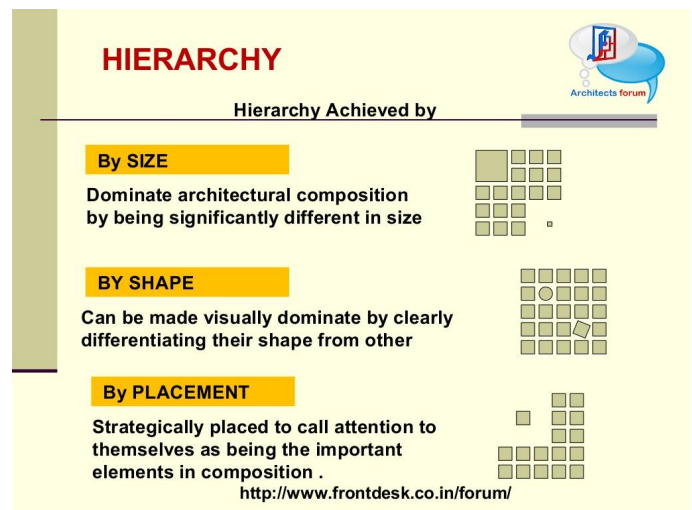
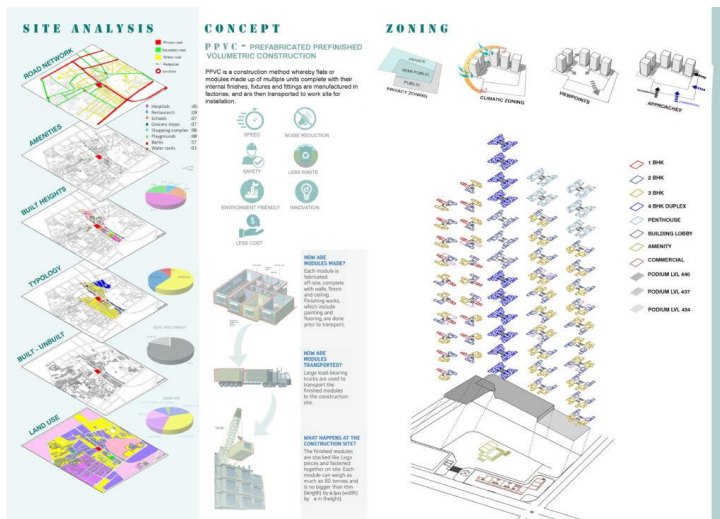


## WEEK 35: Modules & Hierarchy

**Modules:** When designing a building or a city, as with most things in life, it is best to define your ultimate goal and then break down the steps necessary to reach that goal into small, manageable units that can be organized into a program or plan. In architecture and urban planning, these manageable units are known as "modules". Modules are discrete components of a development project that can be repeated to construct the project. This repetition and familiarity allows for more rapid and efficient construction. It also allows for a whole lot of boring.



**Hierarchy:** To allow for creative exploration and the infusion of interesting design approaches, 'hierarchy' is applied to give meaning to development modules. Most construction projects will consist of a handful of modular components. For example, a typical home consists of windows, doors, walls, roof, and foundation. How these modules are designed and the hierarchy by which they are placed is what makes the difference between a common home and an amazing home. Arranging the components of a development project into a hierarchy based on the design goals of the project changes the character of the project and impression of the end product. For example, a typical home emphasizes walls over windows, consistent with the privacy most expect and value as part of their home. A commercial building typically emphasizes windows over walls, allowing the public to view the interior and the goods and/or services offered by the business.

## Exercise: Irregular Development

Try your hand at building without modularity. Build a typical room or house of any design you like; however, do not use the same Lego part twice.

## Exercise: Modular Development

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### The exercise for you to explore Modules and Repetition:



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**1**  
Make a number of small sketch-models to represent your understanding of a **module**.  
  
Our **module** is a 2x4 brick with one added LEGO® brick on both sides. Our **module** now is five LEGO bricks high and has the same dimensions, whether we place it upright or on its side.

**2**  
Take your module and build a **structure** with it. Every building/structure built by repeating the same module is modular.

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**3**  
Imagine that each module is a living **space** (unit). Elaborate on your model by adding **details** that represent the function of each unit.

**4**  
You can combine the units (modules) in different ways in your building. Modular designs allow for flexible arrangement and a variety of uses.  
  
Imagine how different modules of your building could be combined together.  
  
You can establish the scale of the building by adding details with sketching.

[LEGO® developed illustrations]

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