

Diploma review  
**Petra Pchalkova**

With the concept of a child-friendly Jizni Mesto, the author addresses a very current issue of the further development of urban spaces, especially in large housing estates. She examines this topic in a very comprehensive way from both a theoretical and a specific-spatial perspective.

The theoretical part is very broad and explains with the help of extensive materials the specific needs of children, especially the definition of child-friendly urban spaces. However, already in this part a much wider approach is visible, which names the demands of all age groups on public space. This shows the universal understanding of the author, who does not limit herself with the choice of the topic but considers the public space in its entirety. Thus, she is able to develop universally valid standards, the application of which needs not be limited to the territory of Jizni Mesto. Also interesting, for example, are the comments on the use of digital media and the plea for the use of physical, "real" forms of play.

Equally interesting is the chapter devoted to the diverse aspects of gaming. Based on an extensive analysis of the literature as well as built examples, a categorization of playing is developed, which is a very well-founded and generally usable basis for specific projects. Very valuable in this context is also the brief overview of the history of play.

The district of Jizni Mesto, which the author has chosen for the exemplary conception of child-friendly spaces, is explained very thoroughly and well comprehensibly, as are the standards. Correctly, at this point, especially the need for reorganization of traffic areas is pointed out as an important prerequisite. Interesting is also the presentation of the sculptures existing in the district, which are, after all, partly also playable objects or spaces.

In the conceptual part of the work, parameters are first worked out that should be taken into account for the development of a child-friendly city. These are well understandable as universal guidelines, as well as transferable to other places; moreover, the author directly establishes the reference to the specific site.

After the very extensive and conclusive preliminary work, the insights gained are transformed into an exemplary spatial design. The author chooses this space carefully, street and square space offer different potentials. In order to give more space to play, parking is limited, which is certainly a correct decision in the long run. Along the street, elements of rainwater harvesting are integrated into the play, while attractive and diverse places to stay are created on the square area. The principle of "green islands" is very well suited to provide individual spaces for the various user groups, and ecological goals can also be pursued in this way. To implement the functional requirements, the author develops an appropriate and very confidently formulated design language. In addition to the functional elements, spatial situations are also visualized very vividly.

With the cafe, a social place of exchange and communication is offered in the south of the square area. The diverse spaces offer equally diverse play opportunities without the need to build a classic playground. However, it is not easy to read this variety of functions also in the site plan of the design, for which, however, a number of explanatory sketches are offered.

Also, in general, the author offers a wide range of supporting illustrations to explain the project in an understandable way. This helps the user navigate well through the wealth of material, although in some cases the graphics, color and typology take on a life of their own.

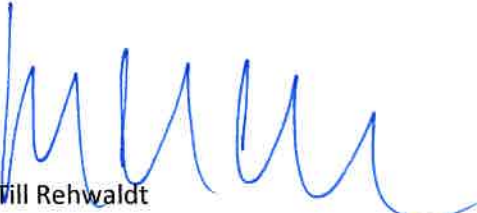
Overall, the project is a successful and complex contribution to the development of the topic, which is based on an extensive and well-developed theoretical part. The author is committed to moving between scales and perspectives, and it is not always easy to keep one's bearings. As a result, however, we see a valuable concept that extends far beyond Jizni Mesto in importance.

Recommended mark: B

Questions:

- What do you think would be the main obstacles while implementing your ideas in Jizni mesto?
- What would be the strategy of implementing the principles? Is it possible to phase them? If yes, how? Is there something that can be done in short term and with no big expenses?

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Till Rehwaldt