

EVALUATION: DIPLOMA PROJECT

Student: Bc. Beyza Uzun
Project: "Waldorf Preschool for Bulovka Community"
Ústav: Prostorového plánování, 15121
Advisor: Henry W. A. Hanson IV
Opponent: Klara Doleželová
June 2, 2022

Introduction:

The following review is based on the timely submission of a portfolio, poster and models in accordance with the submission requirements and the assignment.

Portfolio:

The portfolio is well organized and provides a thoughtful explanation of the history and philosophy of Rudolf Steiner. From this research the author has developed a reasonable architectural program for the project with sufficient detail on the organizational and programmatic requirements of both interior and exterior spaces. Additionally, the case studies offer insight into how these principles have been applied in real projects including in the Czech Republic. Unfortunately, the author was not able to visit a Waldorf school in the region due to Covid pandemic requirements.

There are a few deficiencies in the portfolio that diminish its legibility.

- Diagrams of the architectural program would help explain the relationships, orientations and characteristics.
- There are numerous images in the portfolio that are of low resolution.
- Many of the images are not clearly referenced
- The location and orientation of the visualizations are not identified.
- The graphics of the visualizations are somewhat inconsistent with the qualities of the architecture as described in the program and narrative text.

Research & Analysis:

The research of Waldorf education and schools is thorough and detailed. The author has invested significant effort in understanding the particularities of the Waldorf paradigm. This research is reasonably presented and easy to follow, although at times somewhat redundant.

There is not an ideal site; however, the site selected offers multiple benefits; the least vehicularly active location in the Bulovka hospital complex, reasonable pedestrian access for the parents walking to and from the school, etc. It may be helpful to identify the liabilities of this site. It would also be of value to the hospital complex to offer some off site improvement recommendations; for example, modifications to the pedestrian network to eliminate all high risk areas for pedestrians (as identified on the pedestrian safety plan, page 86).

Inclusion of the topography on more of the plans would be helpful.

The Design Proposal:

The diagrams suggest both the exterior garden spaces and interior gallery spaces have a similar relationship with the individual class rooms. Given the climatic conditions, there may be more that can be developed in this pair of spaces to enhance their relationship with the classrooms. Identification/differentiation of circulation space and the multiple uses it serves are a bit unclear in the diagrams.

The use and detailing of the exterior materials is rather underdeveloped. Although the use of wood is appreciated, it should be used in a more explicit, meaningful way; not as paint. There are other construction materials that are used that could be considered for exposure; concrete or possibly exposing insulated concrete blocks where the walls are masonry. There is also an absence of stone, certainly an appropriate material in the Waldorf school. It would be helpful if there was an additional section describing where different materials are used and their role in architectural vocabulary.

The edge where the individual gardens meets the surrounding landscape is shown as a straight edge, separating the school from the surroundings rather than integrating them. A more natural edge condition should be considered.

Although the visualizations are very helpful in communicating the spatial qualities, they seem to be missing some of the intended qualities described in the beginning of the design section. One area in particular comes to mind, the intimate corner area in each classroom seems ripe with potential, yet it remains rather nondescript in the visualizations as well as the building volumes design.

Although the diagrams are very helpful, it seems to be missing the final level of the spatial disposition of individual spaces within the classroom.

Conclusion:

It has been a pleasure to work with Beyza through her study at the Faculty of Architecture. She is clearly a thoughtful and sensitive young designer. Beyza has demonstrated a very good command of the design process with the development of this diploma proposal. In my opinion this demonstrates her preparedness for the profession of architecture.

Therefore, my evaluation of the Diploma Project of Beyza Uzun is B; Very Good.

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