Review diploma work Idil Kücük
Prof.dr.ir. Henri Achten

Theme of work:
Mixed Use Building - Office + Community Centre, Prague

Diploma Summer semester 2018-2019

The diploma project by Idil Kücük is the design for a mixed use building on a current mixed empty parcel with additional secondary buildings and parking along 5. května street. The goal of the program for the design is to offer not only office spaces, but also community space for the surrounding residential area and catering services. The concept of the block is a slightly staggered configuration of three sections, with five, six, and seven floors. The sections with five and six floors offer tennis facilities on the roof. The central section houses the community centre on the first two levels, after which the rest of the building are offices. Between the three sections are two atriums that offer vertical circulation and access to the sections. In order to offer flexible use of office space for different kinds of tenants, spaces reach out across the atrium - in particular between sections of six stories and seven stories. The ground floor zone towards the park is dedicated to catering that serves both the community centre, office spaces, and the public. The façade towards 5. května street is mostly office space (except for the community space levels). Detailed information about the façade solution is missing. The renderings show floor-to-ceiling high glazed panels.
The overall layout of the floors is adequate, but there are several points
with minor issues. For example, placing a piano in the atrium does not work well with office spaces because of the sound; no toilets on second level of community centre; and no dressing/shower rooms for people who want to play tennis on the roof levels.

The concept of the building keeps to basic typology of office building with firm separation of zones that are mono-functional: community centre, catering, and office buildings. There is no influence between the various zones; for example, creative industries working in the office area could have more intensive connection with the community centre or have occasion to showcase and interact with visitors and possible clients. In my opinion, this is a missed opportunity, since work culture and office spaces will tend to become more hybrid and need more diversity in the future to stay economically feasible and connect to work- and live-styles of employees.

To conclude, the project is worked out adequately, but stays within a philosophy of office buildings that most likely is outdated. Based on this evaluation, I propose that the diploma work of Idil Kücük should be passed, with mark ‘D’ – Satisfactory.

Thank you for your consideration,

Henri Achten