

EVALUATION: DIPLOMA PROJECT

Student: Bc. Beyza Uzun
Project: "Waldorf Preschool for Bulovka Community"
Ústav: Prostorového plánování, 15121
Advisor: Henry W. A. Hanson IV
Opponent: Klara Doleželová
January 22, 2022

Introduction:

The following review is based on the timely submission of a portfolio, poster and models in accordance with the submission requirements and the assignment.

Portfolio:

The portfolio is well organized and provides a thoughtful explanation of the history and philosophy of Rudolf Steiner. From this research the author has developed a reasonable architectural program for the project with sufficient detail on the organizational and programmatic requirements of both interior and exterior spaces. Additionally, the case studies offer insight into how these principles have been applied in real projects including in the Czech Republic. Unfortunately, the author was not able to visit a Waldorf school in the region due to Covid pandemic requirements.

There are a few deficiencies in the portfolio that diminish its legibility.

- Diagrams of the architectural program would help explain the relationships, orientations and characteristics.
- There are numerous images in the portfolio that are of low resolution.
- Many of the images are not clearly referenced
- The location and orientation of the visualizations are not identified.
- The graphics of the visualizations are somewhat inconsistent with the qualities of the architecture as described in the program and narrative text.

Research & Analysis:

The research of Waldorf education and schools is thorough and detailed. The author has invested significant effort in understanding the particularities of the Waldorf paradigm. This research is reasonably presented and easy to follow, although at times somewhat redundant.

The Design Proposal:

The design proposal reasonably follows from the predesign and architectural programming work. The bilateral symmetry of the spatial organization is a reasonable resolution architectural program into a design. The integration of the building into the site is reasonably managed such that the qualities of the exterior play spaces are well protected and suitable for free, creative play.

The qualitative attributes of a Waldorf school are well recognized in both the predesign and the architectural program. However, the visualizations are rather heavy handed in their graphic quality and are not able to communicate the qualities intended in the authors text. Perhaps a different form of representation would communicate the intentions more sensitively.

The toilet facilities for the children seem rather institutional. Is there potential to design these spaces consistent with the environmental considerations taken in the pods?

Section B-B shows steps and ramp to the front entry level and then there are steps down to the pods. It appears that the elevation at the bottom of the steps in front of the building sit at the same elevation as the pods. Why is it necessary to ascend steps to the front entrance and then descend to the level of the pods?

Conclusion:

It has been a pleasure to work with Beyza through her study at the Faculty of Architecture. She is clearly a thoughtful and sensitive young designer. Beyza has demonstrated a good command of the design process with the development of this diploma proposal. In my opinion this demonstrates her preparedness for the profession of architecture.

Therefore, my evaluation of the Diploma Project of Beyza Uzun is C; Good.

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