

Theme: **Palata Community Centre, Prague 5**

Author: **Arch. Anđela Ratković**

The author prepared her diploma project of the Community Centre in the summer semester of the 2019/20 academic year. Due to serious shortcomings, she did not defend successfully her thesis before the Commission for the Defence of Diploma Theses. The Commission recommended that the thesis be completed and supplemented.

Urbanism and architecture

In her proposal, the student preserved the original successful concept based on a cluster of smaller masses, between which public pedestrian routes pass connecting the area with the surrounding streets and the Palata Home's park. These routes intersect in the middle and between the buildings form a small square, a communal centre - a meeting place allowing access to individual buildings.

Working with scales is also successful. The cluster of buildings looks compact on the outside and suitably complements the larger buildings at the foot of Strahov Hill (Palata Home, Pernikářka and other estates), while the size of the buildings themselves reflects the prevalent volume of the residential buildings in the vicinity.

The architecture of sloping roofs with skylights and sober cladding of buildings, on higher floors complemented by a suspended cladding of perforated steel panels, is appropriately chosen not only in relation to the surroundings, but also to the purpose of the building.

Functional and layout solution

The newly designed functional and layout solution, including a clear and logical location of entrances to individual buildings, is well conceived and meets the requirements for conflict-free and safe operation. The author logically places public functions (nursery and library) on the western side of the plot in connection to Na Hřebenkách and U Okrouhlíku Streets. On the southern side of the area, in a more remote place, there is the Youth Centre building, which is in contact with Na Hřebenkách Street and at the same time opens its orientation to the park of the Palata Home. A quiet and visually protected environment is offered by the building of the Centre for the Elderly located in the northeast. Common areas on the ground floor of the Centre are oriented to the square; living on the upper floors offers views of the surrounding greenery.

Unlike the original design, the dominant skylights are reflected in the floor plan and offer interesting interior design options. However, this conceptually successful design is not convincingly documented in the visualization of interiors, which feel dim and unwelcoming.

The organization of parking, including options of entry to the car park, is rational compared to the original proposal.

Construction technical solution


The basic construction system, height relations in regards to the terrain and the detail characterizing the building envelope were completed to a sufficient extent.

Conclusion

The diploma thesis keeps the original high-quality conceptual design, which was amended in both material and functional and layout solutions. A number of visualizations were added to the design that sufficiently document the spatial and height connections to the surrounding environment. The Commission's comments were taken into account in the submitted project. I recommend the diploma thesis for second defence.

Grade: **A**

Prague, on 24. 1. 2021



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