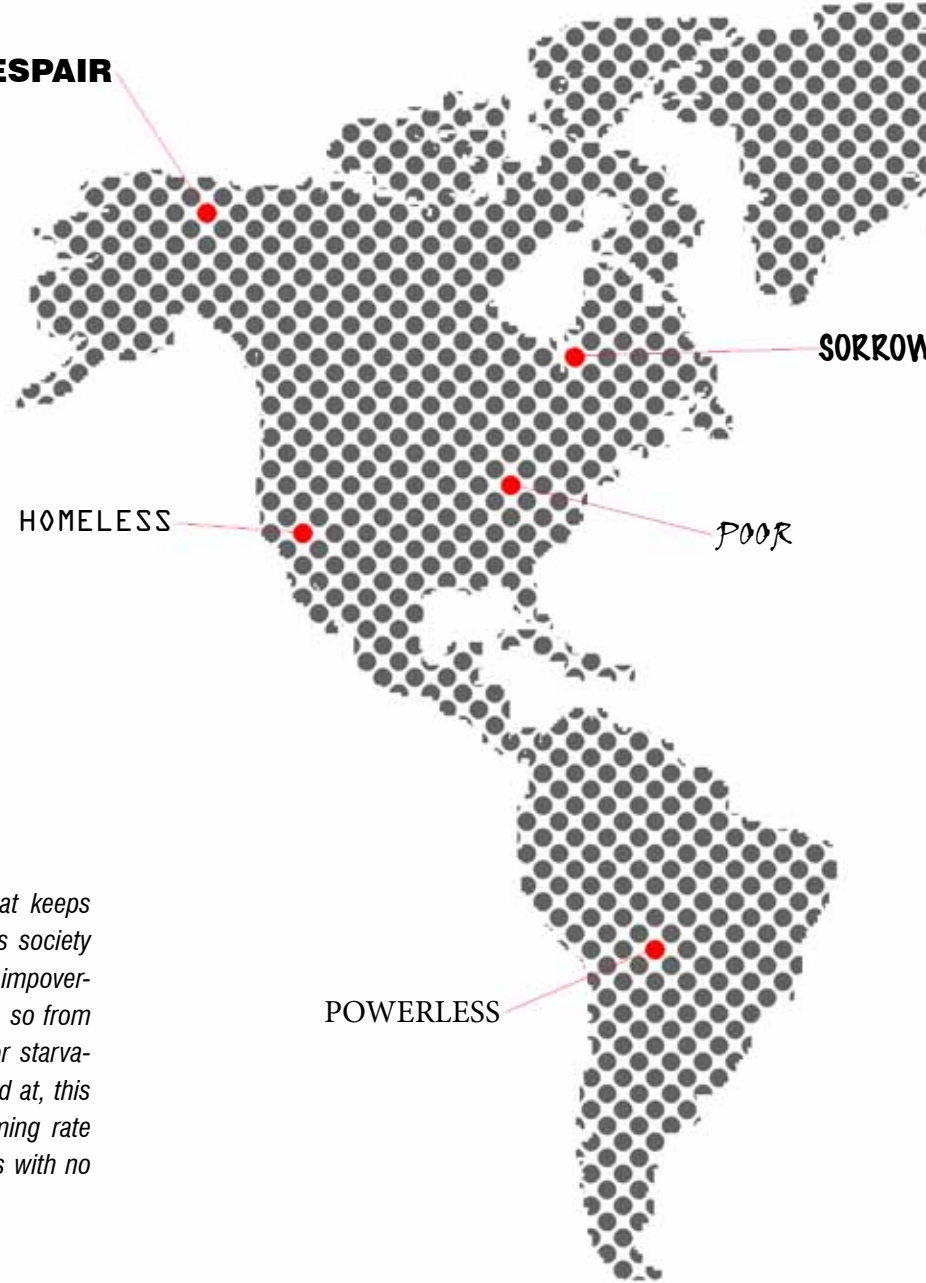
“POVERTY AND LACK OF KNOWLEDGE MUST BE CHALLENGED”

- RUSSEL SIMMONS



INTERNATIONAL

DESPAIR



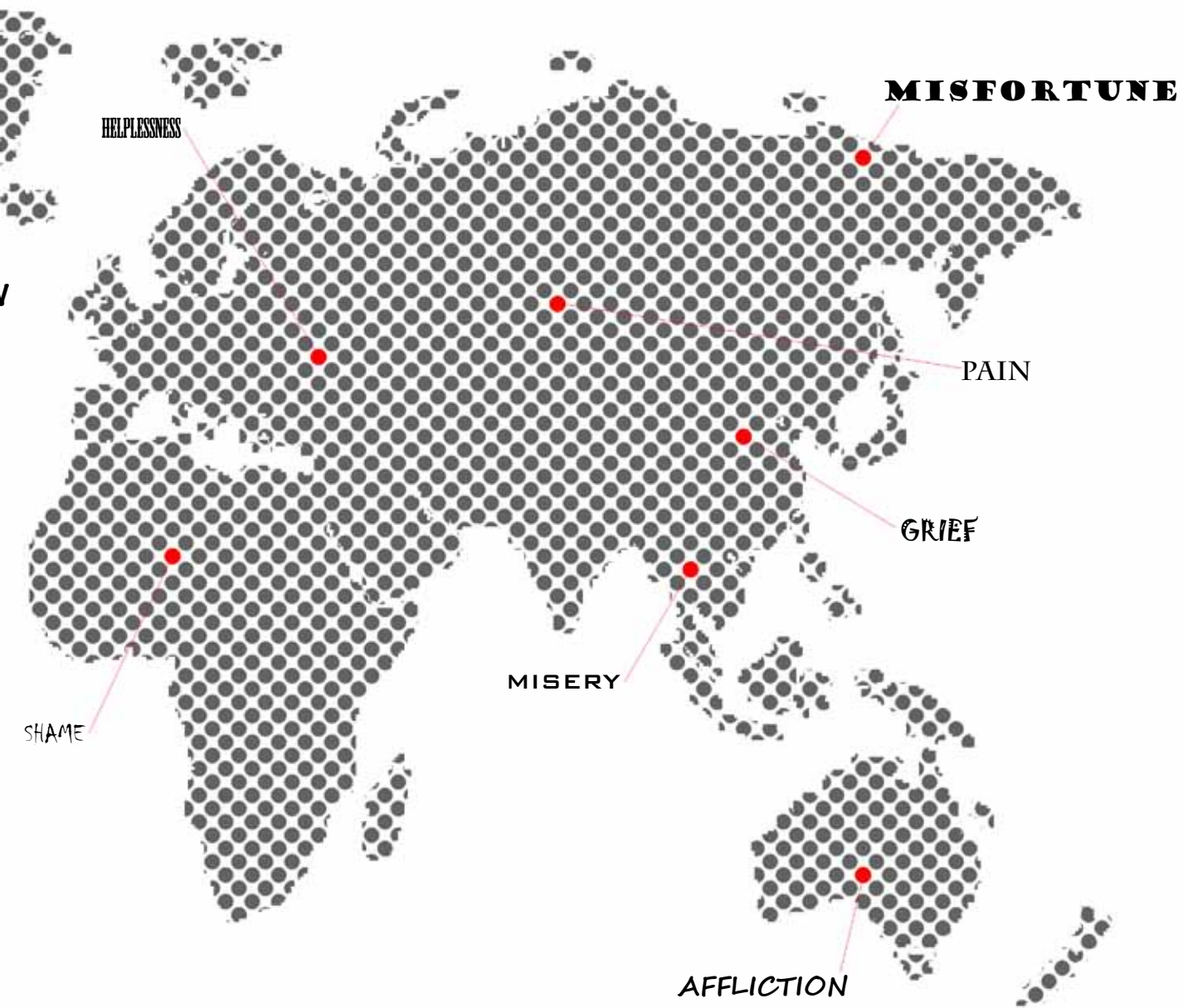
SORROW

HOMELESS

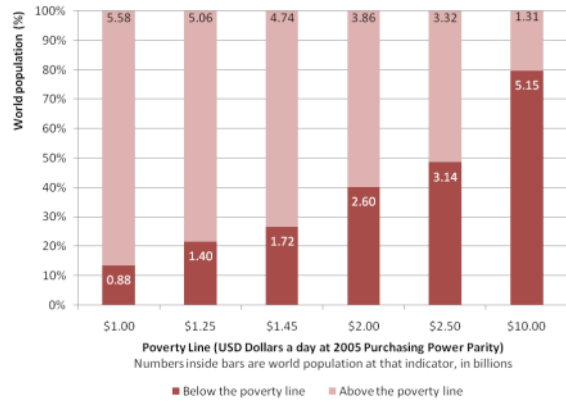
POOR

POWERLESS

Poverty is a worldwide issue that keeps progressively becoming worse as society progresses into the future. Some impoverished fall victim to money issues, so from poor health conditions, others for starvation issues; either way it is looked at, this disease is spreading at an alarming rate affecting too many human beings with no cure in sight.



Percent of people in the world at different poverty levels, 2005



Poverty Line (USD Dollars a day at 2005 Purchasing Power Parity)
Numbers inside bars are world population at that indicator, in billions

■ Below the poverty line ■ Above the poverty line

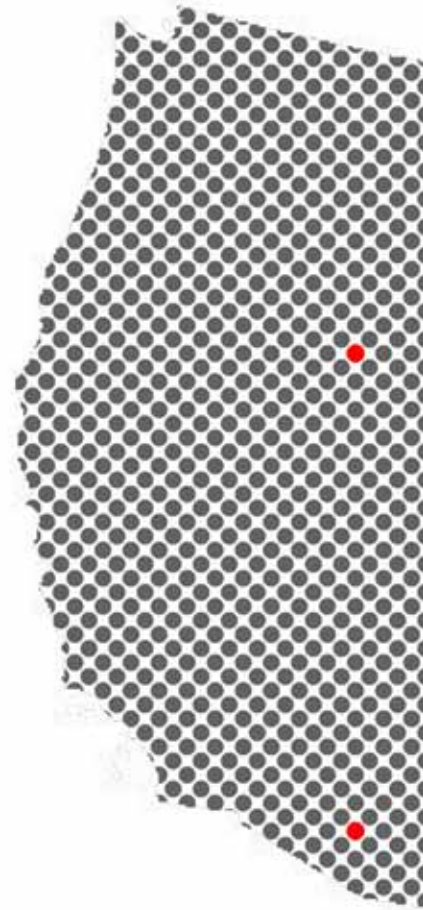
Source: World Bank Development Indicators 2008

FACTS:

- * More than **one billion people** in the world live on **less than one dollar a day**.
- * Around the world, a total of **114 million children** do not get even a basic education
- * Every year **six million children die** from malnutrition before their fifth birthday.
- * More than **50 percent of Africans** suffer from water-related diseases such as cholera and infant diarrhea
- * More than **800 million people** go to bed hungry every day...300 million are children.
- * **Every 3.6 seconds** another person dies of starvation and the large majority are children under the age of 5.
- * **Four out of every ten people** in the world don't have access even to a simple latrine.
- * **Five million people**, mostly children, die each year from water-borne diseases.
- * More than 40 percent of **women in Africa** do not have access to basic education.
- * Educated mothers immunize their children **50 percent more** often than mothers who are not educated.
- * **Almost half** of births in developing countries take place without the help of a skilled birth attendant.
- * In 1960, Africa was a net exporter of food; today the continent **imports one-third of its grain**.
- * **Everyday HIV/AIDS kills 6,000 people** and another **8,200 people** are infected with this deadly virus.

* Millennium Project, www.unmillenniumproject.org

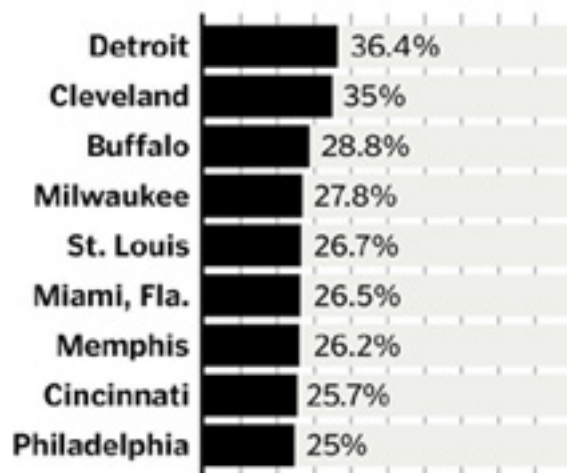
With the economic recession that the nation as fallen victim of, poverty rate have risen to record heights. Many families are losing their jobs and having a hard time putting food on the table, or keeping a roof over their heads. This statistic teamed with veterans not being able to pay their medical bills, has many Americans falling below the poverty level, or even worse, becoming homeless.



NATIONAL



Major cities with poverty rates of at least 25 percent



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau,
2009 American Community Survey

FACTS:

- * In 2010, 46.9 million people were in poverty, up from 37.3 million in 2007
- * In 2010, 17.2 million households, 14.5 percent of households were food insecure, the highest number ever recorded in the United States
- * In households with very low food security, the food intake of some household members was reduced, and their normal eating patterns were disrupted because of the household's food insecurity
- * In one percent of households with children, one or more of the children experienced the most severe food-insecure condition measured by USDA, very low food security.
- * The 2010 poverty rate was 15.1 percent, up from 12.5 percent in 1997.
- * The 2010 poverty rate for Hispanics was 26.6 percent, for Blacks 27.4 percent.
- * In 2010, the poverty rate increased for children under age 18 from 20.7 percent to 22.0 percent.
- * 20.5 million Americans live in extreme poverty. This means their family's cash income is less than half of the poverty line, or about \$10,000 a year for a family of four
- * 49.9 million people or 16.3 percent of the American people, do not have medical insurance

* Hunger in America, www.worldhunger.org

**37 MILLION AMERICANS
LIVE BELOW
POVERTY L**



THE POVERTY LINE

**ANS
THE
LINE.**



13 MILLION AMERICAN CHILDREN LIVE IN POVERTY



THAT'



520,000 CLASSROOMS OF 25 CHILDREN PER ROOM.

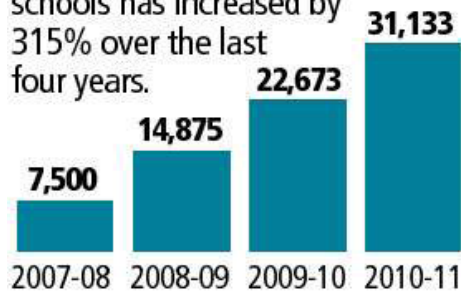
This scale is based on the mid-west region, specifically the state of Michigan. According to Mlive.com, “our nations poverty rate has hit a 27 year high at 15.1% with Michigan’s poverty rate at an even higher 15.5%.” It is alarming to know that so many people are falling victim to this disease and that it is affecting the state where this very college, UDM resides, the worst.

REGIONAL/LOCAL



HOMELESS STUDENTS

The number of homeless students in Michigan's public schools has increased by 315% over the last four years.



SOURCE: Michigan
Department of Education

KRISTI TANNER and
MARTHA THIERRY/DFP

FACTS:

- * In Michigan, on any one night, there are approximately 24,713 sheltered homeless individuals, with an additional 41,338 unsheltered, a total of 66,051. These statistics include 34,622 adults and children in homeless families
- * In Michigan, adults and children in families account for 52% of the total homeless population.
- * Youth 17 years or younger and not in families account for an estimated 5% of the total homeless in Michigan. This means that, in Michigan, there are at least 3,000 youth and children who are alone and homeless.
- * Many of the homeless in this area are young people ages 14-17 -- too young to stay in local homeless shelters. Some of these young people are exiting the foster care system, some have been “kicked out” by their families and some are runaways. All are on their own and alone.

* Solid Ground, www.solidgroundinc.org



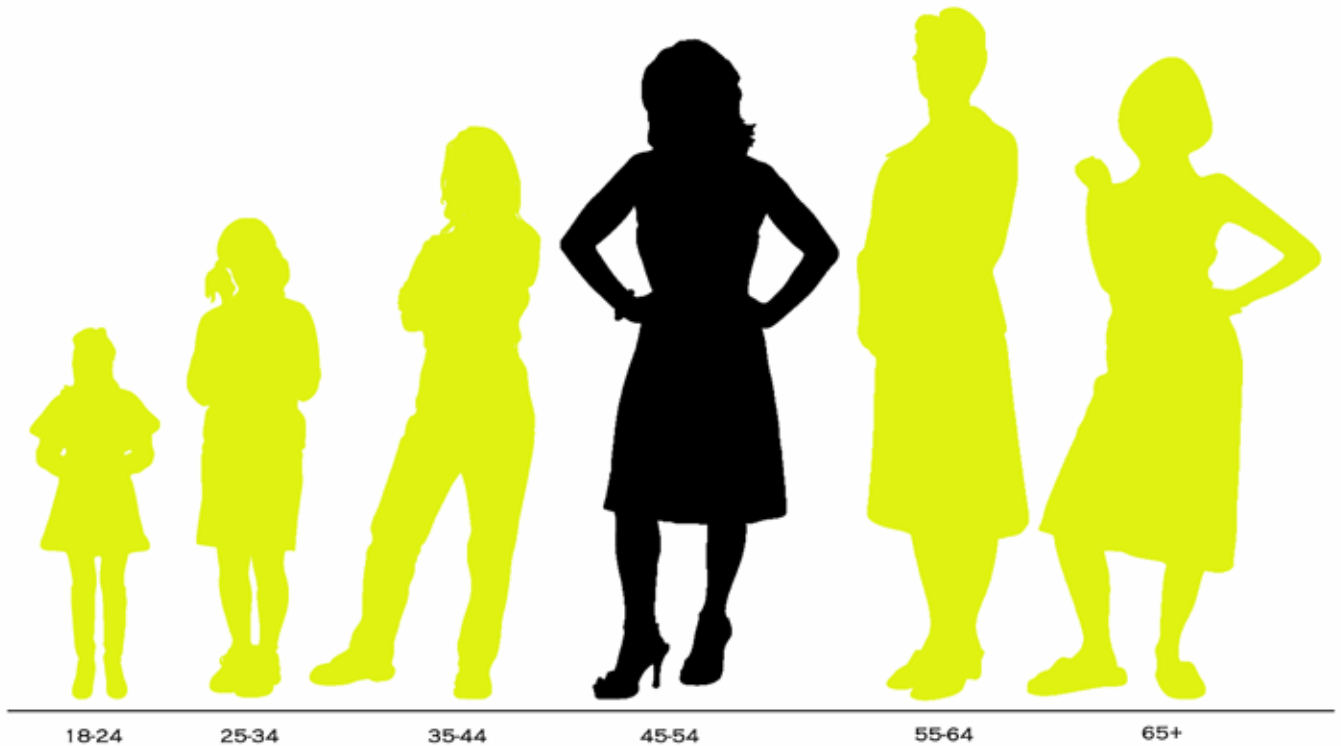
1 IN 5 CHILDREN IN MICHIGAN



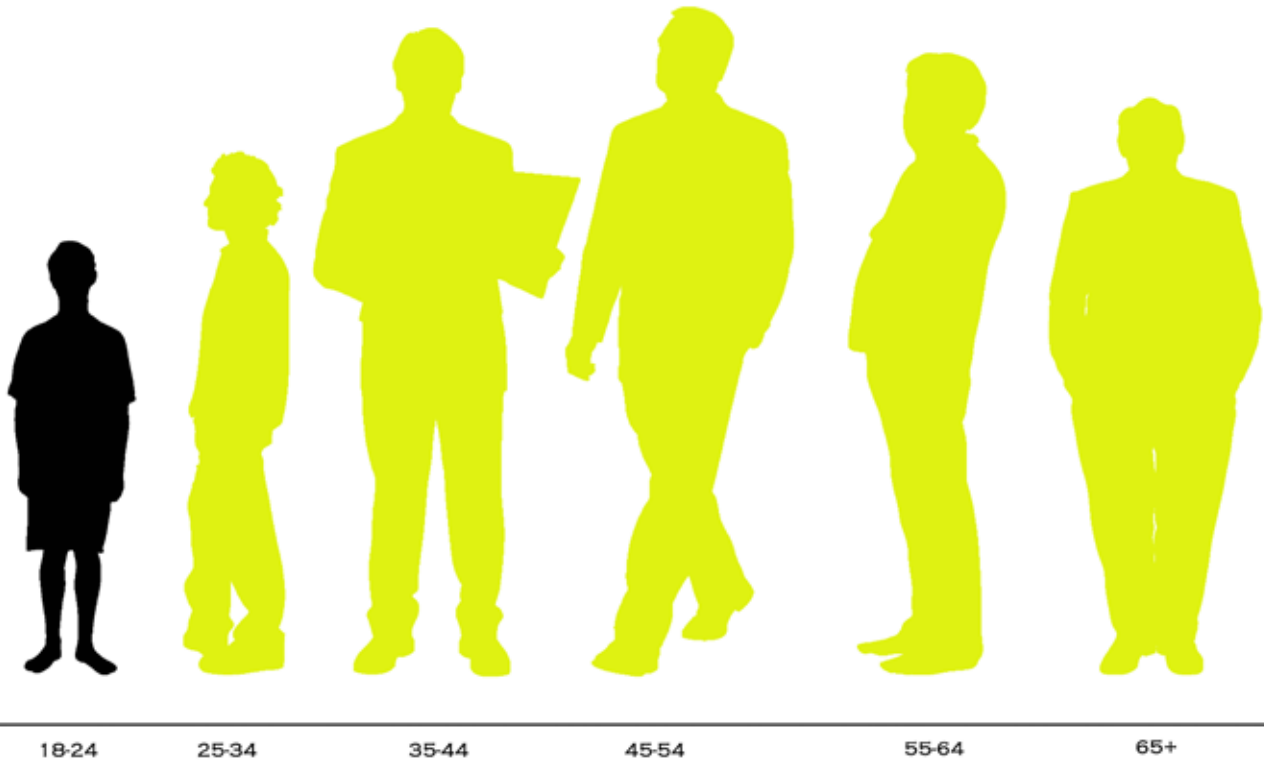
LIVE BELOW THE POVERTY LINE.



HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF IMPOVERISHED FEMALES IN FAMILIES PER AGE GROUP



HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF IMPOVERISHED SINGLE FEMALES PER AGE GROUP



HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF IMPOVERISHED MALES IN FAMILIES PER AGE GROUP



18-24

25-34

35-44

45-54

55-64

65+

HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF IMPOVERISHED SINGLE MALES PER AGE GROUP

SITE

ST

TRUDIES

“POVERTY IS NOT A DISGRACE, BUT IT IS TERRIBLY INCONVENIENT”

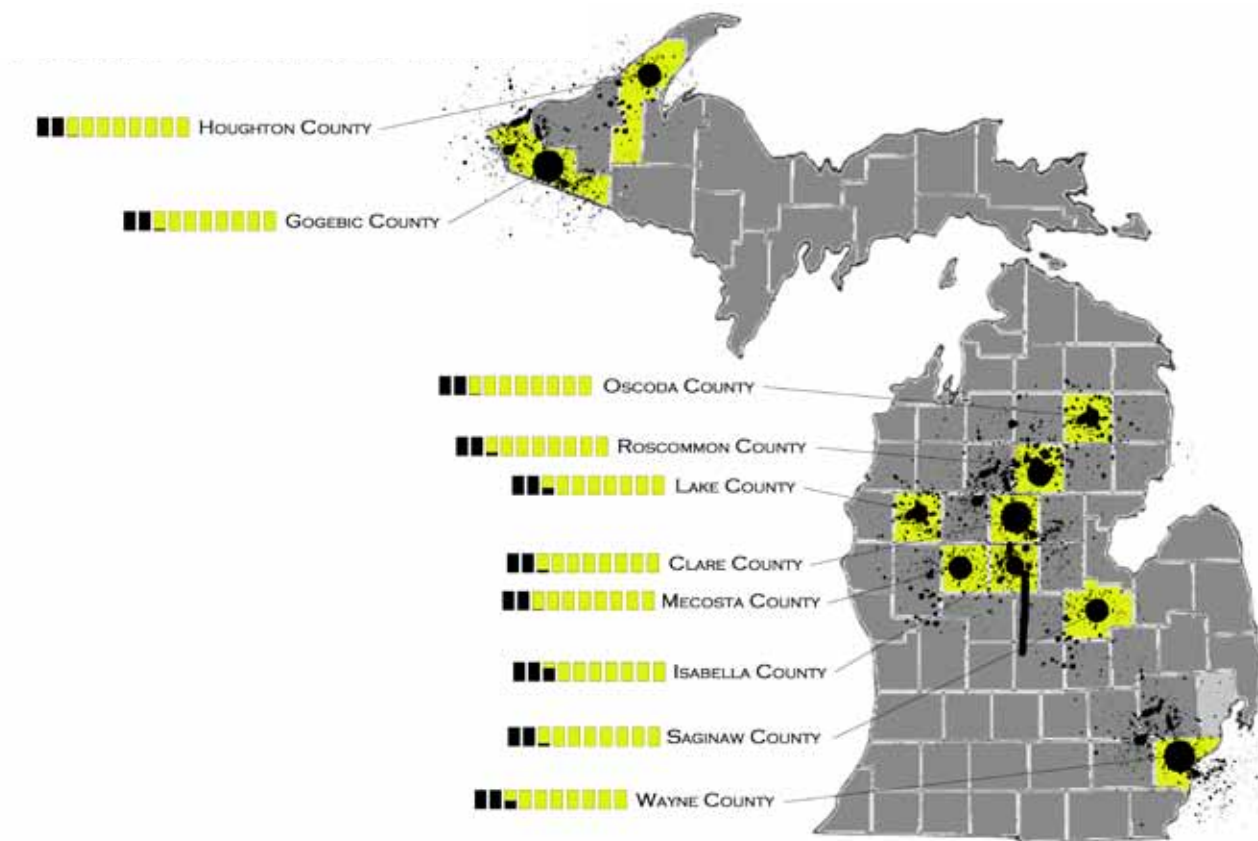
- MILTON BERLE



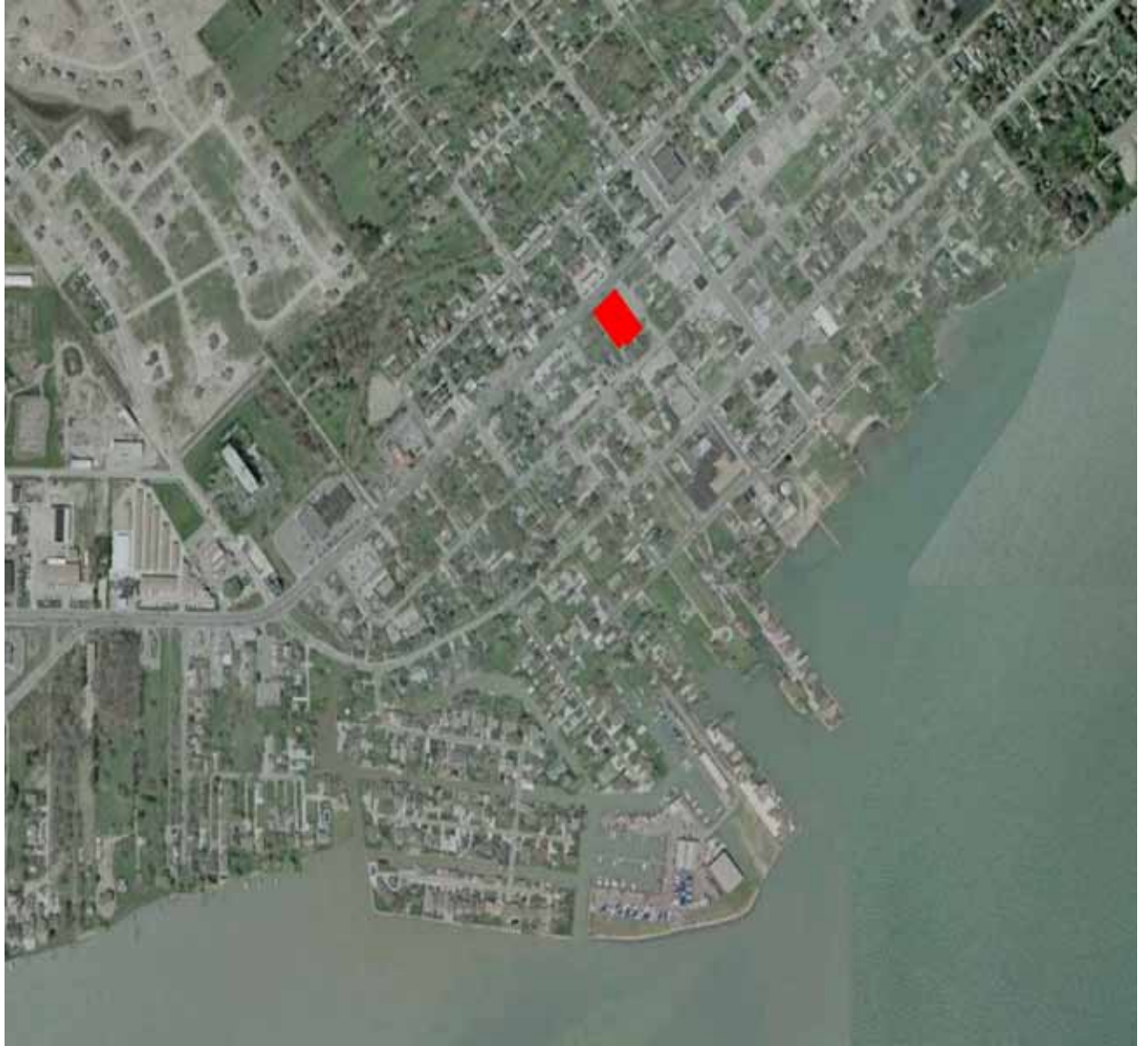
URBAN RURAL SUBURBAN

While looking for a specific site location, knowing that somewhere in Michigan was where it was going to be, I thought that an urban condition was going to be the spot most in need of help. After doing research, I came across an interesting fact that of the ten (10) poorest counties in Michigan, nine (9) were rural and just one was urban. This was defiantly not what one would have thought the outcome would be. From these facts, rural counties needed the most help, but were the hardest for a site visit because of their locations. This first site would be a test site to find out if documenting the process and creating a system to go about the process could work. Along with creating this system locally, could it be implicated anywhere in the world?

Rural Michigan seemed like the perfect spot to pick a site, other than location, but while performing more research, I came across this article in the Wall Street Journal that had an interesting quote that said "For the first time, more than half of the metropolitan poor live in suburban areas". If the trend of poverty is leaning into suburban areas, that seems like the perfect place to implicate a site.



POOREST COUNTIES IN MICHIGAN

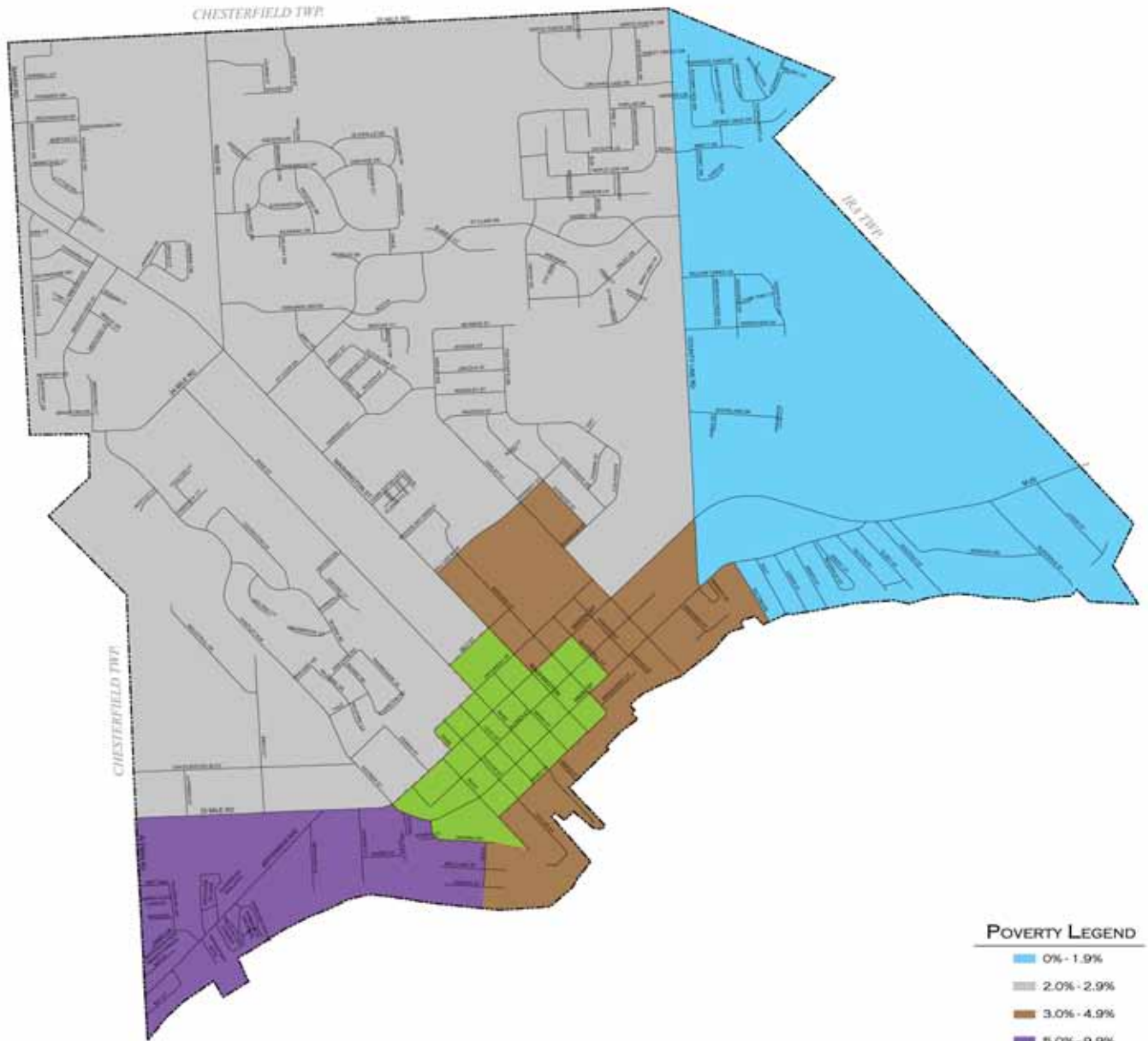


The suburban site that I went with was in a small town in Macomb County called New Baltimore. The specific site was located in the heart of their downtown district, and was the location of the church that I belong to. On the site, is the historic church that was built in 1897, an auxiliary one story building, and a parking lot. The lot is a fairly large lot with plenty of room for a proposed building. One of the most important reasons for choosing this site is that the church would act as a partner with the architect (me) and with the churches capital and the architect's knowledge; a great building could be formed.



While finding this site in downtown New Baltimore, I needed to ground the decision of the church site, and justify the choosing of this site over other sites. One of the way of doing this was to research the city of New Baltimore's website. On this site, I found some information of the poverty rates throughout the city. It turns out that downtown New Baltimore has the worst poverty levels at over 10 percent. For the same reasoning's that I chose as suburban site, I chose this centrally located downtown site where the most help is needed.

The green on the map represents the downtown district.



POVERTY LEGEND

- 0% - 1.9%
- 2.0% - 2.9%
- 3.0% - 4.9%
- 5.0% - 9.9%
- > 10.0%

POVERTY LEVELS IN NEW BALTIMORE



ZONING LEGEND

- R-80 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL
- R-70 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL
- R-65 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL
- WR WATERFRONT RESIDENTIAL
- WM WATERFRONT MAHRA
- MHC MANUFACTURED HOUSING COMMUNITY
- RM-1 MULTIPLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL
- RM-2 MULTIPLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL
- BT BUSINESS TRANSITIONAL
- LC LOCAL COMMERCIAL
- GC GENERAL COMMERCIAL
- CB CENTRAL BUSINESS
- CONSENT JUDGMENT (R-70)

ZONING MAP

SITE ANALYSIS



CLOSER VIEW OF SITE'S ZONING



LOOKING NORTH

These views are of the existing site conditions. The view looking north shows the parking lot and the auxiliary building that is a basic cinder block construction with functions inside that include offices, a large gathering space, and a kitchen. The plan is to knock down the auxiliary building and create a single building that can house everything needed in a homeless shelter. The block would be used for the foundation wall so as not to be wasted. The view looking east (next page) shows the rear of the church. This image would be taken as if standing in the new parking lot. It is off of the alleyway and de-clutters the main part of the site so that the program could be inserted there. The view looking west (next page) shows the main façade of the church. This street is mainly pedestrian and the program is meant to keep that flow.



LOOKING SOUTH





LOOKING EAST



LOOKING WEST



P P R O C

PROGRAM

POVERTY IS THE MOTHER OF CRIME.

- MARCUS AURELIUS





CORE VALUES

COMPASSION

INTERGRITY

LEADERSHIP

COLLABORTATION

COMMUNICATION

ACCOUNTABILITY

VISION STATEMENT

A PLACE WHERE MEN, WOMAN AND CHILDREN
EXPERIENCING THE TRAUMA OF HOMELESSNESS
FIND EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS AND HOUSING
RESOURCES.

MISSION STATEMENT

TO PROVIDE HOMELESS AND DISPLACED
INDIVIDUALS THE OPPORTUNITY
FOR SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE.

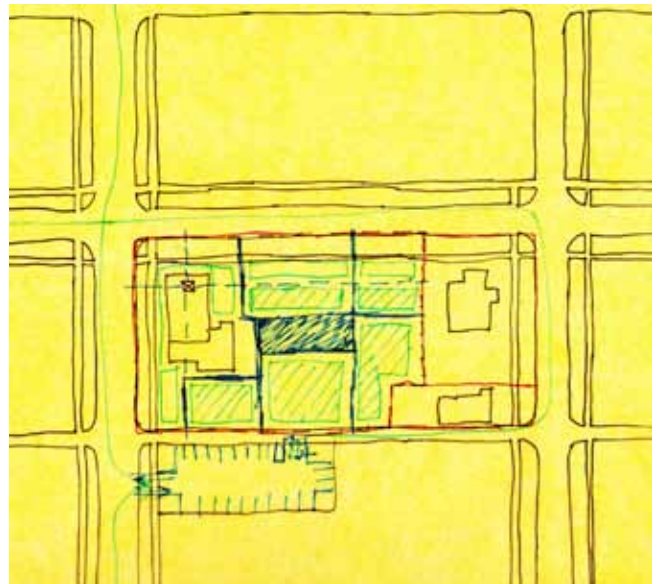
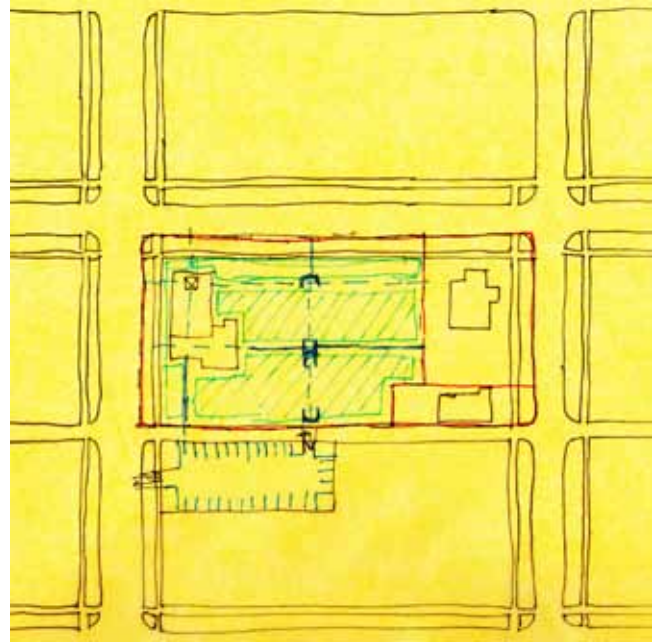
For the program, starting out with MCREST seemed like the best opportunity to show how the program came about. After meeting with April Fidler, the manager of MCREST, I found out many different aspects that led to the layout of my building. She explained that the biggest demographic to come into their program was a single parent with multiple children. With finding this information out, I knew that a typical homeless shelter that housed men and women, would not work out. In all the research done and meeting with April, I knew that I needed a place that would house everyone, including families, and this place would also serve as a learning center to help get the impoverished back on their feet and out into society again.

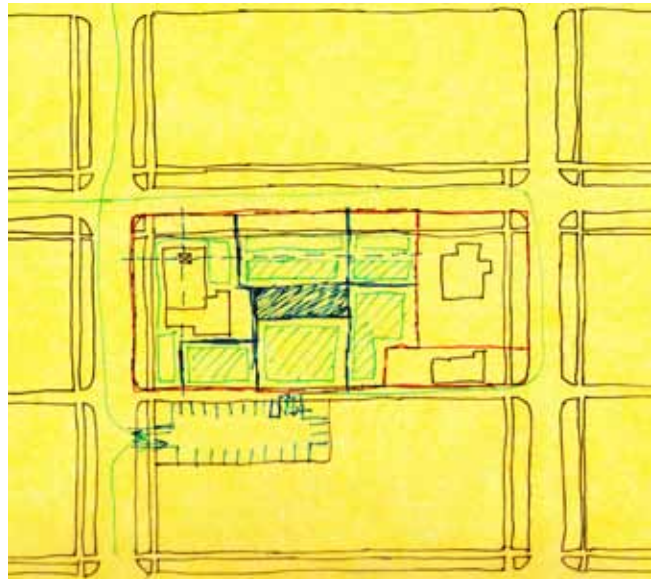
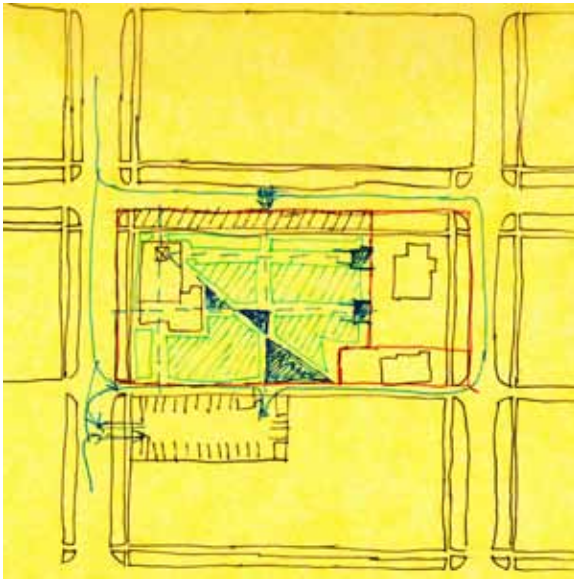
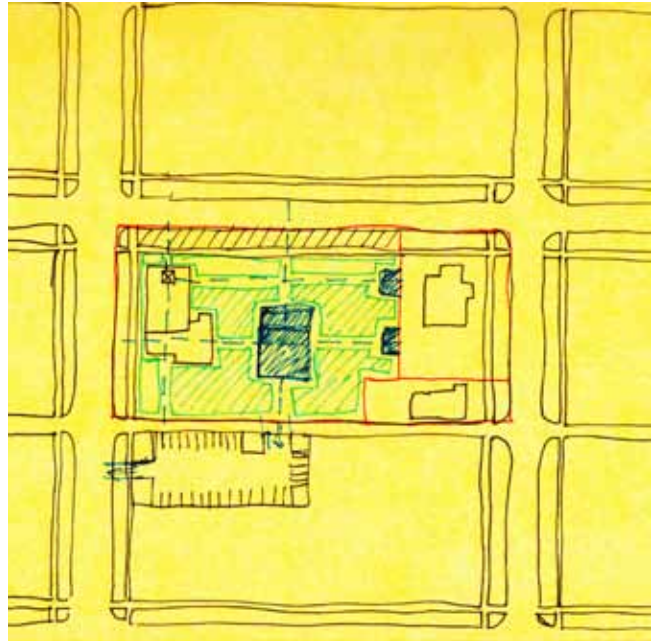
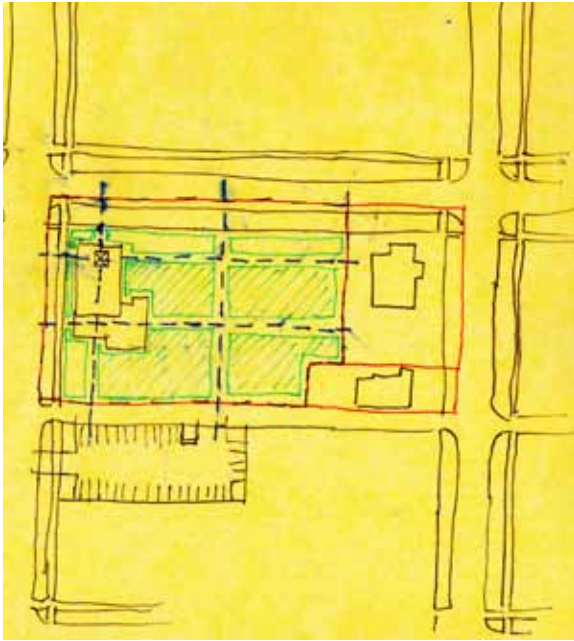
SINGLE PARENT WITH MULTIPLE CHILDREN



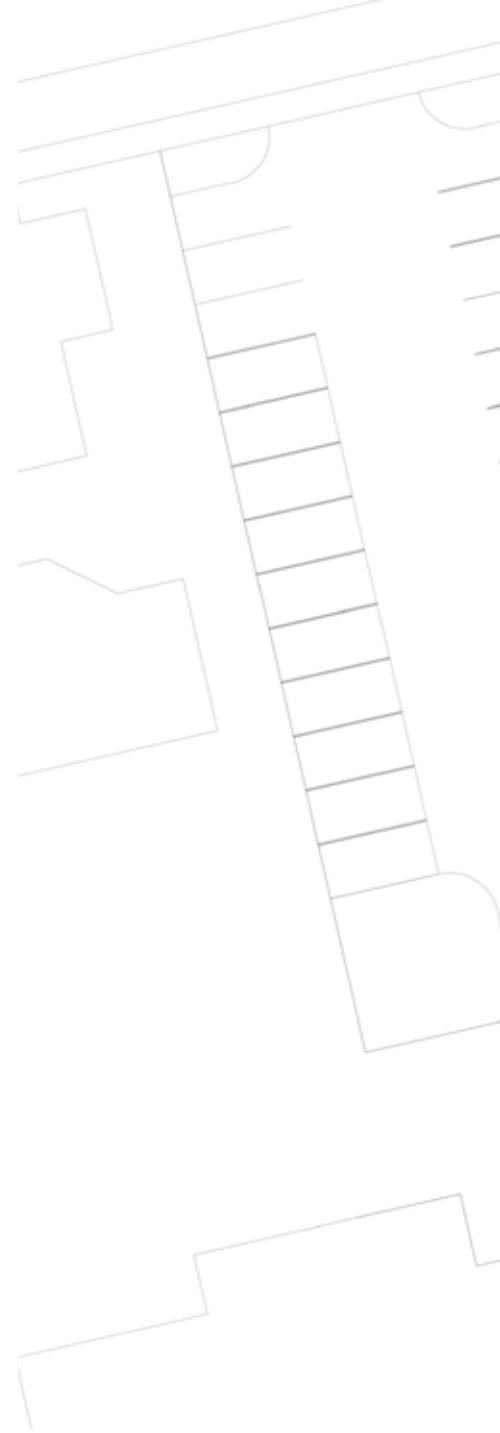
MOST COMMON DEMOGRAPHIC

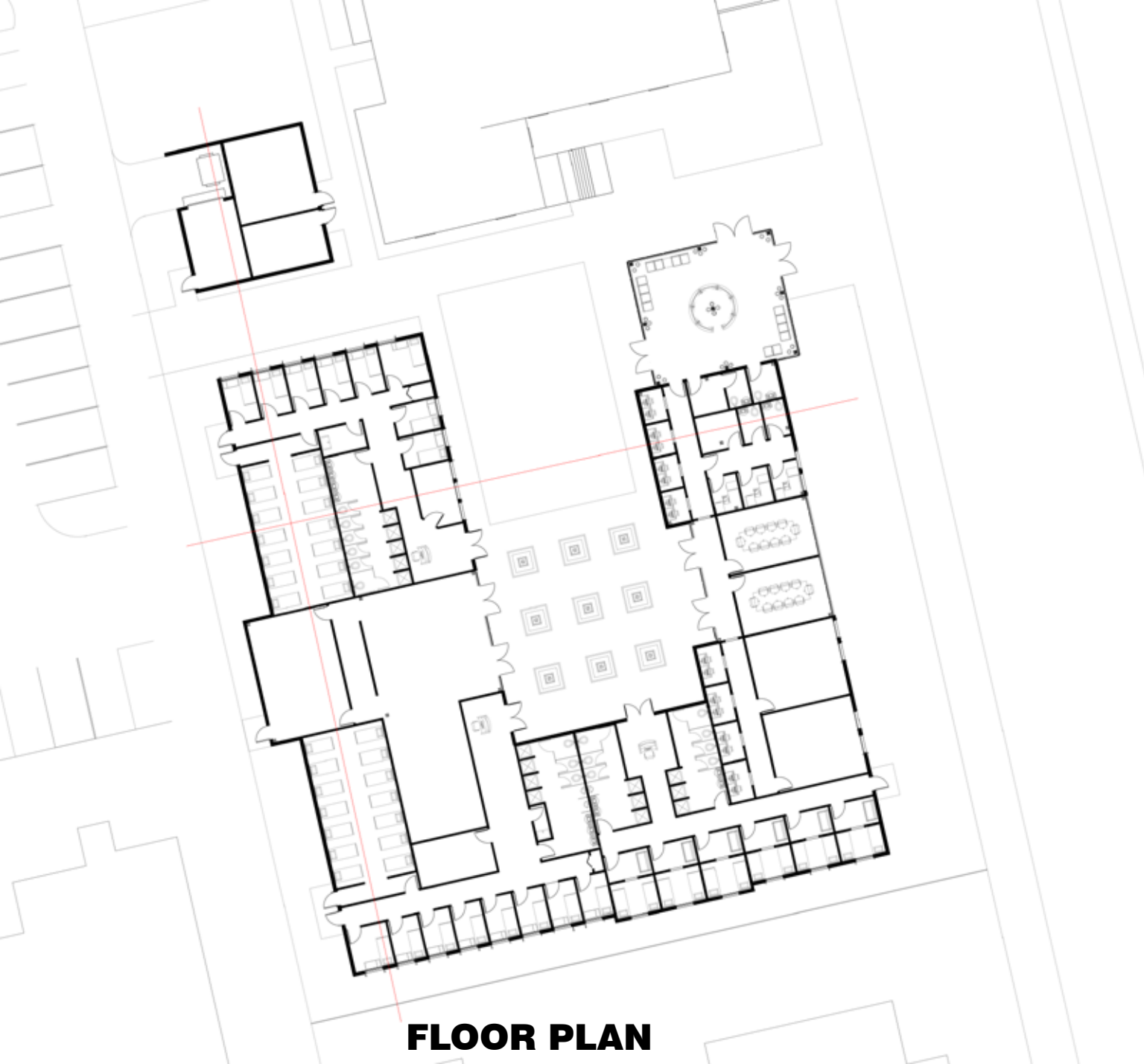
Here are just a few sketches of the orientation and layout of the building. It was key to zone off the site it to public (facing the same as the church façade), semi private in the interior of the site, and services on the back end of the site. It was a real struggle to try and engage the church, but not over take it. Also keeping an open feel to the site was vital. Fighting the line between privacy and welcomeness with the impoverished and the public was another task that these sketches started to work on.





Using the case study of a homeless shelter in California, I came up with a practical layout for this Community Engagement Center. Before, MCREST would come to the church and the homeless would sleep in the basement of the existing church. The space in the basement was very limited and only about 30 men or women could stay at a time. With this new Community Engagement Center, many more impoverished can come and stay. Unlike the case study, where the biggest demographic client was the male, this area's biggest concern is a single parent with multiple children. Also, this Community Center's main goal is to educate the impoverished through life skills to get them back out into the community. With that came some different layouts for the floor plan. The dorms all have a mixture of semi-private and barrack style rooms. The semi-private rooms are dedicated to the impoverished that are enrolled in the learning program. The barracks act like a normal homeless shelter and allow many beds for those who may come off the streets. There are also transitional areas where the communities are allowed to come and use. This is a vital part of the Community Center in two ways; it engages the impoverished with the community to improve their life skills, while also engaging the impoverished with the community to help cross that boundary that many people have about shelter style organizations.





FLOOR PLAN

STAFF AREA

3 PRIVATE OFFICES
MALE AND FEMALE TOILET
RECEPTION AREA
EMPLOYEE BREAK ROOM
MEDICAL EXAM OFFICE AND EXAM ROOM

TRANSITIONAL ROOMS

8 COMPUTER ROOMS
2 CONFERENCE ROOMS
COMMUNITY ROOM

CLASSROOMS

2 STANDARD CLASSROOMS

MALE DORM

28 BEDS + 16 PRIVATE BEDS
FULL BATHROOM AND SHOWERS
READING ROOM
SECURITY DESK AT ENTRY

FEMALE DORMS

28 BEDS+ 16 PRIVATE BEDS
FULL BATHROOM AND SHOWERS
READING ROOM
SECURITY DESK AT ENTRY

FAMILY BEDROOMS

6 ONE BEDROOMS WITH 2 BUNK BEDS PER ROOM
FULL BATHROOM FOR MEN AND WOMEN
FULL SHOWERS FOR MEN AND WOMEN

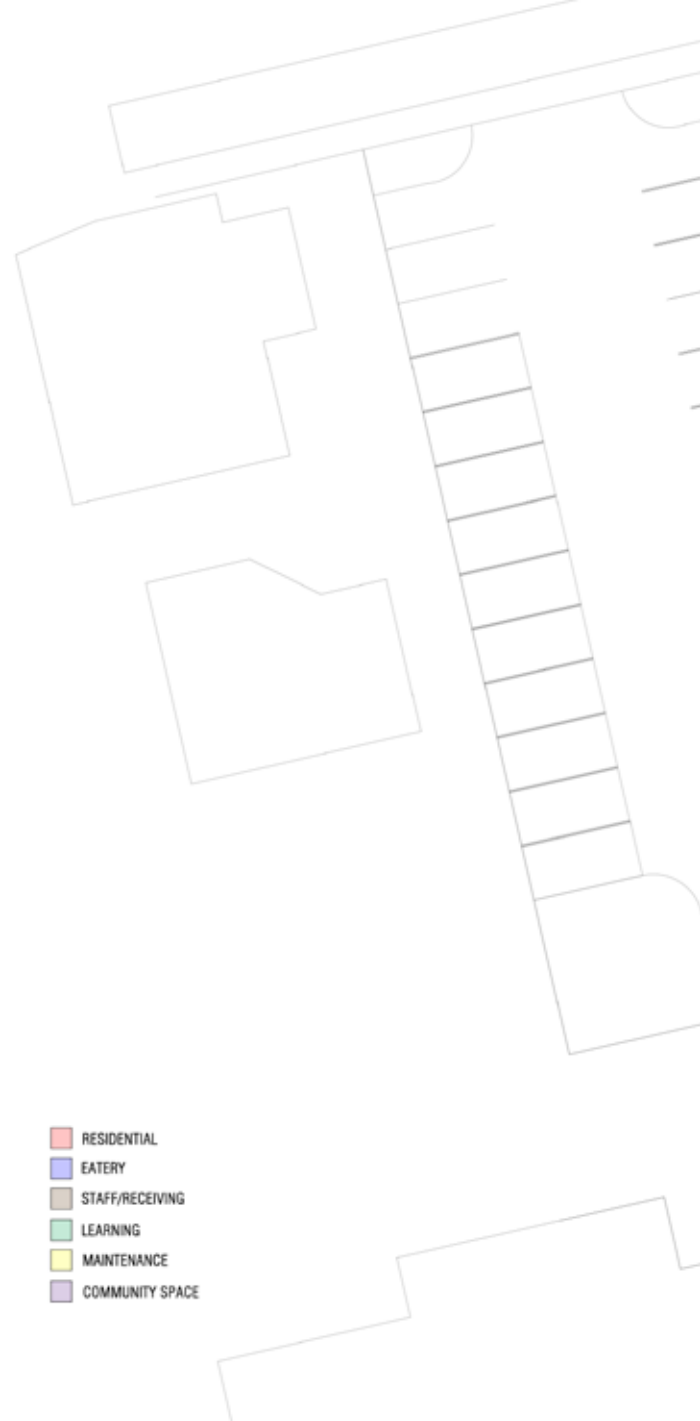
KITCHEN WITH 96 PERSON CAFETERIA

IN EXISTING CHURCH

BEDDING STORAGE
DONATION ROOM
LAUNDRY

MAINTENANCE

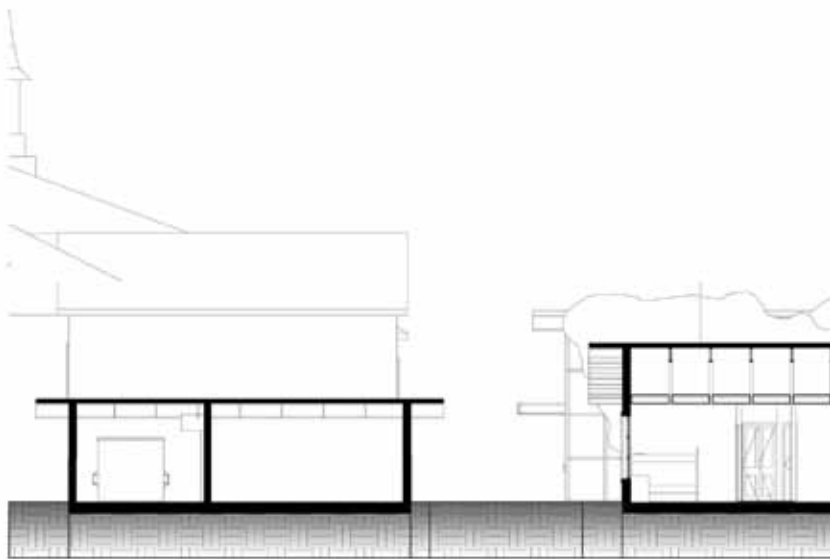
MAIN ELECTRICAL ROOM
MECHANICAL ROOM
GARBAGE DISTRIBUTION

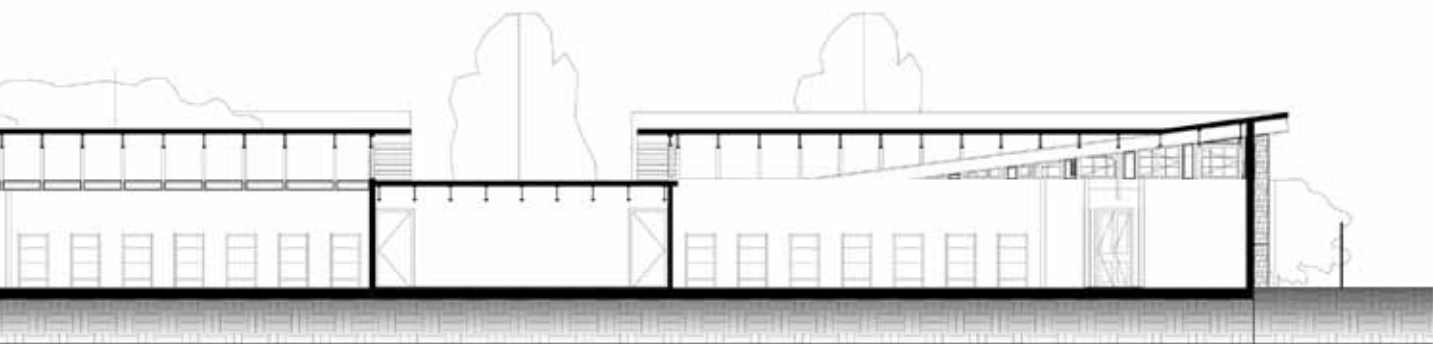


- RESIDENTIAL
- EATERY
- STAFF/RECEIVING
- LEARNING
- MAINTENANCE
- COMMUNITY SPACE

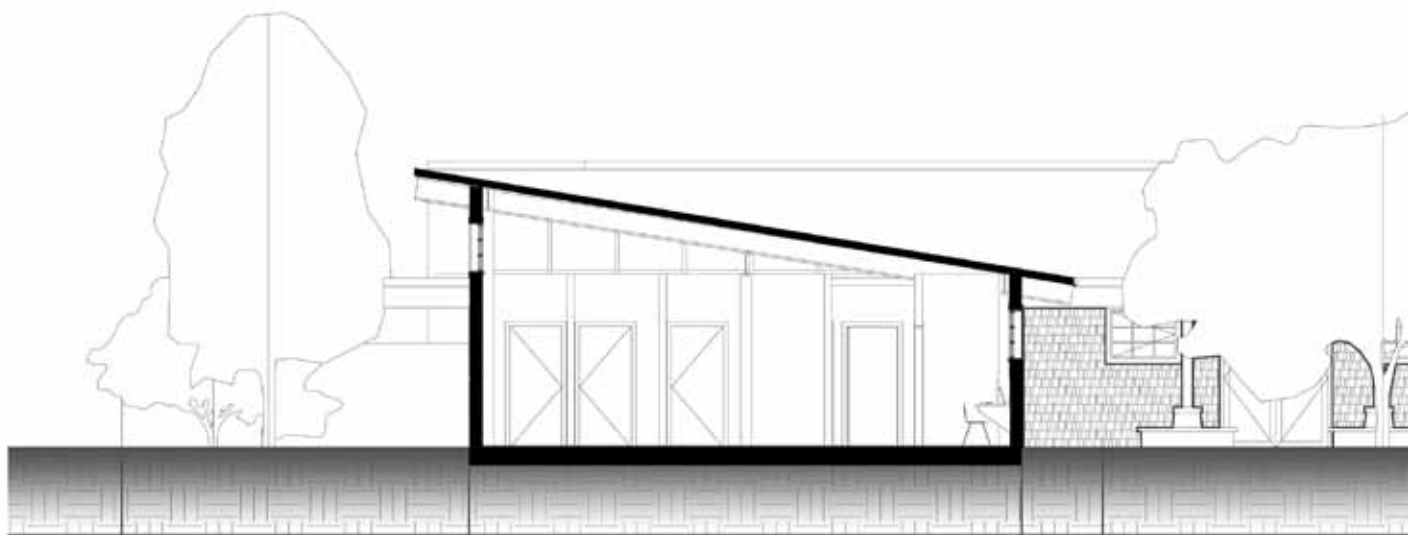


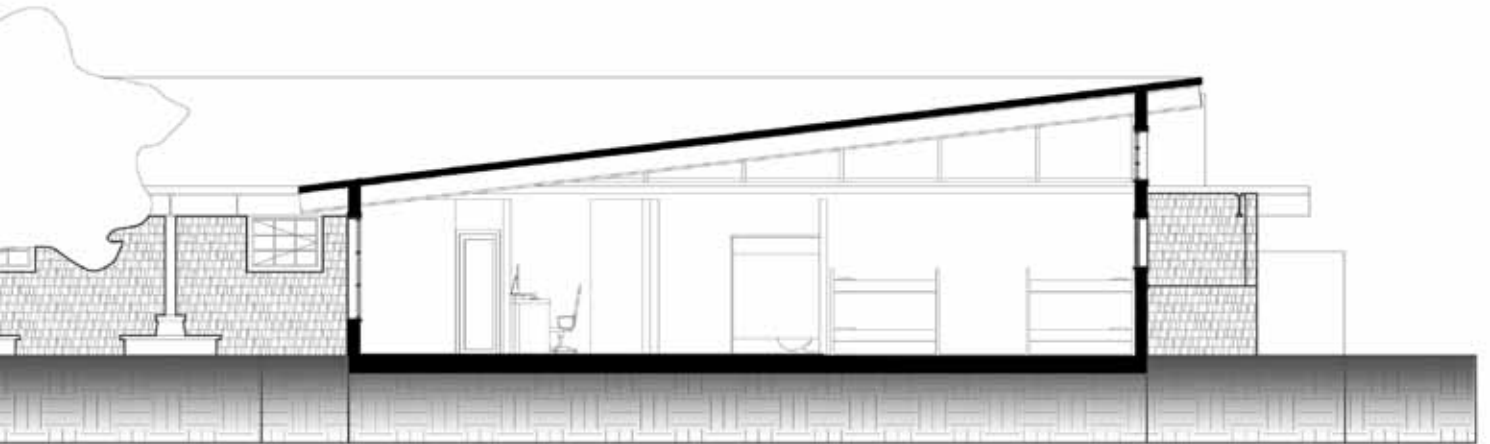
PROGRAM





NORTH-SOUTH SECTION





EAST-WEST SECTION

DES

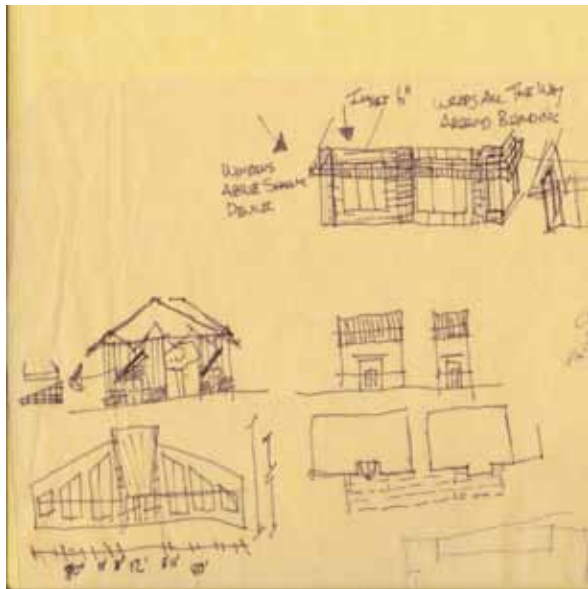
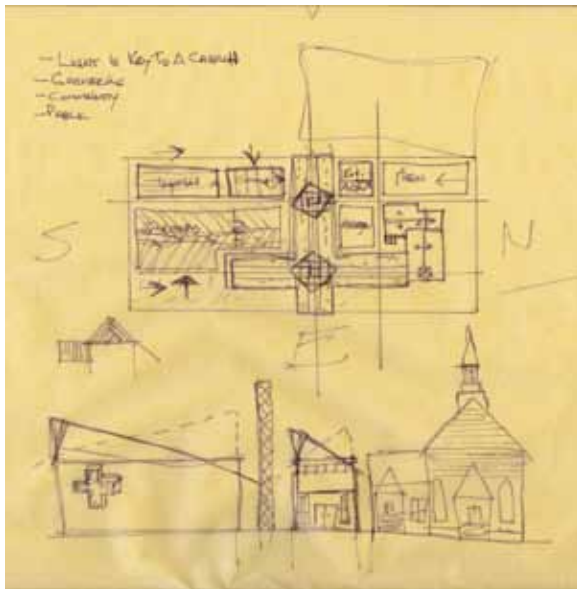
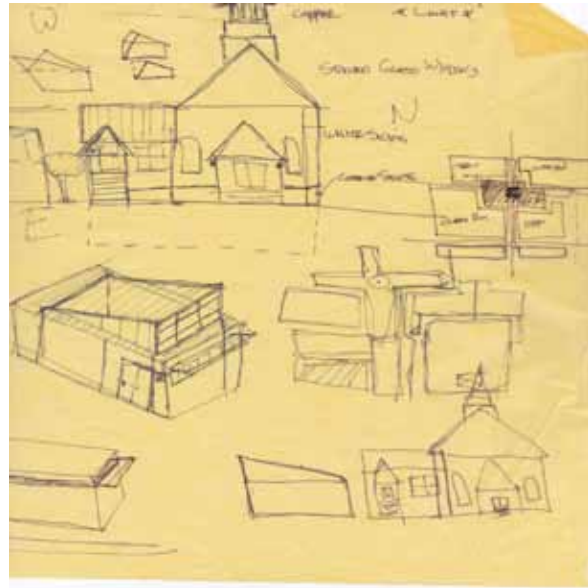
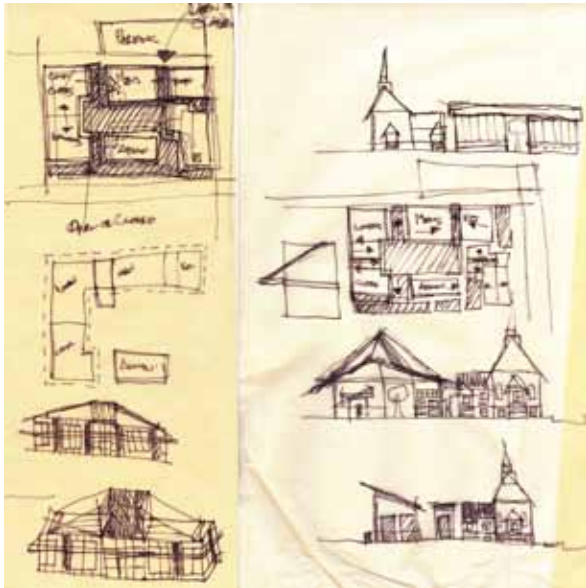
SIGN

I CAME FROM POVERTY AND WAS PART OF THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES.

- PAM GRIER



The biggest hurdle in the design process was how to cope with having a large institutional building and making it seem more welcoming. Some ways to deal with this is the scale of the building, materials, and landscaping. Using some residential materials makes the building seem more welcoming like someone is waking into a house. The scale of the building is set on more of a residential scale as well. The use of casement windows and large areas of glass make the building seem smaller and inviting. The landscape also can draw the community in. Keeping the large open path that connects the front of the site to the parking lot allows for community movement through the whole site and this allows for the engagement of people. Along this path also is the interior outdoor space that has a large trellis system along with green space that gives this area an almost park like feel.





The works of Cutler Anderson architects, and others such as Peter Bohlin, were a huge inspiration in the design of this project. Their use of wooden materials, the use of glass and other natural materials and the precision to detail that they put towards the column connections really made their buildings seem welcoming and like they were built with care and not just another cookie cutter house.



CASE STUDY: CUTLER ANDERSON DESIGN



SITE PLAN





NORTH ELEVATION



SOUTH ELEVATION





EAST ELEVATION



WEST ELEVATION





Main Facade Daytime Rendering





Main Facade Nighttime Rendering



Main Entry Daytime Rendering



Main Entry Nighttime Rendering



Main Path Daytime Rendering



Main Path Nighttime Rendering



Courtyard Daytime Rendering



Courtyard Nighttime Rendering

CONCLUSION

In concluding, This Community Engagement Center was designed for the clients as well as the community. It is hard enough for these clients to get healthier and back out into society. Engaging the community is a big step for the clients of this Community Center, so exposing them in the beginning to small doses of the community will help them out so when they are ready to emerge back into society and its overwhelming shock, they will be prepared.

CAREER

DITS

PHOTO CREDITS

All images are courtesy of the author unless otherwise noted

pg 12 Google
pg 16 Designboom.com
Design like you give a damn (book)
Google
pg 18 Rural Studio (book)
pg 20 Design like you give a damn (book)
pg 22 Google
pg 50 Google
Google
Google
pg 53 Google Earth
pg 54 Google Earth

BIBLILOO

GRAPHY

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Humanity, Architecture for. Design like you give a damn. New York, NY: Metropolis Books, 2006. Print.
- Oppenheimier Dean, Andrea. Rural Studio: Samuel Mockbee and an Architecture of Decency
New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2002. Print.
- "The official website of the City of New Baltimore." City of New Baltimore. N.p., n.d. Web. 27 Apr 2012. <www.cityofnewbaltimore.org>.
- "Poverty facts and stats." Global Issues Social, Political, Economic and Environmental Issues That Affect Us All. N.p., n.d. Web. 27 Apr 2012. <www.globalissues.org/article/26/poverty-facts-and-stats>.
- "Report:Poverty rates of rural Michigan higher then Wayne county." MLive. N.p., n.d. Web. 27 Apr 2012. <www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2010/01/report_poverty_rates_for_rural.html>.
- "Millennium project." fast facts: the faces of poverty. N.p., n.d. Web. 27 Apr 2012. <www.unmillenniumproject.org/documents/3-MP-PovertyFacts-E.pdf>.
- "Hunger in America: 2012 United States hunger and poverty facts." World Hunger Education Service. N.p., n.d. Web. 27 Apr 2012. <www.worldhunger.org/articles/Learn/us_hunger_facts.htm>
- "Michigan's campaign to end homelessness." Synopsis 2010. N.p., n.d. Web. 27 Apr 2012. <www.thecampaigntoendhomelessness.org/>.
- Scott, Geoffrey. The Architecture of Humanism. New York: W.W. Norton & Company INC., 1974.
- Mockbee, Sarah Ann, prod. "Samuel Mockbee and the spirit of Rural Studio." Citizen Architect. DVD.
- Lowry, Bates. Renaissance Architecture. New York: George Brazillar, 1967. Print.
- Hodge, Oliver, dir. Garbage Warrior. DVD.