

Evaluation of the Diploma Project by the Opponent

Studio: Stempel – Beneš, Department of Architectural Design I
CTU Faculty of Architecture

Project Author: Bc. Jovana Dodovská

Project Title: VLASTINA PRIMARY SCHOOL, PRAGUE 6

Having studied Jovana Dodovská's diploma project, I can say that the student chose a very difficult assignment full of not only building and architectural, but also historical and socio-economic challenges. I see project as a contribution to the current discussion on how to deal with the architectural heritage of buildings from the past socialist regime. Knowing how badly some projects can turn out and how some have ended, for example, in complete demolition, I see the solution of the project of complete reconstruction of the Vlastina Primary School and the use of what can be used as inspiring and correct. The original building is a representative example of its time in all its positive and negative contexts. Although the building is specific and not of high architectural value, and certainly faces many other structural and technical problems, the student has decided to preserve a large part of the original building and to move its rehabilitated core into a new phase of the school's functioning in a modern social, educational and sustainable context.

However, the purpose of this evaluation is not solely to offer praise, but rather to identify any deficiencies, potential errors, or areas that could benefit from further discussion. I believe that the student's response during the defence of the diploma project will contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the project:

- 1) I understand that the drawings of such a large building, if they are to fit into the dimensions of the presentation portfolio on A4 format, do not allow for more detailed drawings of some parts of the building. It is clear from the nice exterior visualisations that the student has a preconceived idea of the solution. I would like to ask her to explain some of the details better during the defence in order to justify their architectural and structural engineering solution. The visually interesting design of the facades is based on several details that would deserve a more detailed description at least in schematic detail of the implementation of the insulation, the horizontal window blinds on the original building and the new parts with distinctive

metal cladding panels. The only detail that the student drew in the portfolio, the detail of the gymnasium façade, is not properly designed especially in the continuity of the roof and façade insulation. It is also not clear how the student intends to address the vegetated roofing and the drainage of rainwater from the roof. I believe that the student will be able better to explain the principle of architectural and structural design of the facades during the defense.

- 2) In the technical report, the student states that the school reconstruction project includes among many other things the modernisation of the heating and ventilation system. However, the details of the drawings provided do not clarify how this will be achieved. The primary concern is not the involvement of a specialist engineer, but rather the conceptual solution to the issue. In particular, the creation of sufficiently large shafts and technical spaces for the wiring of the installations. I would like to know how student wants to solve this, especially in the existing structure of the original building.
- 3) I'm also missing some interior detail. I really like the central entrance hall breaking through several floors, it's just a pity that this space is not more elaborated in the project. I would also like to see some more detailed colour scheme for the interior of the basic school from the children's point of view, especially with regards to modern ergonomic and material solutions, acoustics and wellbeing. I would like to ask the student for a brief more detailed description of the interior design of the school.

The school design, especially the school reconstruction design, is a very demanding project, particularly in terms of coordination and consideration of multi-disciplinary requirements. Despite some shortcomings, the solution proposed by the student is a step in the right direction, and the structural-technical and architectural concept of the reconstruction is thoughtful and feasible.

I propose to evaluate Jovana Dodovska's diploma project with a grade D.

In Prague, 24 January 2024

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