PROJECT DETAILS FOR FINAL SUBMISSION

Project Title:
The Parasitic Hive

Student's Full Name:
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Course:
Architectural Design 2

Studio Brief Title:
Urban Incubators

Short Project Description (100 words max.):

This architectural proposal reimagines urban growth through a **hexagonal modular structure** inspired by the parasitic spread of urbanization. Reflecting the organic evolution of cities, the design symbolizes how corporate developments overshadow underdeveloped communities. The building is divided into three tiers: **Root Hex**, providing affordable housing for Bangkok's residents; **Stem Hex**, offering mid-range units with enhanced amenities and views; and **Crown Hex**, featuring luxurious spaces with panoramic cityscapes. Each module can aggregate and adapt, fostering flexibility while maximizing space. This project critiques socio-economic disparities, using **discrete architecture** and modular design to highlight urban evolution and the imbalance of corporate expansion.

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

This project, located on **RAMA VI Road in Bangkok**, reimagines urban development through a modular, hexagonal architecture that critiques the parasitic nature of urbanization. Situated between **Soi 9** and the **Olympic Coffee Cafe**, the site is a transitional zone surrounded by low-rise residential housing yet heavily impacted by noise, air pollution, and carbon emissions from nearby highways. This context provides a stark backdrop to explore socio-economic contrasts and the evolving relationship between underdeveloped areas and high-end corporate developments.

Inspired by the **fungal growth metaphor**, the building uses **hexagonal units** to mimic the organic spread of parasitic networks. This form evolves from minimal beginnings, gradually expanding into a larger interconnected structure that overtakes its surroundings. The modular design allows for adaptability and scalability, reflecting urban sprawl and its tendency to displace less fortunate communities. The hexagonal system supports both vertical and horizontal growth, enabling units to aggregate into clusters or extend upward for more lucrative housing options.

The building is divided into three tiers: **Root Hex**, offering affordable housing for local residents; **Stem Hex**, providing mid-tier units with better views and amenities; and **Crown Hex**, featuring luxury

residences with panoramic cityscapes and exclusive facilities. The higher the tier, the greater the sense of exclusivity, symbolizing socio-economic stratification.

Computational design using **Grasshopper** played a critical role in shaping the project. Grasshopper's parametric capabilities allowed for precise manipulation of the hexagonal modules, enabling flexibility in layout, structural optimization, and façade aesthetics. This computational approach also facilitated simulations for airflow, light penetration, and energy efficiency, ensuring a sustainable and livable structure. The modular system inherently supports the integration of green spaces and renewable technologies like solar panels, aligning with the project's vision of addressing urban challenges while questioning the ethics of corporate-driven urbanization.