

I. IDENTIFICATION DATA

Thesis name:	Reclaiming the river plain
Author's name:	Esra Akgun Kulin
Type of thesis :	master
Faculty/Institute:	Faculty of Architecture (FA)
Department:	Department of Spatial Planning
Thesis reviewer:	Mikael Ekegren
Reviewer's department:	Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering, Chalmers university of technology, Göteborg, Sweden

II. EVALUATION OF INDIVIDUAL CRITERIA

Assignment	challenging
<i>Evaluation of thesis difficulty of assignment.</i>	
<p>The assignment is very difficult. To avoid loss of population (part of the assignment), due to long term economic decline and radical social experiment, with urban design as a tool, is indeed a complex task.</p> <p>To reclaim the riverbanks, making this part of town more accessible and well structure is easier, but difficult enough for a master thesis.</p>	

Satisfaction of assignment	fulfilled with minor objections
<i>Assess that handed thesis meets assignment. Present points of assignment that fell short or were extended. Try to assess importance, impact or cause of each shortcoming.</i>	
<p>The project shows rather well how the riverbanks of Zatec could be improved, "well structured and equipped" as stated in the assignment, however the connections between the important (when it comes to spatial quality and identity) historic town centre are not dealt with ta all, a clear weakness in the thesis.</p> <p>To make people stay in Zatec is above all about job opportunities, but on the margin improvements of the physical environment as those proposed in the master thesis - above all those which do not create more dwellings: lack of housing is not a problem of Zatec - can communicate ambition and create trust in the future among its population. This is a master thesis in urban design but still, the (limited) field of influence of our subject should be mentioned.</p>	

Method of conception	correct
<i>Assess that student has chosen correct approach or solution methods.</i>	
<p>The method described by the student is basically appropriate.</p> <p>I would have appreciated though, to be more informed about the spatial problems and qualities of the areas of intervention. There are some maps but no 3d-images like photos and drawings. Texts are scarce. In conclusion "Defining the site" should have meant a more thorough inventory and reflection.</p>	

Technical level

D - satisfactory.

Assess level of thesis specialty, use of knowledge gained by study and by expert literature, use of sources and data gained by experience.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

The student has made an analysis of Zatec which gives a rough image of its state. But I miss a description of the **spatial problems and qualities** of the areas of intervention. There are some maps but no 3d-images like photos and drawings.

A description and reflection of the **morphology** would also have been of use.

The same counts for the **movement of people**, the important traffic infrastructure – especially when connecting the areas of intervention to the town centre is part of the assignment and improving movement is among the design objectives.

In summary this makes it hard to understand the need for the proposed interventions.

DESIGN AND PRESENTATION

The declared wish to connect the areas of intervention to **the town centre** is not at all elaborated, as already mentioned.

A **concept image** would have helped in the motivation and selling of the proposal, with arrows showing the improved connection and symbols of vegetation strengthening the green aspect of the banks for instance. The step between the written concept and the master plan is missing.

The **master plan** is drawn in a fairly precise manner, the bird eye perspectives are as well. They are easy to follow, graphically and are thus an example of **good craftsmanship**. However, texts connected to the master plan, the key drawing of the design, would have made the reading easier. And the removed structures are not shown (as dashed lines perhaps) on the drawing.

The student has made **fine spatial repair measures** of the area at the riverbanks.

The proposed addition of housing towers constitutes a harmonious theme, spatially supporting the river. Adding more urban space connected to water, an often very popular intervention, and creating a **new public route** along the stream, appear to be very relevant measures – demanding government funding but no new inhabitants (who might come later on). It is not explained though how a new botanical garden would be a stronger and more popular representative of the green aspect of Zatec than the existing allotment gardens.

There are many perspectives in the proposal, but they are schematic. I would have preferred fewer but more precise, describing **the material aspect** of the design.

Formal and language level, scope of thesis

C - good.

Assess correctness of usage of formal notation. Assess typographical and language arrangement of thesis.

There is not very much text in this thesis (and no formal notation). It is mainly expressed in drawings and perspectives.

Selection of sources, citation correctness

D - satisfactory.

Present your opinion to student's activity when obtaining and using study materials for thesis creation. Characterize selection of sources. Assess that student used all relevant sources. Verify that all used elements are correctly distinguished from own results and thoughts. Assess that citation ethics has not been breached and that all bibliographic citations are complete and in accordance with citation convention and standards.

There are relevant texts chosen for this thesis, however when it comes to the ones relating to urban issues there is no summary made of them or reflection of parts of them supporting the project.

The reference projects are generally suitable but lack a verbal description and reflection.

Additional commentary and evaluation

Present your opinion to achieved primary goals of thesis, e.g. level of theoretical results, level and functionality of technical or software conception, publication performance, experimental dexterity etc.

See above under Technical level.

III. OVERALL EVALUATION, QUESTIONS FOR DEFENSE, CLASSIFICATION SUGGESTION

Summarize thesis aspects that swayed your final evaluation. Please present apt questions which student should answer during defense.

- How have the texts influenced the project? What did you find fruitful in them?
- What do you think is the main reason for people leaving town?
What is the role of urban design in this context?
- Why do you propose new housing in a town losing inhabitants?
- How is the connection between the areas of intervention and the town center improved?
Where does it show in your proposal?
- How is the movement of people (traffic structure) in Zatec today and how do you make use of the existing movement pattern to feed your areas of intervention with people, creating public life?
- Describe some of the spatial qualities in your proposal?

I evaluate handed thesis with classification grade **D - satisfactory.**

Date: **29.5.2023**

Signature:

