

Master Thesis - Summer term 2019

Theme: "Residence for Artists - Transformation of the former Family Hotel
U Černého koně"
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External reviewer: Ing.arch. Tomáš Hořava

The author deals with the conversion of a former suburban excursion restaurant with lodging into an artists' residence with a wide range of activities including services for local community.

The portfolio's graphic design is very pleasant, minimalist but elegant; it was pleasure to go through. The drawings are comprehensible.

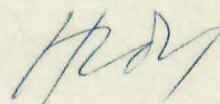
The project is based on an impressive amount of sources and analyses. Project portfolio consists of 70 text pages and all drawings necessary to understand the design (plans, sections, elevations, axonometries and visualizations). The author finds right questions and gives appropriate answers in her effort to establish her proposal on both universal and private history as well as on protecting nameless and vulnerable, but valuable architectural heritage. These concerns result in the decision not only to respect existing structures, but also to utilize unimplemented plans of reconstruction from the 1930'. While this approach can be fully justified, at the same time it may also represent a certain limitation for author's own architectural intervention, as well as for functional and technological solution.

As having been decided in the analytical part, the author respects the existing building's exterior and layout, taking thus full advantage of its poetry of days passed and vernacular coziness. These values are worth of being saved and the author succeeds in doing that. The connection with family roots may seem to be a rather private issue, but when demonstrated as a part of approach to reconstruction it adds a surplus value. Design looks befitting and sound, new parts look natural and logical.

However, some technological aspects of architecture remains undescribed (i.e. materials used, ventilation). The description of functional scheme would be welcome, too: the ground floor layout presents us with some rather disputable issues, which seems to be the result of preferred respect to existing structures. Though it was not a must in the time of building's previous life, a clearer division of "back door" and "front door" building's function would be an asset.

Conclusion: The analytical part of the project, its simple but pleasant rendering and architectural design I find really impressive. At the same time it is for me difficult to evaluate "A", as preferring the intellectual and creative aspects of architecture should not prevent the author from a more profound dealing with technology and function.

Recommended grade of assessment: Very good - B



Ing.arch. Tomáš Hořava
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