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Posudek k diplomové práci Bc. Lucie Mejsnarová

The theme of the diploma work of Ms. Bc. Lucie Majšnarová was the design of a pavilion for pandas and golden snub-nosed monkeys (Langur čínský), including the visitor's route, restaurant, and souvenir shop, to be situated in Prague Zoo.

The design of a pavilion for animals is an interesting and challenging task for an architect. There are no established building types from which to derive examples and inspiration. Thus, the concept and final working out of the design must follow from systematic analysis of the brief, living conditions of pandas and monkeys, and characteristics of the site. The design must not simply follow from the analysis, however, but also needs to have an appropriate expression of the building, and it must provide the visitors with a satisfying experience of the animals. Additionally, the materialization, detailing, and budget for an animal pavilion are on a different level than for regular buildings.

The design by Ms. Bc. Lucie Majšnarová succeeds on all required levels. She has created a circulation path for the visitors that offers diverse relationships with the terrain, and at the same time segregates the required areas for the animals. The interior functional spaces are laid out well and reduce walking distances for the staff. The building integrates in the terrain in a good way; it is neither dominating nor too utilitarian. The selection of materials and details is kept simple and without too complex and expensive solutions. I would raise a minor objection to the symbolic gate structure at the entrance; although it could be a Chinese "paifang" (gate to a district), it more resembles a Japanese "torii" (gate to a Shinto shrine). The latter reference is inappropriate both in terms of region (Japan instead of China) and symbolism (religious instead of secular).

To conclude, the project of pavilion for pandas and golden snub-nosed monkeys is an appropriate solution that offers attractive space for animals and people in a convincing and realistic manner. For this reason, I propose for the project the mark 'A.'

Yours sincerely,

doc.Dr.Ir. Henri Achten