

EVALUATION: DIPLOMOVÉ PRÁCE

Student: Zuzana Vrbková
Project: Městská Tržnice Florenc
Ústav Prostorového plánování, 15121
Advisor: Henry W. A. Hanson IV
Opponent: ing. Arch. Zdeněk Fikar
January 23, 2013

The following summarizes the evaluation of the diploma work at its completion and is based on the documents submitted. Additional consideration is given to the student's development through the process. It is noted that this diploma project did not have a diploma seminar preceding.

Completeness:

This design proposal wrestles with a particularly complex set of problems. Significant effort in untying complex transportation infrastructure was necessary in order to clean much of the complexity of the site used for the proposal. This was accomplished with significant effort and consultation with transportation experts.

Concept:

The intention of providing a market for fresh, local foods in a highly accessible location in Prague is understood to be the primary goal of the project. Certainly, Florenc as a transportation nexus is a highly trafficked place in the City. Rather than simply placing the market function in an existing public space, this proposal endeavors to first create a site that is appropriate for a new public space with a market as an integral part. This concept also recognizes the dynamics of change in the City and supports future opportunities for development rather than creating barriers to it.

Ecological Response:

The ecological response is an integral component of the concept with internal and external contributions, largely focused on the food systems. Fundamental to the concept is the integration of transparent food systems and urban culture, thereby reducing environmental impact with locally grown, processed and consumed food in a celebratory place.

Social Equity:

Social integration is a critical role of public space. The inclusion of an open market in a new public space reflects on both the historical origins of public space and reconciles with contemporary urban lifestyles.

Design:

Thoughtful analysis and infrastructure planning have created the opportunity to design the market as an integral part of the City, rather than another market island inserted into existing fabric (such as the preceding market). The design succeeds in creating a diverse marketplace in a place that will both serve and attract the public. Given the public nature of the place, opportunities for additional activities are implicit, but not completely developed. Many of the design elements are thoughtfully designed. However, the scale of the space is not completely reconciled with these elements. The real success of the proposal is molding this part of the city into a place for urban life from the maze of infrastructure that divides and disrupts life in the City.

Presentation:

The portfolio represents a small portion of the overall work, some of the missing parts are critical ingredients in the description of the design rationale; therefore, the narrative of the proposal

seems staccato. The illustrations reveal some of the unresolved scale issues commented on above. The anticipated occupancy, in activities and uses is not yet well described in the illustrations further exaggerating the questions of scale.

Conclusion:

As a result of working with the student throughout the development of her proposal it is evident that she possesses the skills necessary to proceed into the professional world, equipped with her academic experiences. Therefore, I recommend Zuzana Vrbková to the Commission.

Evaluation: B, Very Good

Respectfully submitted,

Henry W. A. Hanson IV, RA, RLA LEED AP