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Review diploma work Václav Fál

Doc.dr.ir. Henri Achten

Theme of work:

Sportovní hala, České Budějovice

Diploma Winter semester 2017–2018

Václav Fál designed a new sports hall in České Budějovice on the location of an existing sports hall. The new hall should fulfill requirements of the Federation Internationale de Volleyball and additionally provide facilities for other sports and cultural events. The complex must be designed in two phases of realization; phase I the main hall for 3000 visitors; and phase II additional training hall for 200 visitors and athletic training corridor. Additionally, the building must take into account the flood-risk of the site, which is along the Vltava river. For this reason, main spaces must be lifted above flood-level with the water-protected level under these spaces. This results in a podium solution on which the main building masses are located.

The main hall of phase I is a separate volume from the training hall in phase II. Both halls have a different architectural expression to distinguish between their characters. The building design connects well to the urban environment by extending activities from the park to the roof of the training hall.

For some reason the main plans are drawn with the North orientation down to the South, which makes orientation unclear. Václav Fál has designed the main hall in a non-traditional solution. The main seating areas are only on

the long sides of the playing field, with the short sides having no seating at all. The South wall of the hall opens with large bay-doors, which makes transport to and facilitation of the main space for different activities (sports, fairs, concerts, and so on) very easy. The North wall is the main entrance part that provides double loading in the West and East to the seating areas. In level 3NP this principle leads to isolated areas for gastro on the East and management on the West that have only access points from one side.

The span of the structural system is over the short side of the hall, which is supported by the North and South wall main bearing construction. Thus, the roof structure is kept open without interior columns that block the view of the spectators on the tribunes. The façade of the entry zone is kept maximally open due to the short span of the construction.

Václav Fál's design has an interesting concept of double-sided viewers' seating, that is beneficial in terms of logistics for various activities of the building. The design fits well in the urban context. The architectural expression is fitting for a prestigious sports hall in České Budějovice. Based on the above review, I propose that the project is passed with mark 'A' - Excellent.

Thank you for your consideration,



Henri Achten