

OPPONENT'S OPINION OF THE DIPLOMA THESIS

Author: ANAGHA POOLOTHVALAPPIL

CTU in Prague
Faculty of Architecture
Department of Architectural Design II

Theme:	EXPERIMENTAL ARCHITECTURAL SCHOOL IN PRAGUE
Head of thesis / Thesis Advisor, Tutor:	Doc. Ing. Arch. Petr Kordovský
Academic Year / Academic Year:	2021/22
Semester:	Summer
Opponent/Opposer:	Doc. Ing. Arch. Luboš Knytl

Relationship to the assignment:

The conversion of the original industrial building into a school of architecture is commissioned. At the beginning of the whole portfolio there is a rather extensive analytical part, which is the basis for the decision-making phase of the project.

In this sense, the assignment is fully fulfilled, the work contains all the required components.

Relationship between analysis and project:

The analyses became a real inspiration for the author. The assignment was to design a very complex school. With spaces for theoretical and practical teaching, spaces for meeting and relaxation, spaces for accommodation.

The author inserted the complex assignment into the existing structure with an attempt to use not only the structure but also the atmosphere of an industrial building.

In my opinion, it has succeeded in meeting these objectives in the project.

Operational solutions:

All functions (except parking) are inserted into the original industrial hall. They form a jumble of functional units and environments. This can create a sense of looseness, but also of continuous action. The atmosphere is certainly interesting. The only thing I find a bit problematic is the very strong integration of student accommodation into the other operations of the school. I think it would be a bit too tiring for the students to be always in, without the possibility to separate from everything for a while.

In my opinion, the single cafeteria is inadequate for a full day of meals for all students. Is there any possibility of catering nearby?

A separate underground garage building is a reasonable solution. However, the construction is a bit impractical. The columns in the corner of the parking lot are obstructive when pulling in, and the two ramps (entrance and exit) are unnecessary with this number of parking spaces.

Architectural design:

The floor plans and visualizations show an attempt to use the atmosphere of an old industrial hall. Open spaces, interesting views, the beauty of the old structure.

It is clear that the author has a very good idea of how the whole structure should work and operate. Unfortunately, in his work he leaves practical issues (acoustics, heating, ...) without much attention. For the next stage of the project this would probably be a problem.

Design concept:

The project shows that the original construction of the hall is used. There is a detail (section and view) on pages 78-79 - in my opinion the section and view are not related. Also, from the section it is not possible to see the progress of the thermal insulation or waterproofing.

The design of the underground garages is not appropriate, but I write about this elsewhere in the report.

Clarity and graphic level of work:

The work is logically and clearly arranged.

The chosen graphics are simple, perhaps even schematic. For example, the same thickness of the ceiling structure between the two floors is used in the sections as the roof structure (which also has thermal insulation, roof slope layers, etc.).

The visualizations give a very good idea of the expected atmosphere in the building.

Overall rating:

The work is complete, it meets all the requirements of the assignment.

It presents a possible view of the solution to a given problem.

I consider its weakness to be the overlooking of some technical aspects.

I found no fundamental errors in the work. The shortcomings in the technical design would probably complicate the next stage of the project, but could probably be solved.

The work is interesting, the architectural design is successful.

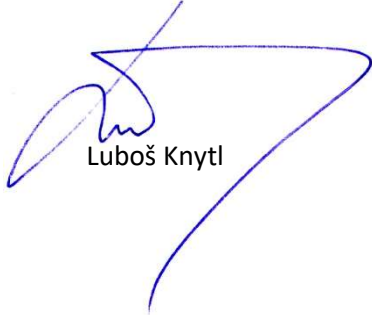
Overall, I rate it

B - very good.

Defence questions:

1. Why are the underground garages connected by two ramps? Isn't this solution unnecessarily expensive?
2. Please present the expected composition of the flat roof on the lateral parts of the building.
3. Why did you decide to integrate student accommodation so significantly into the other operations of the school? Did you consider other solutions?

Prague, 3.6.2022



Luboš Knytl