

Review of the Diploma Project

Škoda Museum

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This diploma thesis deals with the project of the Museum for Škoda Auto in Michle. Other complementary facilities of the Museum include café, gallerie, lecture halls, and the corporate outlet. This is an academic task as the carmaker already owns a museum in Mladá Boleslav which plans to significantly expand and modernize. However, location in Prague is not an utopian idea and would bring certain benefits. This would reinforce the brand's prestige especially with regard to a suitable selected plot.

The site is located in the immediate vicinity of the north-south highway. This significant phenomenon largely defines the way of shaping the house and its location. Longitudinal elongated mass placed close to the highway ensures the elimination of its negative influence. It creates a quieter free space that builds on the newly created park into which the building is operationally oriented. On the side of the park, the building is more rugged and fits into the surroundings. This is facilitated by the fact that the bulk of the building with lecture halls is embedded below the terrain level and continuously follows it through an outdoor staircase and a grassy roof. The other side of the building towards the highway is uninterrupted. On this side, the entire building will be perceived primarily from the perspective of moving cars. This is a different principle of the perception of the scale. The area of this facade should ideally serve as an advertising banner for a museum or car factory itself. It would therefore deserve greater attention when designing.

The layout of the museum is based on the intention to create one continuous line for visitors from the beginning of the exhibition to its end. The advantage is the possibility of the smooth "telling" and clarity of the exposition. The disadvantage is the lower variability, which is not however necessary in the case of a museum for a single car manufacturer. Exhibition areas are well-arranged also thanks to the atrium located in the center of the exposition. The visitor gets to the the beginning of the exposition on the highest floor through lifts. Their location could be handled with a better accessibility within the entrance hall. Narrow layout provides plenty of natural light for exposed subjects. However, there is a question of how to prevent inappropriate direct sunlight coming into the interior.

The diploma project is processed responsibly, based on a very detailed search and analytical part. The author also dealt with the development of museum typology, exhibition techniques and engineering principles and also the history of the carmaker itself.

The overall quality of the project is good, I appreciate the sophisticated and functional operating solution together with a corresponding and rational construction system. On the other hand, the project could be further elaborated especially with regard to the facade and the impact of the house on its surroundings.

In the view of facts specified above, I evaluate this diploma thesis with the grade C.

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