Diploma review Lenka Tkadlecova

The author has chosen a topic that has not yet been studied so comprehensively. In it, she explores the potentials of Prague's train stations and stops as public open spaces and develops exemplary concepts for the further development of selected places. This approach involves working at very different scales, which the author basically succeeds in doing.

In a very comprehensive analysis, all railroad stations in Prague are documented and presented in their inventory. This part leads indeed shows the diversity of the places and compiles important data. However, some criteria relevant for planning, e.g. existing deficits or the spatial integration into the surroundings, can partly only be taken from photos and are not explained in an evaluative way.

It is interesting to note the categorization of the railroad stations in relation to the urban development situation in the center, urban area or periphery. This can help to develop similar concepts for comparable planning tasks.

An important part of the work is the derivation of planning principles from the analytical data. The division into ecological, spatial and functional principles is correct and facilitates the design work that follows. While the content presented here is fundamentally correct, most of it can apply to any type of project. It would have been desirable if the author had gone into more detail here about specific planning principles. For example, barrier-free development, bicycle infrastructure are important issues in this type of task and could be explained a bit more specifically.

Using the principles presented, a subsequent chapter develops three exemplary projects that were very conclusively selected for this purpose. They show three different typologies of railroad stations along one line and have been studied in another analytical part, specific to each one. This, too, is very carefully elaborated and demonstrates the potentials and deficits of the individual locations.

In the individual designs, the author succeeds in reconciling well the general planning principles developed earlier and the specific requirements of the site. This results in designs with convincing proposals that deal in particular with functional improvements to enhance the integration of the railroad stations into the urban or landscape environment. In detail, the author demonstrates a good sense of place and space as well as a confident use of landscape architectural vocabulary.

The analysis as well as the planning goals and individual proposals are presented in a well comprehensible way, the easily readable graphics facilitate the understanding of the work. It is somewhat difficult to read the spatial concepts in the individual designs, both in the site plan and in the perspectives. Here, the graphics should not be an end in itself, but should convey the design contents.

Overall, the work is a valuable contribution to the development of an urban design theme that has great potential. The presented principles and examples can be very helpful to develop tasks and concepts for similar places in Prague.

Recommended mark: B

Questions:

- Based on what did you choose the model examples?
- What strategic steps should be done to implement the design? What could be the biggest difficulties?
- How did you take into account specific site parameters (e.g. floods in Modřany, proximity of Natura 2000 site and oppidum in Zbraslav)?

In Prague, 7.6. 2023

Till Rehwaldt