

## Opponent's evaluation for Master's diploma project

### Revive & connect your city from above: How layered cities can revive districts

Author of the project: Michal Zapletal, BA

The plaster on our wounds...

Michal's lifted park is explained as a Czech version or evolution of Yona Friedman's provocative project. One could say that Michal brings Yona's project back to the ground. He shows that it is somehow makeable, recyclable, modest and kind. All what, according to some of us, Yona forgot. In that way it reminds me about the Green Dip and the Dutch rooftop festivals...

Michal presents it as a plan B. For Yona? Or for the world? That doesn't become clear. Does anyway this plan B indeed save the world? But it is not an alternative yet in Michal's observation, as it is not applied on more spaces or situations. How much is the further capacity for this approach? Can't it be applied on much more roofs and situations like the green dip and the rooftop calculators are calculating? This would allow for a vast program, for housing, for offices, for water storage, for solar energy, for green (indeed).

But the plan shows some wider aspirations though. The extensive infra network of Prague deserves indeed more attention to solve its incredible paradox. This network wants to connect but in fact it kills connections. The defence mechanism of the tram company is somewhat unkind, irresponsible and out of time. The project serves as an eyeopener.

The tram garages are maybe indeed the easiest places to start. They are everywhere. They need a roof for the repairs, a roof that is big and unused. Michal's operation can be seen as a Trojan horse...

Together these sites form the size of a university, scattered over the city. So, a lot can be done there. A new city could be housed there. Needed for the lack of houses. But Michal decided differently and proposed a park. Smart. Who can be against that?

He kept the existing and added a subtle structure to support this park, like a voodoo tactic. It costs a bit more, but it shows that for a little extra the public company can do more and can be more responsible. Such a company should find that money for it, no? It would give the company much more respect. It makes spatial quality where it has been forgotten or neglected.

The park is programmatically sweet: wellness, a market a track. Indeed healthy. It is designed as a sleepy resort. One that doesn't hurt or harm, but that might be healing, its design puts the people into sleep. Also, here Michal decided to be modest and somehow not visible.

The project thus is practical, sweet and even un-noticeable for the stubborn defenders of their territories. But it is provocative and revolutionary for those that want or are able to see it.

The plan is a gentle and beautiful plaster on our wounds. The architect acting as a polite, servile, medical engineer...

This starts to look like an act of clever modesty that is maybe needed to get a relationship with the harsh world, with the state engineers and politicians.

But is this also politically, correct? This strategy can be seen more these days: a grand international architectural politeness operation.

I am not completely sure how far one should go on with this approach in the future. This kind of defence act also kills fantasies, and wake up calls. Where is the action and the excitement? Where will be the rough critique and the loud yelling? This kindness, this being un-noticeable: is it the burden of this generation, is it an act of survival? And if so... till when, Michal?

**I recommend this Master's diploma project for its defence and propose grade A (excellent).**

Rotterdam, 27 January 2025

Winy Maas