

Review of the dissertation supervisor

Thesis author: Ing. arch. Bard Rama

Supervisor: doc. Ing. arch. Dalibor Hlaváček, Ph.D.

Title of thesis: **Ecodistricts – principles of planning and designing based on case studies**

Relevance of the topic

The topic of the thesis is very relevant, it focuses on "ecodistricts" as a concept of urban neighbourhood planning, which aims to comprehensively integrate the principles of sustainable design into a coherent urban whole. Recent developments confirm the shift in focus on sustainability from the individual house to larger complexes. The efficiency of ecological elements of buildings, public space and infrastructure is multiplied by the use in larger series and the application of more complex systems. In many European countries, housing complexes have already been realised in which different forms of housing, materials and technical infrastructure have been experimented with. Mapping the experience gained is a prerequisite for their application in new solutions, which are lacking in the Czech Republic.

Objectives of the work and chosen methods

The process of the research consisted of three basic steps - collection and structuring of available information, selection of 3 specific case studies and their detailed analysis including interviews with their inhabitants and final synthesis of the obtained knowledge.

Evaluation of the work

The topic of the thesis is closely related to the focus of the Institute of Design II and is an extension of a number of previous dissertations and is a suitable study material for students, municipalities, professionals and the general public. The thesis focuses on specific aspects of eco-neighbourhoods and is a valuable source of information. An essential aspect of the thesis is also the analysis and evaluation of ecodistricts based on local surveys and communication with residents. Thus, it can be a source of feedback on the extent to which the expectations and visions that the creators of these districts had have been fulfilled over time.

The formal arrangement of the work

The dissertation has a clear and legible structure and is clearly laid out to meet the requirements for a dissertation. I would have welcomed more emphasis on visual documentation (larger pictures, more extensive drawings), which would have helped to explain the text part better. In some parts of the thesis, I would have appreciated a more precise expression of the dissertant. The annotation in the Czech language needs proofreading. The graphic design is at a good level, but could be more ambitious.

Final evaluation

The author has succeeded in conceiving a research work that develops his erudition in the field of sustainable architecture. The thesis is based on a systematic study of a large number of sources and physical examination of selected case studies and is a good starting point for further exploration of the topic. I see room for improvement especially in more precise work with the text. Overall, I assess the thesis as well prepared, recommend the dissertation for defence and that, on the basis of a successful defence, Ing. arch. Bardhylu Ram to be awarded the degree of Ph.D.

doc. Ing. arch. Dalibor Hlaváček, Ph.D.