



UX/UI Review & Directives — “PIP AI” Core Screens

1. Overall Mood & Visual Style

What You’ve Got:

- Layout is functional but sterile: classic left-hand sidebar, flat file list, bland chat, minimal contrast.
- Lacks *brand personality*: No clear color pop, no visual hierarchy, no sense of “modular AI agents at work.”
- Interaction is static—no sense of motion, layering, or “smartness.”

2. Sidebar (Left Rail)

Current:

- Simple vertical nav with icons and labels: Chat, Files, Smartsheet, History.

What It *Should* Be:

- **Sidebar floats** slightly over the content with a subtle drop shadow and gentle glassmorphism (frosted background, slightly blurred).
- **Active tab** is bold and glows with the brand accent color (e.g., #9147ff, a deep electric purple, or your chosen brand shade).
- **Hover** on icons: light scale-up (1.05x), a pulse, or a soft shadow bloom.
- **Icons** should be thick-lined, playful but not childish (think Lucide or Phosphor icons over generic Heroicons for more attitude).
- **Collapse/expand**: Chevron at the bottom lets users shrink the sidebar to just icons for full-screen focus.

3. Chat Window

Current:

- Sparse. Just system messages, plain timestamps, no visual hierarchy, no chat personality.
- Input bar is almost invisible.

What It *Should* Be:

- **Full-bleed white or ultra-light slate background** for chat area.
- **Chat bubbles**:
 - **User** (right): Deeper slate/gray, text in white, strong radius (rounded XL).
 - **Agents** (left): Each agent gets its own accent color (Manager = purple, Estimator = green, RFI = gold, etc.), lighter fill, matching icon in bubble corner.
- **Message grouping**: Consecutive messages from the same agent stack closely, last bubble has a “tail.”
- **Timestamps**: Faint gray, only shown on hover or at top of each message group—not after every line.

- **Input dock:**
 - **Floats** above page bottom with a soft shadow.
 - **Input field** stretches to fit, hint text is casual: "Type a prompt, mention files, or use / for commands..."
 - **Attach button** ("+"): Pops up options for file, Smartsheet, template, etc.
 - **Send button:**
 - ♦ Animates on hover (e.g., arrow slides to the right, button background pulses).
 - ♦ When sending, shows a loading spinner morphing into a checkmark.

Subtle delight: When agent replies come in, they "slide" up from below, with a micro bounce or fade.

4. Files Tab

Current:

- Basic table: file name, remove button, status, error message.
- Looks like a developer's test page.

What It *Should* Be:

- **Card grid** or list: Each file is a pill-shaped card or "chip" with:
 - **File icon** matching type (.pdf, .docx, .xlsx, image, etc.), e.g., color-coded Phosphor icon.
 - **File name** bold, type and size in faint smaller text.
 - **Status badge** (Ready = green, Parsing = pulsing blue, Error = red w/ exclamation).
 - **Error message** in a dismissible red banner with clear call-to-action ("Try again", "Remove", or help link).
 - **Remove** button: ghost (bordered, on hover turns solid red with trash icon).
- **Drag & drop zone:**
 - When dragging a file over, the whole tab area blurs and animates with a dashed outline and "Drop files to upload."
- **File parsing animation:**
 - Animated loader (dots, ring, or skeleton shimmer) while parsing.

Accessibility:

- File status and error should have ARIA labels, focus rings on buttons.

5. Smartsheet Tab

Current:

- Form input for URL/ID, Load button, and "under development" message.
- No preview or feedback on actions.

What It *Should* Be:

- **Elegant input group:** Large pill input, subtle shadow. Paste or type Smartsheet URL/ID, "Load Sheet" button animates when active.
- **On successful load:**
 - **Sheet preview** appears below input—table rows with soft row highlights, file icons inline, and "Analyze"/"Download"/"Preview" buttons beside each attachment.
 - If loading: Skeleton rows animate in, then fill.
 - **Error:** Red badge at top, dismissible with link to help.
- **"Under development":** Replace with a progress bar or "Coming soon" badge, maybe a playful construction tape illustration or bot with a hard hat.

6. History Tab

Current:

- Not shown, but likely another list/table.

What It *Should* Be:

- **Timeline list** of past sessions: Date, project, brief summary of files/actions taken.
- **Quick preview:** Hover or tap to see session summary, export, or reload session.
- **Tagging:** Sessions can be "starred" or tagged for later.

7. Responsiveness & Microinteractions

Current:

- Feels desktop-bound, no animation.

What It *Should* Be:

- **Mobile:** Tabs collapse to icons, input bar floats at bottom, files as stacked cards.
- **All buttons animate:** Tap = ripple, hover = glow/scale.
- **Transitions:** Switching tabs slides content left/right, not just snap.
- **Errors:** Shake animation on error, "confetti" on successful export.

8. Color, Typography, Brand

- **Brand accent:** A vibrant, unmistakable color (e.g., #9147ff electric purple, or your preferred—should pop against slate/white).
- **Typography:**
 - **Headings:** Bold, geometric sans-serif (e.g., Inter, Satoshi, DM Sans).
 - **Body:** Clean sans (Inter, Helvetica Neue, or similar), never default system font.
 - **Font size:** Generous. Headings 2–2.5rem, body 1.1–1.2rem, no tiny text.
- **Contrast:** High contrast for primary actions, subtle shadows for layering.

9. Agent "Personality"

- **Agents each get an icon** (robot, ruler, doc, etc.), color, and tone for their replies.
- On multi-agent "debates," stack agent bubbles with lines connecting them ("Manager → Estimator → Exporter").
- **Agent names** in badge at the top of their chat bubbles.

10. What to Prioritize Next (for Dev/Design)

1. Chat Window:

- Rich chat bubbles, color-coded, agent icons, animated delivery, playful but pro.

2. Files Tab:

- Pills/cards, animated statuses, drag/drop, beautiful errors.

3. Sidebar Polish:

- Accent color, glass effect, icon hover animations.

4. General Brand Layer:

- Finalize accent color, type scale, and base spacing so everything feels "of a piece."



Visual/Behavioral Inspiration

- **Linear.app** for sidebar polish and modal layering
- **Notion** for clean content cards and modals
- **Superhuman** for delightful, fast microinteractions
- **Slack** or **Discord** for modern chat bubble feel and responsive input dock
- **Figma** for floating toolbars and subtle shadowing