PALATA Community Centre

The multi-functionality of the construction programme of the assignment presents some challenge for the student, while offering the opportunity to engage with similar typologies on such a prestigious property. The assignment expects from a student, both to deal with the genius loci, as well as to design a building or complex of buildings that meet the requirements for the use of different age group of users (children, teenagers, adults and seniors). The next challenge is topography – the height difference on the property is over seventeen metres.

The author presents for the second defence of the diploma project a revised documentation of her concept based on a set of objects with associated functions gathered around a central square / newly created plaza. The buildings are connected by a common floor below the ground level where the parking is located.

The urban design, size and shapes of the individual objects of the proposed complex react to the specifics of the site and their arrangement allows pleasant walkability through the territory. The author responded to the received comments and offers a developed solution with functional layouts and clear communication inside individual buildings, including the connection of buildings with outdoor space. Objects communicate better with each other, and the proportional and functional relationships of individual buildings are well thought out. The central area of the square contains an offer to sit in the shade. Due to the functions of the kindergarden and youth centre, the design of outdoor space solutions still lacks at least a hint of an offer for active leisure time of different generations by the user (e.g. playground for younger and older children, activity space for young people, outdoor gym, track for petanque). However, the elaborate visualisations show thoughtful work with the terrain of the extensive Palata garden and the proposed network of footpaths. From the previous comments, perhaps only outdoor short-term parking for visitors remains unresolved. The chosen architectural expression and facade design would deserve more care, however, the design of the exterior facade cover is considered and illustrated in the presented detail. My question for the author is to explain the sustainable strategy of the proposed complex of buildings.

The author developed her design and was able to tackle both the typology and the content part with an interesting conceptual solution. I recommend the diploma thesis for the defense.

Grade: B

in Prague 28. 01. 2021

Ing. arch. Mirjana Petrik, PhD