

PROJECT DETAILS FOR FINAL SUBMISSION

Project Title: Secular Retreat - Living Area Renovation

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Student's Full Name: Kavintra Apipattanavis (Ing)

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Course:
Design 3

Studio Brief Title:
A Home is Not a House

Short Project Description (100 words max.):

The Secular Retreat's Living Area Renovation creates the relationship between nature and architecture by bringing natural materials indoors in their unprocessed, raw forms rather than introducing the greenery that's the building's natural surroundings. It emphasizes how contemporary materials originate from natural elements such as rock, raw wood and clay etc, showcasing them in their purest forms. By doing so, the design encourages a deeper appreciation of the nature within the built environment while maintaining its modernity and respecting the architect's original design. Combining organic textures and shapes with practical functionality, the space offers an experience that redefines how we connect with the natural world indoors.

Full Project Narrative/Text Description (300 words max.):

The Living Area Renovation of the Secular Retreat transforms the central living space into an experience space of nature by using the raw, unrefined forms existing materials. Drawing inspiration from the origins or original forms of materials, highlighting the beauty of the material's fundamental states. Shifting the focus from greenery or plants that are already surrounded and may experience as soon as leaving of the building to the essence of nature through materiality.

Firstly, the floor, which is made of raw limestone that gives the space a soft, natural appearance and a light, gentle colour that matches the entire area. Subtle unevenness for the lowered seating area is made desirable by the stone's natural variations. Raw oak wood, a highly durable hardwood, is used to create the dining table. However, because of the wood's tendency to become moist during usage and overtime, it requires an additional step to be air-dried. The area is complemented by the wood's slightly rough and uneven texture and warm, organic look. Raw granite, one of the hardest natural stones, is used for making the kitchen countertop. It is quite

perfect since it is high-performing, long-lasting, and resistant to both heat and scratches even in raw form. Additionally, its beauty is enhanced by its irregular pattern, making it a unique counter.

In addition to falling in accordance with Peter Zumthor's emphasis on materiality, his design prioritizes the authenticity and tactile qualities of materials, creating spaces that engage the senses and evoke emotional connections, the design strengthens the relationship between nature and architecture by using organic shapes and textures. With the respect for the original design, alignment with the architect's concept, and modern yet grounded sense of nature inside the building, this rebuilt space promotes reflection on the materials.