

DIPLOMA PROJECT: science centre Prague

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Academy year : 2016/17, summer
student: Diana Kovacevic

Brief commentary

The student designed a new media science center in Prague Holešovice district.

Design commentary

Layout and architectural solution

The design follows new trends in introducing technical sciences to general public. Similarities with successful projects like Technomania in Liberec or Ars electronica in Linz are only welcome in this case. Prague does not have any facility like this until today in the same time there is a big shortage of leisure time activities opportunities in the city.

Diana has chosen the brief after an elaborate study of the district history with rich industrial heritage especially in aeronautical activities dating back to WW I times.

The place chosen is one of the missed opportunities in the city which deserves a programme as ambitious as this.

Aeronautical museum designed in a up to date way would be a welcomed difference besides venerable but too much old school and a bit dusty venues in National Technical Museum or Aerospace Museum at the Kbely airport.

A vast space of the museum hall surrounding two internal islands with more discrete expositions offers space for real size items suspended in mid air. The visitors can admire the exhibits from spiral ramps surrounding the "islands". The space frame façade of the main exhibit hall is inspired with the geodetic structure of pre war aeroplanes evoking tradition still present in today's aerospace structures.

Small exhibition halls workshops and auditorium offer detailed information and events supporting interest of young visitors in machinery and design.

General scale of a "Palace over the Vltava river" follow models of the more traditional objects upstream. I can imagine a bit more elaborate work with public space on the embankment and detail of the structure but the good feeling of the outcome prevails.

Structural solution

Basic steel structure of the perimeter screen can be solved in a more detailed way, but the example shown in the portfolio explains the solution on satisfactory level. Maybe an anti flood solution within the design could be better described. Anyway the site is already defended by the existing city system.

Conclusion

The student has chosen very ambitious task and proposed a very complex solution supported by an extensive research. The size and complexity of the design proves Diana is ready for the not so easy work of the architect today.

I propose to evaluate both the size and execution of the design with an

A - level

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