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Review diploma work Shohei Nozawa

Prof.dr.ir. Henri Achten

Theme of work:

Office in BB Centrum, Prague

Diploma Summer semester 2018-2019

The diploma project by Shohei Nozawa is the design for an office building on a current mixed empty parcel with additional secondary buildings and parking along 5. května street. The goal of the project is to offer a variety of rentable office spaces in a single building volume to several companies. Additional goal of the project is to informal spaces between main volumes of the building to allow for meeting opportunities between employees of one or more companies.

The total volume of the building is broken up into four parts dedicated to office space, and irregular connection and vertical circulation space between the main parts. At the west side, the building is the lowest, to allow for sunlight accessing the park on the north side. The volumetric development is logical and fits well with the site.

The façade towards 5. května street has a pattern of closed panels that varies in density. The reason for the variety is unclear, and is in fact counter-productive at the areas where it blocks against outward view and sunlight for the office workers. The façade towards the park and north-side is kept open maximally, to allow visual relations from the building interior to the outside. Details for the façade treatment are missing.

The shared spaces between the main parts are relatively small. They provide

interesting and valuable outdoor space where they connect to terraces. In the other cases, their proportion is more of over-sized circulation areas near the toilets.

The ambition of variation in office space that leads to attractive amenities for the companies is difficult to find in the floor plans. Most of the plans is filled in with small variation of table layouts. Contemporary elements that are suitable for creative industry and start-up companies, like relaxation rooms, work-out areas, conference space, small labs or workshops, are missing in the plan. The overall expression of the façade suggests more a "one company" office building than a collective space of multiple smaller firms together in one building.

To conclude, the project is worked out adequately, but misses opportunities to create a design that is more suitable for start-ups, which need more variation in space, and expression of a dynamic firm culture. Based on this evaluation, I propose that the diploma work of Shohei Nozawa should be passed, with mark 'D' - Satisfactory.

Thank you for your consideration,



Henri Achten