

diploma project: **IMMERSIVE, EXPERIMENTAL AND SENSORY CENTER FOR CHILDREN**
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date: June 2018

Objective

The main aim of the project is to support natural and sensory development of children. The basis is to stimulate curiosity and creativity in children with an emphasis on learning through their own sensory experiences. The project is conceived as a centre for free and spontaneous exploration, experimentation and discovery supporting individual talents and creativity of the children.

Analytical part

The analysis start with general view of Prague islands, their historical and contemporary context within the city and then focus on the Štvanice Island in detail. In this part of the project would be useful to say why the Švanice Island was chosen for the project itself, was there any particular reason behind this decision?

The analysis of Štvanice Island are compiled in detail, including the history, geography (flood zones, sound map and important views), transport, functionality and description of every building on the island (classicist villa, stadium, tennis courts, skate park, art nouveau water power plant).

The axonometric schemes clearly describe all parts of the analysis mentioned previously in text and photographs.

Programme

The proposed building represents the sensory and experimental centre for children and youth, coordinates after-school programmes and activities of kids and teenagers (improved study skills, life skills, art, sports and recreation). Proposed facilities support stimulate learning about the world: sound studio, film/video studio, observation room, sensory garden and others. The programme is a true challenge for the design of the multifunctional building.

A study about the spaces for children as a specific field of design is backed up on examples of the Ernesto Balducci music atelier and Loris Malaguzzi international centre.

The construction and landscape system are described in this part of the programme too.

Design concept

The design focused on three established goals:

First: the emphasis on the characteristic view on Prague castle and the waterfall

Second: the nearby villa Štvanice, a protected cultural monument and the interaction between villa and newly designed building

Third: the approach from Hlavkův Bridge and the intention to bring visitors to the river through the building.

All these goals are clearly displayed on an axonometric schemes of the western part of the island.

The project defined the goals, the site and the programme and tried to combine them all into a meaningful, functional result. The design works with the terrain, different views and directions and react on the surrounding elements. Placing plaza between the "old villa" and "new building" is a great sample how to create new potentially successfully used public space. The designed project use various levels, slopes, ramps, green roof with the view towards Prague castle and unusual playground to achieve an interesting impression of the complex. The building inner space organisation naturally leads towards the north-west garden, water sports club and the existing water power plant.

Utility/Layout

The centre is divided into three major volumes: first faced towards western view, second to the east towards villa and third in between them. The entrance is clearly defined in the centre on the ramp and leads towards the core of the building with large open public interior space. Second entrance from the villa is situated on the lower level. The layouts of both levels are carefully designed and propose various spaces for all activities mentioned in the programme.

The façade logically follows the inner functions, however, there is still potential for more radical (or original) interventions. From the visuals the facade looks like as a concrete, but the Detail D1 on page 57 of the portfolio does not show it. So, what is the façade exactly made from?

Presentation

Graphics generally are accurately and carefully provided. The plans, sections and elevations are on a very high graphic level, easily readable and understandable. Despite of some basic dimensions (written unusually in centimetres), the proper scale or the scale ruler is missing.

The external perspective views clearly described the building within the context of the surrounding landscape, existing buildings and views and also contains a specific calm but joyful atmosphere of the proposed children centre. It would be an advantage to provide more perspective views of the interior spaces.

Just a small comment: please read the text in portfolio once again before printing. There are couple of mistakes which devalue the final product.

Conclusion

The thorough analytical part of the project could lead into a conceptual idea of the whole island and elucidate clearly the reason for placing the children centre at this particular site. The hard work on the project is obvious however there is still potential to push the final design further.

Thank you and good luck with your future projects!

Proposed evaluation: A (excellent)

Ing. arch. Klára Doleželová 08/06/2018

