**Computational ADU Design: An Evolutionary Approach**

1. *Introduction*
   1. *Housing crisis*

The United States is in the midst of an unprecedented housing crisis, stemming from issues outside of housing, such as neoliberal cuts to social benefits spending and the increasing privatization of essentially every regard of American life. The result is a rising population of unhoused peoples and the inability for many to become a homeowner or to even afford monthly rent in many cities. Solutions to this dilemma are neither straightforward nor definite. However, as designers and architects, this problem can only be addressed at the symptom-level, while advocating at the root cause.

[expand slightly here]

* 1. *ADU as solution*

Seattle, Washington; Portland, Oregon; and Vancouver, British Columbia are exploring the use of accessory dwelling units (ADUs) as one method to combat surging housing prices. Use of ADUs is an effective means of increasing housing density without replacing single family housing zones with new multi family residential construction. Additionally, ADUs are often designed to be rented, generating supplementary income for the homeowner. Ten detached ADU (or DADU) designs are pre-approved by the City of Seattle and are available online to entice homeowners. However, a 2019 city survey [insert citation] shows that there are calls for an increased focus on sustainability and cost.

[expand here]

* + 1. *Existing ADU caveats*

Homeowner’s associations and other local organizations have historically fought back against any proposed density increases through zoning or other method. However, Seattle and the other aforementioned cities in the Pacific Northwest have succeeded in allowing for the construction of ADUs in recent decades. The pre-approved designs are free, but require payment of ~$1000 [check this] for approval and come with the downside of pre-designed structures- a lack of contextual design.

* + 1. *Computational tool as fix*

This research intends to explore whether the use of genetic algorithms via shape grammar methodology to optimize DADU plans to site context, increases building performance or further encourages construction. The proposed methodology begins by reading example site data from the city of Seattle including building and vegetation context from the Seattle GIS. Next, a genetic algorithm explores the design space for a viable floor plan solution based on a fitness function. This fitness function evaluates individual designs according to predefined traits. Traits to evaluate include window to wall ratio, insulation depth/type, ventilation strategy, and shading technique. Locating the correct combination of traits to minimize (or maximize) which results in a higher performance DADU is the desired outcome. Resulting designs will be analyzed and compared via energy performance simulation. The end-goal is to develop a computational tool using the aforementioned system to conduct automated site analysis, as well as parametric generation of DADUs.

1. *Methods*
   1. *Multi-objective search*
      1. *Genetic algorithms*
   2. *Energy simulation*
2. *Results*
3. *Conclusions*

I am not yet to the place I wish to be for my draft, as I have been focusing much more exclusively on the more pragmatic, programming side of this research. However, I understand how it is beneficial to write while doing, I just have not fully adjusted to that workflow yet. I was stuck for a few days with my genetic algorithm but have since moved past the errors with the help of Tomas, and am back on track with the development of the tool.