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V Praze dne 30. 5. 2019

Review diploma work Sugandha Chaudhary

Prof.dr.ir. Henri Achten

Theme of work:

Hloubětín square revitalisation

Diploma Summer semester 2018-2019

The diploma project by Sugandha Chaudhary is the replacement design of existing facilities on the square facing Hloubětín metro and tram station on the south side of Poděbradská street. The design replaces the current buildings on this location, but retains most of the existing functions in a new scheme.

The urban scheme is reversed in the project, with the new building restoring the street profile along Poděbradská street, and introducing a public square between the residential blocks and the new building. The building acts as a bridge for the tunnel towards the metro and the tram stop across the street. The tunnel is lengthened to flow into the lowered public square.

There is certainly much effort invested in the square part of the building design, but the end scheme is too ambitious and overcrowded in the final result. The available space is relatively small, and there are many things happening in the square with the sloped terrain and bridges. It would work better if a more simplified approach were chosen here.

The existing program at the location is quite fragmented with many functions that do not have coherence. Respecting the existing program leads to a complicated puzzle that has been resolved reasonably well. The façade

principle unifies the building while also articulating the different program elements behind the façade. The triangulation of the façade breaks up the appearance of the building, which is a pity.

The library, elementary school, and shops are well worked out. The transversal staircase subdivides the building mass in two parts, which helps organize the complex programme. The winter garden allows children of the elementary school to play outside during breaks, without the need to leave for a more remote park.

To conclude, the project is worked out well, although a more simplified programme and treatment of the public square are preferable. Based on this evaluation, I propose that the diploma work of Sugandha Chaudhary should be passed, with mark 'C' - Good.

Thank you for your consideration,



Henri Achten