

diploma project: **“Waldorf Preschool for Bulovka Community”**

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Objective

Following the design principles of Waldorf education, the thesis proposes a Waldorf preschool which would be located within hospital area in Bulovka, Prague 8 - Libeň. This thesis focuses on finding a new way to design preschools, which enables children to discover themselves and the nature. The thesis highlights the principles of Waldorf education, its effect on architecture of the building and the author's design ideas.

Analytical part

The analytical part of the project (first 32 pages of the thesis) is dedicated to the Czech preschool education system, the history of Waldorf education method, and the built environment of Waldorf school, including general design principles for this type of buildings and two case studies (Dobříň, Leipzig).

It gives a strong fundament for the design process.

Project location

The project location (page 66-104) is very detailed described; it gives a clear explanation of the current stage including all possible pluses and weaknesses of the site.

Small comment: Project location (page 82-85) with photographs of the current stage could be better described if the positions of taken pics will be describe with "view angle".

Design concept

The building is divided into 2 functional parts: admin/staff and the activity area. The design consists five classrooms so the activity area was divided in five parts and then tilted a little bit to face the river which is an important aspect of the design.

The diagrams (page 106-113) clearly described the design process and main design principles.

For better understanding the layout plans would be useful to add square metres for each room label. The sections are drawn very schematically; especially the load-bearing construction should be drawn in more elaborate detail.

Generally from the plans, it seems the building is large and luxurious in square metres use. The usage of the corridor/common space is questionable and deserves more attention while designing it. The position of entrance is questionable. Also the length of the way of kids coming from the main entrance through the first and then the second corridor to the last classroom is approx. 65 metres long journey..

The sections are drawn very schematically; especially the load-bearing structure and all structures in section should be drawn in more elaborate detail (not only thick black lines). At least basic dimensions would be appreciated.

Is the height of the classrooms (approx. 4 metres) really necessary?

The selection of natural materials (mostly timber) is highly appreciated. Why the concrete was chosen for the load-bearing structure and then mostly clad in wood? Was the timber load-bearing structure also taken into consideration during the design process?

The landscape design of the various open building spaces is not very detailed. The little gardens with the same design do not show any variability, optional connections between themselves. The sizes of the external space generally seems quite small in relation of the building.

Presentation

Graphics generally are accurately provided. The plans, sections and elevations are on an average graphic level. At least some basic dimensions in the sections will help to understand the scale and the size properly.

The external and internal perspective views show the joyful atmosphere of the proposed children centre.

Conclusion

The hard work on the project, especially the analytical part, is obvious however there is still potential to push the final design further. Thank you and good luck with your future projects!

Proposed evaluation: C (good)

Ing. arch. Klára Doleželová 30/05/2022