

The subject of the diploma project is to find a convenient use for the Žižkovy Kasárny in Hradec Králové, currently still listed as property of the Army of the Czech Republic, which would fully exploit the potential of this exceptional building and its courtyard for the development of the city and the building itself. The new use is a combination of functions based on the concept of creative brownfields, which together with the barracks yard, which I am transforming into a new square, aims to create a dynamic space that does not have strict rules but strives to stimulate better perception of public space and Hradec Králové as a city with huge potential.

The current situation of the Barracks is given. Keep waiting until the military decides to leave the facility and then lets see what to do. However, it will probably not happen today, or tomorrow, or, perhaps, not even in a few years. Is that the right state of affairs?

This thesis is not just looking for answers to newly-emerged questions, but tries to put questions instead. Is the current situation of Žižkovy Kasárny appropriate? What can the city do to improve the state of the Barracks? What can the Barracks do to improve the state of the city?

The origin of the Žižkovy Kasárny, an 18th century building, lies in the once powerful Hradec Králové fortress, which has indelibly entered the history of the city. Due to its fortress origin, the Barracks lie right in the heart of the historic center, by the slopes of the medieval town set on the Hradec Hill, which gives them great potential both because of great accessibility and location among the most significant institutions located in the city center.

In order to open the building to the public and benefit the city as much as possible, a combination of functions based on the concept of creative brownfields, representing transformation of brownfields and neglected or abandoned sites to cultural and creative social centers, has been chosen.

The aim was to create a dynamic space, which offers an alternative to official culture which attract people so much, represents a concept of creative brownfields, but at the same time ceases to be a brownfield, is sustainable and fully in line with the concept of Hradec as an emerging city. The concept of cultural and community functions, an incubator, a place supporting innovation and promoting education, a dynamic public space, also provide a substantial vision that has the chance to turn the site into a lively center and adequately change the use of the Barracks to the benefit of the city and its center, which represents a crucial area for the development of the city.

To oppose the current city's attitude towards the public space which seems to be, perhaps, more interested in its appearance than in the actual public life, the concept of defining a basic framework both inside and in the courtyard of the building has been chosen to allow for variable use of space.

In order to bring energy in and around the Barracks, new pedestrian zone is created to the south, new pedestrian crossings are added and the existing extended, to fully exploit the connection of the compound with the main Large Square upon the Hradec Hill via two distinctive staircases, originally designed to connect the Barracks with the main square.

The building is cleaned of later insensitive modifications that erased the original purity of the design, so that the building can again excel in its grandeur.

As a demonstration of the openness of the building and its reuse, all original entrances and arcades are opened and brought to the state at the time of their creation so their exceptional architectural qualities can excel and at the same time the movement across the building and into the courtyard is thus supported. New situation around the building is responded through a new central entrance through the west wing. From an area that is a busy public space, an important public transport stop and a gateway to the city center from the south. The reason for this entry is also the mediation of the monumental visual effect along the long axis of the barracks yard, which is one of the major strengths of the Barracks.

In accordance with the historical orientation of the Barracks to the yard, in order to concentrate energy into the yard and open the relationship between the yard and buildings, between the piazzeta and yard, new entrances in selected areas are opened.

The unique inner courtyard, which is actually a courtyard of the size of a square and a square hidden in the courtyard, is transformed into a new permanently open car-free public space utilizing its courtyard properties, serving as a cultural-community polyfunctional space, meeting space for people of all ages, a venue for hosting open air cultural events.

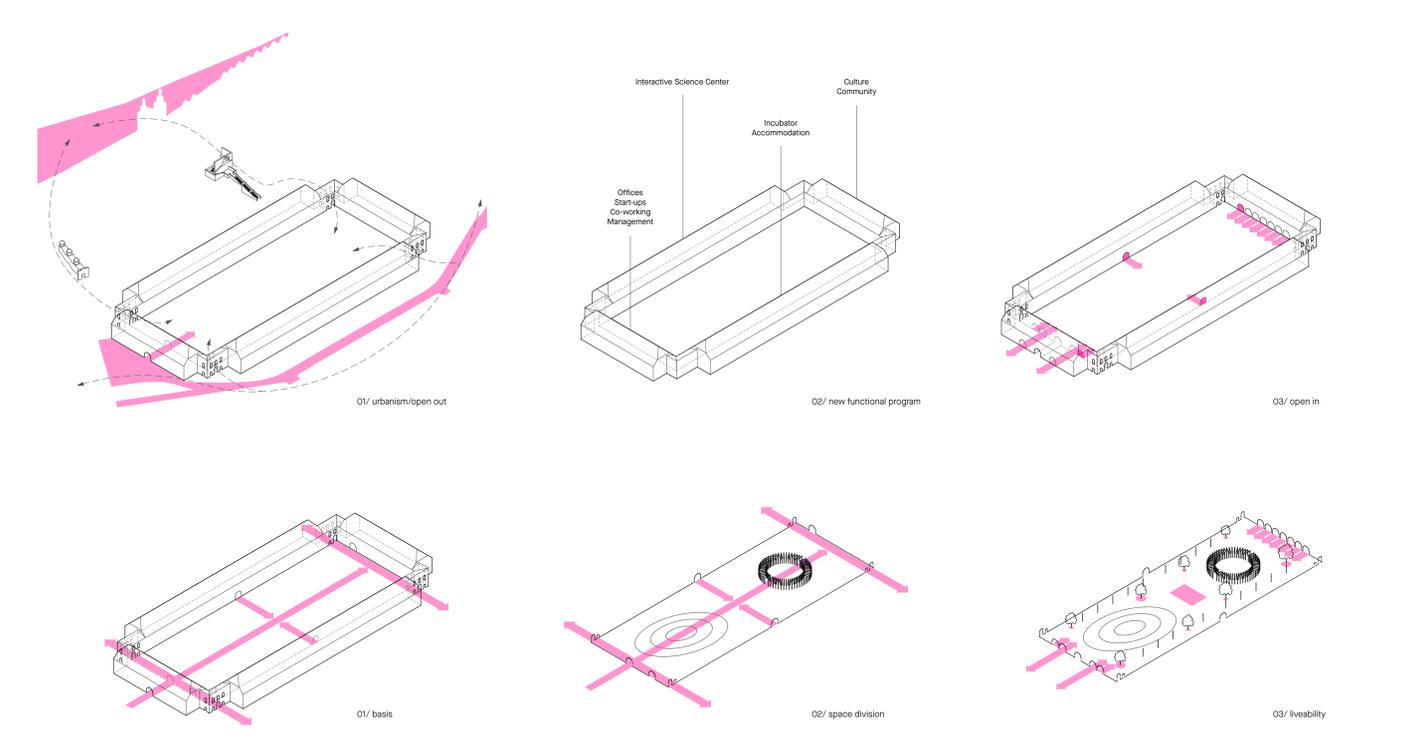
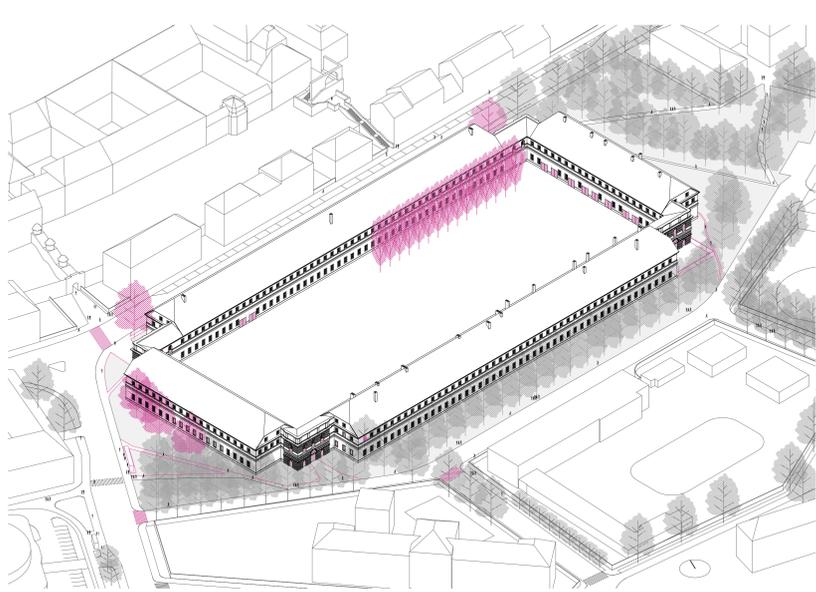
In the back part a circular pavilion made of steel frames is designed, which is an expression of the Barracks as a cultural-community space, a community meeting place and a platform for discussion.

However, the main aim of the whole project has never been the design itself, but I see as the main goal starting of the discussion on the appropriate use of the Barracks and recognizing the enormous potential that the Barracks constitute.

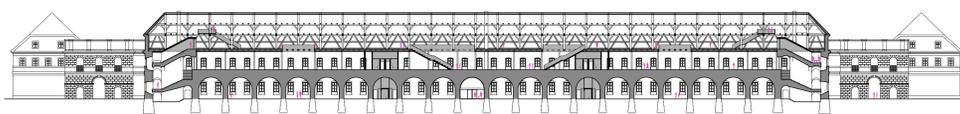
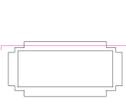
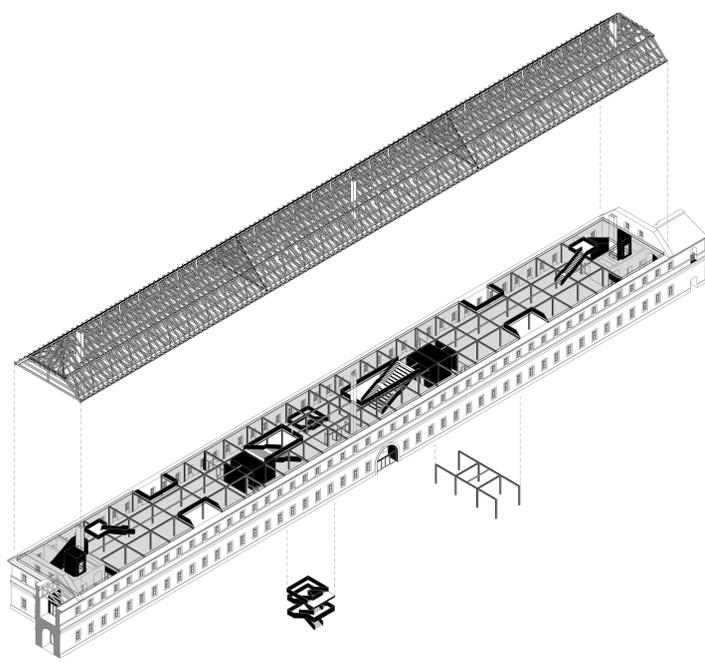
The eventual design and function of such a huge project would always have to be the result of a tremendous effort and cooperation, the result of a strong vision that I hope for one day to appear and which will turn Žižkovy Kasárny into one of the most prominent sites in the city with a unique genius loci and fully within the legacy of the city as a place of great architecture and contemporary architecture lab.



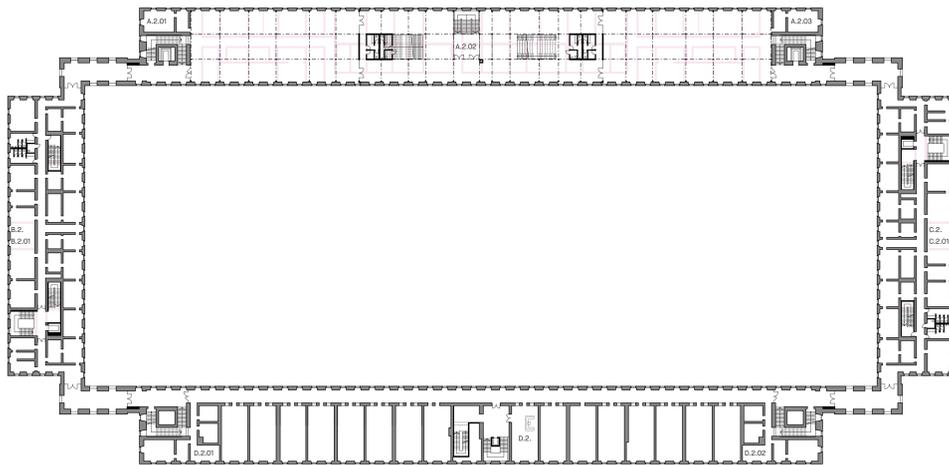
/ location of the Barracks in the context of the medieval town and area regarded as the center of Hradec Králové



ADAPTIVE REUSE OF ŽIŽKOVY KASÁRNY IN HRADEC KRÁLOVÉ

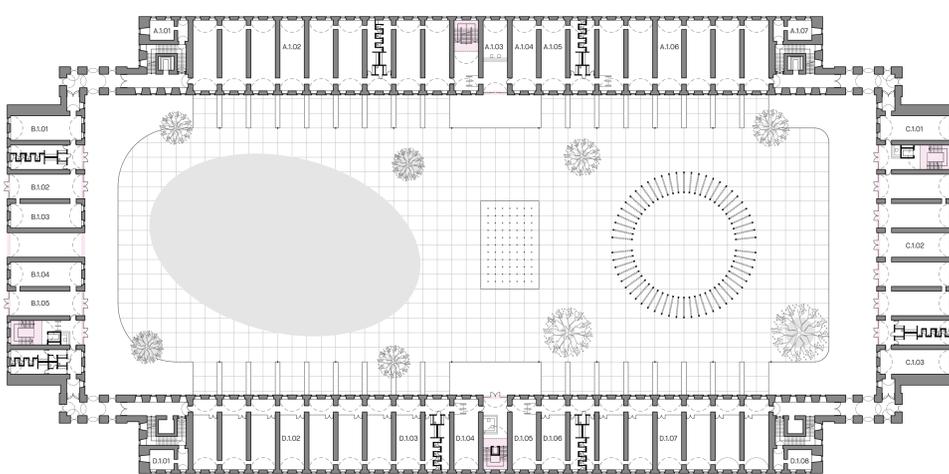


2nd Floor Plan



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|---|--|---|---|
| <p>A</p> <p>A.2.01 office
A.2.02 exhibition area
A.3.02 office</p> | <p>B.2.</p> <p>B.2. office space
co-working
staff-cas
compound
management
security</p> <p>B.2.01 lecture hall</p> | <p>C.2.</p> <p>C.2.01 culture & community
lecture hall</p> | <p>D.2.</p> <p>D.2.01 hostel
D.2.01 office/technical rooms
D.2.02 office/technical rooms</p> |
|---|--|---|---|

1st Floor Plan



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|---|--|---|--|
| <p>A</p> <p>A.1.01 technical rooms
A.1.02 exhibition area
A.1.03 reception
A.1.04 museum shop/lobby
A.1.05 lobby
A.1.06 exhibition area
A.1.07 technical rooms</p> | <p>B.1.01</p> <p>B.1.01 technical rooms
B.1.02 art bookstore/shop/etc.
B.1.03 art bookstore/shop/etc.
B.1.04 cafe
B.1.05 cafe</p> | <p>C.1.01</p> <p>C.1.01 technical rooms
C.1.02 cafe
C.1.03 technical rooms</p> | <p>D.1.01</p> <p>D.1.01 technical rooms
D.1.02 studios
D.1.03 common kitchen area
D.1.04 lobby
D.1.05 semi-private conference rooms
D.1.06 conference rooms
D.1.07 studios
D.1.08 technical rooms</p> |
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