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Téma diplomové práce: Výzkumné centrum umělecké sbírky rodu Lobkowicz

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The intervention in the patrimony it must be based in the deep analyses of its history, and posteriorly followed with critic evaluation. This evaluation drives the architect to find the best historical, plastic and aesthetics options as an answer to the architectural problematic. The proposed solution is in fact an answer to the present needs, which has to reorganize the preexistence. The critic approach and the architectural resolution, influenced by the existing, should affirm and merge the past with the present.

The project of Lobkowicz art collection research center it is a challenging task, which requires an absolute understanding of the urban, historical, landscaping and goals of the architectural assignment. This diploma project comprehends the research of the local conditions, as the urban development of Nelahozeves along the past centuries related with a clear understanding of the 16th century renaissance Nelahozeves Castle location. The morphology of the site it is graphically explained which drives the reader to a profound awareness of the challenging spot.

The proposed solution follows roughly the existing geometrical principles and proportions, which define the methodology of the process. The respect towards the existing drives the author to key answers, which are aligned with the present building and landscape. Using an accurate method of being without imposing its presence, the spot is defined aside an existing building, where the visible part above the ground is placed in the border between the flat ground and the woods. The solution seems to be in the first interpretation unexpected, even it seems to be hidden, however as a way out of the complexity of the program and site, ends up in a plausible judgment. Was this a strategy since the beginning? Or there were other possible ways how to solve it?

The proposal for the research center becomes a pragmatic solution which follows the existing landscape structure, nevertheless with the new expression and materiality. The visible part of the building it imprints the shape and proportions of the existing building "Kočárovna" and the underground it is used as a solution for the archive. The buildings above the ground have a volumetric relation between them, but in terms of functions the new one should carry all the required technical facilities for the research center. The mentioned intention of preservation and unclear future use of the existing building "Kočárovna", is very gently touched by the author who suggested a new door for the visitors towards the prime area of the castle, looking almost as a provocation or input for future resolution. Which program could be added in the future, and how it could be complementary of the research center?

The new building allows the users a clear flow through the spaces, where the main atrium organizes the horizontal or vertical connections, allowing as well the visual relations with all the functions and main rooms. Visitors are allowed to enter on the ground level around the pedestrian level of the gardens, underground is possible to access to exhibition hall, the functions are obviously separated. The section BB' it is an elucidative representation of overall solution. The relation between the new spaces in the research center and the hierarchy of the buildings are presented clearly. It seems in this approach a respectable attitude towards the existing buildings and landscape.

In general, the proposal comprehends the history and adds an extra value to the site, and the most important, without being obsessive. Nowadays, in general, architects tend or are tended to create new buildings which clear compete with the existing ones. Occasionally these solutions are generating benefits to the past buildings, however, at the present time there are numerous examples of doubtful decisions, which just not bother the ancient, but even more compromise their future existence. In this diploma, the author's approach preserves the present, without compromising 500 years of history and the future development of the site. The research center comes to be part of entire "body" of Nelahozeves Castle.

Prague, 30.01.2018

Marco Maio, Arch.