

Master thesis evaluation

Summer term 2019

Theme: "Residence for Artists - Transformation of the former Family Hotel

U Černého koně"

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Supervisor: Doc. ing.arch. Petr Kordovský Atelier: Kordovský – Vrbata

Thesis theme commentary

Milena deals the theme as a sort of family history homage due to her Czech roots – her ancestors running a popular Sunday beer garden restaurant on the outskirts of Prague since the end of 19th century.

The property, now in a rather derelict state but in the family possession again – with a not so easy situation to decide what to do.

Milena's design tries to renew the atmosphere of the former small hotel – btw it served as an artist residence already for some time before the war – both in the restoration part and garden renewal.

Extensive research – which maybe may overshadow the design itself a bit – is an abundance of documents, photos and stories of a family fate through the 20th century. A sample of a multifaceted life of Prague.

Design

Based on this research Milena builds her design of a rather humble, almost invisible restoration based on "objets trouvés" and remains of the on site old glory.

Basic idea of Artist in Residence hotel with individual "nests" for shorter or longer stays, with carefully weighted interventions to the structure of the house and character of the garden is executed with humble clarity and attention to detail, we know from Milena's previous projects in our studio. It restores the atmosphere of old postcards – maybe Josef Sundeck's photographs.

The feeling of responsibility to family heritage may have tied the wings of the design (and we know how painful was the process...), but the clarity of the idea together with down to the earth responsible approach resulted in pleasant simple drawings describing the idea.

Furniture design based on pieces found on place and old photographs is a nice example of this responsibility.

It is not easy to set up a fire from wet wood which is the case here in my opinion – for the original house was anything but a piece of art. The approach of the architect invented a new world which is more an intellectual reconstruction of the idea, of family recollections rather than reconversion of the old structure. It is both a salvation and damnation of the design. I tend to call it salvation for I know the story of the project and the designer quite close. Let us appreciate those values before the strict technical issues. These are simple to find and criticize – restaurant circulation both guests

and staff issues to name just one. Maybe some more technical construction detail should be described but still I found the design a clear and simple example of how an architect should express his or her honest and humble approach to the design process.

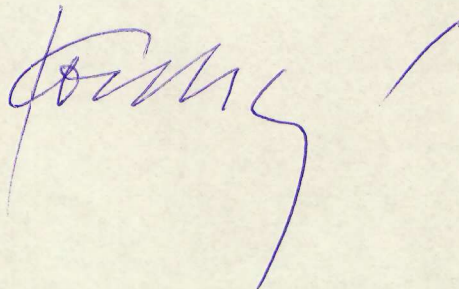
There is nothing more complicated than to design for your own family...

Milena did it with empathy and responsibility in a clear design and graphics rarely seen in a Thesis Project.

My recommended grade of assessment:

Excellent – A

Petr Kordovský

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Petr Kordovský', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.