

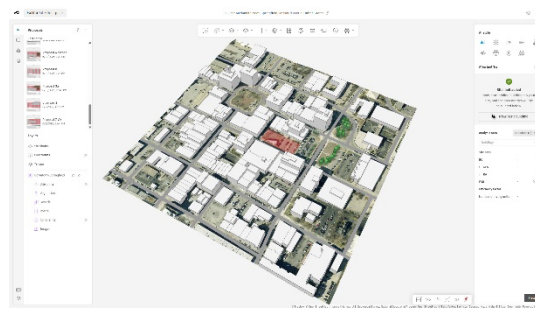
Practice exercise

Complete the context for an established site

In this exercise, you will practice contextual modeling with the Generic volume tools to complete the context around the 311 E. McDaniel site. If you have a sizeable team, expand the site to include all of the area imported into the Forma Site Design canvas. If you have a smaller team, make sure you include the buildings adjacent to the site. If you are working on this exercise independently and have limited time, you can import the context model in the included dataset downloads and proceed with the steps.

Learning objectives:

- Use the generic modeling tools to build context for the Forma Site Design canvas.
- Develop site context for more accurate simulations on both your site, and the impact of your proposal on the surrounding area.



The completed exercise

1. Using your existing site measurement tool of choice (such as Google Earth), evaluate the existing context around the site, focusing on building heights. You will use the satellite photo in the Forma Site Design canvas for the footprint of the adjacent buildings, and your reference tool of choice for building heights.

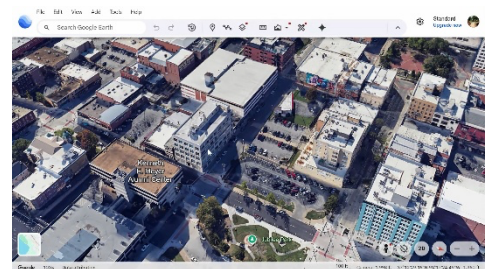


Figure 1. Google Earth context.

2. Add in trees and additional site features and/or park features relevant to the site.

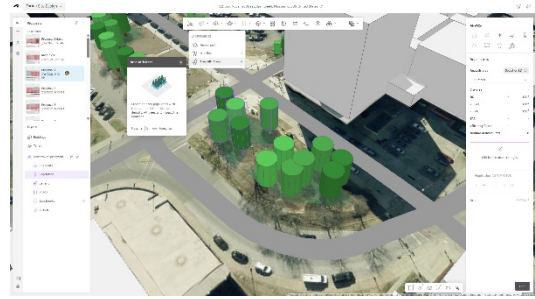


Figure 2. Adding trees.

3. Your final context model should include, at a minimum, the buildings adjacent to the site, and ideally, the entire area of the Forma Site Design canvas.

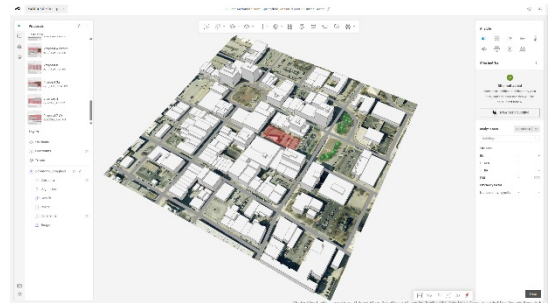


Figure 3. Context model with adjacent buildings.

Grading Rubric:

	Advanced	Proficient	Basic	Emerging
Site context completion	The site is completed, and the context is accurately represented	Complete, but perhaps a bit of difficulty with accuracy	Missing some of the key contextual elements	The existing context is not modeled correctly

Voice-over for the answer key video:

The site context model should first cover the buildings immediately adjacent to the site, and then extend out based on the size of the team, and the time provided. Here are a few important checks for accuracy:

The height measurements on the buildings to the south of the site – these will affect predominant wind and the solar envelope (so they are crucial) should be close to: 76' – 17' – 46' and move a bit further to the west – 60' and 38'

If modeled carefully, the buildings will be on the ground plane (not floating above it), and the context buildings should be in the base layer – ensuring that they are included in every proposal, and should be modeled with the generic volume tool which you can verify by selecting the building, and it will highlight the generic layer on the navigation panel, or just click the eyeball and hide all the generic models. Modeling the pop ups on the roof, overhangs and interlocking forms may be too complicated for someone learning to make a digital model, more advanced students should be crushing every detail.