

Titul (2023)

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30. 6. – 14. 7. 2023

Alfa pasáž, Poštovská 6, Brno

The exhibition presents the final bachelor's and master's diploma theses of students of the Faculty of Architecture of the Brno University of Technology (BUT), which were awarded by independent juries. They mainly evaluated the quality, sophistication, superiority or timeliness of the submitted works.

Jury of Bachelor's Theses

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Print

Quatro print a.s.

Production

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Acknowledgements

Věra Pohořelská, ALFA PASÁŽ, spol. s r. o.
Ondřej Láska, Monika Matejkovičová

Installation

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The exhibition is held under the auspices of the Mayor of the Statutory City of Brno JUDr. Markéta Vaňková and with the financial support of the Statutory City of Brno.

Graphic Design

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01

Jana Řehořová

ProjectBiblioverse – A Multifunctional Building with a LibraryBachelor's thesis – shortlistSupervisor ● Oleksii Bykov

The project works with the archaic image of the library as a "temple of learning" and at the same time tries to shift its current institutional subtext based on the idea of accumulating knowledge towards its careful selection and interpretation. The author proposes a new concept of the library as a centre of information management, the aim of which is to make information available in a valid way. Librarians as information specialists also take on the role of curators, thus the library adopts the principles of other Enlightenment institutions such as museums and galleries.

From the statement of the reader Ivo Stejskal ● The author has demonstrated a great capacity for analytical and conceptual thinking. In a clear presentation, she produces a well thought out overall plan. However, she needs to gain more experience and confidence in architectural design and construction solutions so that the results are equally convincing.

Keywords ● Biblioverse, library, information management, librarian, curator

02

Eliška Michalčíková

ProjectConnectivity / Democratic City – A Town Hall for Old BrnoBachelor's thesis – shortlistSupervisors ● Michal Palašček and Vítězslav Nový

The subject of the thesis is the design of a new town hall for Old Brno on Mendel Square, which works with the urbanism defined by the new Mendel Square Master Plan after the change of the transport concept. The new concept frees up space in the centre of the square and the layout of the square returns to its first-republican form. The author comes up with a new concept of the town hall in terms of social, spatial and visual connectivity. The first part of the work contains the analysis of the area and the conclusions obtained, the theory is followed by the concept of the project and the subsequent details are discussed in the architectural design itself.

From the statement of the reader Markéta Veselá ● Emphasis on the maximum interconnection of individual spaces and at the same time on transparency and openness of the functional use of the town hall as an institution serving the people is the most beneficial part of the work. The author explains her thinking in a clear way and presents a mature and sophisticated construction based on her artistic skill and technical proficiency.

Keywords ● administrative building – town hall, connectivity, democratic architecture, Brno, Mendel Square

03

Silvie Drešrová

ProjectUnderground Culture – Adaptation of the Old Brewery in Litovel – IntergenerationAwarded bachelor's thesisSupervisors ● Ivan Koleček and Vojtěch Jemelka

The work deals with the adaptation of the historical premises of the former brewery cellars and the new extension above them, with the intention of returning the impressive premises in an interesting place to the public, especially in the field of alternative culture and education for young people. Spaces for meetings of this intergeneration are not yet available in Litovel, which causes the outflow of young people from the town. An integral part of the project is an adaptation of the surrounding area with the embankment and an addition of a pedestrian or cycling promenade along the Morava River. The work also addresses the material design of a new block of flats.

Jury Statement ● A very comprehensive work containing analyses and research part preceding the design in question. The student does not limit herself to the architectural-urban design of the complex plot and also develops cultural, sociological, economic and environmental themes in order to create ideal conditions for young people to develop a relationship with their town and cultivate it. The thesis is prepared professionally, which adds value to the compelling architectural solution, making the work exceptional.

Keywords ● alternative culture, community, education, brewery, Litovel, embankment, workshop, gallery, extension, reconstruction, housing

04

The Studio of Radek Toman

TopicOpportunities of the Urban Gap – Kapitána Jaroše AvenueAwarded studiostudents ● Petra Hanušová, Monika Hvězdová, Barbora Kopečková, Tereza Kusnierzová, Natálie Laníková, Adéla Orságová, Jiří Zezulka

Assignment ● The subject of the assignment is an urban gap on Kapitána Jaroše Avenue in Brno, which opens towards the rear entrance of the Brno Municipal Theatre and the passage around the theatre towards Lidická Street. The Kapitána Jaroše Avenue has an avenue and a generously designed urbanism and the whole area falls under monument protection. The locality has many levels of functions, services, cultural and educational character, which are intertwined here, and at the same time it is closely adjacent to the Brno Cultural Ring and the city centre.

Jury Statement ● The studio impressed the jury with its original and interesting projects that look at the assigned topic from different points of view. A diverse range of works gave way to current themes that addressed not only the building itself, but also the wider environment, life and the building's users in general. The projects are clearly presented, most of them with the use of functional and not just formal models.

Keywords ● urban gap, Kapitána Jaroše Avenue

05

Jan Pekař

ProjectSpace for LifeAwarded master's thesisSupervisor ● Jan Mlěčka

The thesis is devoted to the problem of healthy housing in the Brno urban gap. One of the main goals of the work is to show that even in an environment where space, natural light and natural greenery are limited, it is possible to create healthy living. The author also seeks answers to questions about the negative impact of modern technologies and new trends, such as home office and other options for working and studying from home, on the quality of life. The project offers options how to eliminate these impacts through the design of a suitable multifunctional block of flats.

Jury Statement ● The jury appreciated the author's choice of issues addressed in the thesis. These include lifestyle diseases, lifestyle changes caused by modern technology, lack of exercise and the need for social interaction. The work testifies to the purity of the author's thought processes, the questions he asked himself and which influenced the final design of the multifunctional block of flats.

Keywords ● space for life, urban gap, healthy living, community housing, multifunctional block of flats, Brno

06

Jakub Nohejl

ProjectStructuralism for the 21st CenturyMaster's thesis – shortlistSupervisor ● Szymon Rozwałka

The thesis analyses the ideas of Dutch structuralism of the 1960s and 1970s and the reasons for its rapid demise. By assessing the current social situation and showing projects that build on the original ideas of structuralism, the thesis finds arguments supporting the possibilities of its further use. The final design reflects the desire to create an open architectural system that can respond to the ever-evolving needs of users while supporting the dialogue of individuals forming a single whole that is not defined beforehand. Unlike conventional architecture, the project does not strive for unification or dominance, but instead promotes diversity, creating a multitude of unique situations that are not defined beforehand.

From the statement of the reader Petr Jakšík ● The student showed great courage in finding a non-conformist solution to his assignment, which he based on a detailed study of the topic of structuralism. A large part of the thesis is an analysis of the material studied, which it analyses, critiques and makes reservations about.

Keywords ● structuralism, structure, system, sociology, architecture without architects, diversity, addition

07

Klarisa Ach-Hübner

ProjectContinuity of AgeingMaster's thesis – shortlistSupervisors ● Jan Hora and Adéla Šoborová

The thesis deals with alternative solutions to the current form of health and social care for the elderly. The author points to the problem of over-specialisation of care, which results in the need for frequent changes of environment in clients with deteriorating health. The thesis builds on a pre-diploma project that explored the differences between different types of care and proposes to combine the selected types of care into a coherent whole – a stable home. Such a home offers continuity of care, stability of relationships between clients and staff and an unchanging environment. The stable home is presented in the form of a more generally applicable typology and subsequently tested on a specific design of a home on náměstí Míru in Brno.

Jury Statement ● Exceptional work in terms of a strong story and rigorous analysis, during which the student also worked in a retirement home. The work points to the future of our profession, where the only activity not taken over by robots and artificial intelligence is the ability to empathise with social needs.

Keywords ● retirement home, social care, health care, continuity, stability, náměstí Míru, Brno

08

Ondřej Válek

ProjectFiat voluntas TuaMaster's thesis – shortlistSupervisor ● Jan Kristek

The project works with the thesis that the celebration of the Eucharist is not dependent on place, or that under certain conditions any space can become a liturgical space. Conversely, one can consider whether it is possible to adapt the strictly liturgical space of a church to an alternative programme that does not necessarily involve traditional church ceremonies, while preserving its sacred character. Using the case study of the adaptation of the Church of St. Giles in Brno-Líšeň, the author relates to the broader issues of the Czech Roman Catholic Church, which is currently in an important period of transition in terms of demography (decline in the number of believers and clergy), economics (financial separation of the Church from the state) and culture (completion of property restitution). The proposed solution is not a conversion of the church to a different function, but its structural and cultural hybridisation referring to the possibility of a more pluralistic concept of the church.

Jury Statement ● The author has made a thorough analysis of the use of churches, through which he has also well explained the story of his final design.

Keywords ● church, mass, Roman Catholic Church, adaptation, liturgical space, St. Giles Church, Brno

09

Dagmar Dvořáková

Project

Metropolis of Lake Geneva

Master's thesis – shortlist

Supervisors ● Ivan Koleček and Vojtěch Jemelka

The subject of this thesis is the "Métropole Lémanique", a dynamically developing area located between Geneva and Lausanne. The author gets to know the area, analyses it, reflects on its opportunities and possible threats and identifies the potential of the chosen region. The potential is seen in corridors running across the horizontally structured territory. These bring heterogeneity and permeability to an increasingly densely built and privatised landscape. In response to the ever-increasing influence of the two poles of Geneva and Lausanne, the student sees an alternative in the metropolis as a third pole with its own identity.

From the statement of the supervisor Ivan Koleček ● The extensive work, going from the measuring scale of the Lake Geneva Metropolis to the detail of the retaining walls, encapsulates an original concept of new networks of "corridors" with a rigorous control of their potential and future development. The author confirmed her ability to respond to the complexity of her work with a professional and very valuable approach and result.

Keywords ● urban development, metropolis, interspace, diversity, landscape, corridor, public amenities, Geneva, Lausanne

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Kateřina Novotná

Project

Cottageism

Master's thesis – shortlist

Supervisor ● Jan Mléčka

The project addresses the problems of modern cottages and tries to rediscover their beauty. The modular cottage system is intended to provide opportunities to create a custom cottage according to the interests and needs of its owner, while working with minimal space to avoid the size of single-family homes that belong in the urban space. The limited size of the buildings is intended to encourage residents to spend time mainly in nature and to use the cottage facilities only for basic needs.

Despite the fact that cottage using may appear to be an encroachment on the forest landscape, it is an integral part of our Czech culture and tradition and from the point of view of architecture and urban planning it cannot be neglected.

From the statement of the reader Tobiáš Hrabec ● The work is a good contemporary answer to the question of the future of cottage areas and a contribution to the Czech landscape and society. As for the formal and content aspects, the thesis is well made both in terms of the volume of work and the sensitivity of the individual solutions.

Keywords ● cottages, settlement, Czech phenomenon, tradition, community, minimal space, nature, public space of the forest, modular system

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Marika Janíková

Project

Place for the Soul

Master's thesis – shortlist

Supervisor ● Jan Mléčka

The work responds to the problems associated with fast-paced lifestyle and deteriorating mental health. The aim of this thesis is to develop a concept of health facilities focused at the promotion, development and treatment of mental health. Instead of a typical institution, however, the author proposes seven architectural interventions in various locations in the centre of Brno, which are intended to offer space for different experiences and contemplation. Despite their specific atmosphere, the selected sites are currently unused, inaccessible and/or overlooked. The work presents the possibilities of making these places more accessible, finishing them and thus creating opportunities for new experiences and strengthening of the connection to the environment in which we live. The author brings a new perspective to the creation of health care facilities used for the promotion, development and treatment of mental health.

From the statement of the reader Vanda Štěpánová ● The author chose very interesting unknown and difficult to reach places for her project. It is admirable how courageous she was in her personal exploration of the places in question.

Keywords ● mental health, health facilities, Brno, overlooked places, place for the soul

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Diana Bevelačová

Project

Spontaneous Architecture

Master's thesis – shortlist

Supervisor ● Jan Mléčka

The author's work deals with the search for alternative ways of building on the land of the defunct Kras factory in the centre of Brno between Křížová, Bělidla, Rybařská and Veletržní streets. At present, development is planned on the land in question, which does not in any way challenge established trends in the construction industry. The construction proposed by the student is based on principles observed in excluded settlements in Slovakia. The author addresses the relationship between buildings and the street and the applicable regulations and standards for environmental planning with the intention of promoting the identification of the inhabitants with the lived space. She offers an alternative approach to the planned area and the buildings themselves and addresses the need for dense population in the city centre in a way that is sensitive to the inhabitants themselves and their social connections.

From the statement of the reader Pavol Paňák ● This is an extremely complex topic and I especially appreciate the student's commitment and interest in the environment of minorities on the margins of society and her interest in possible initiatives in the form of urban communal living. Her thesis project demonstrates a balanced presence of intellectual background and a good foundation of necessary architectural skills.

Keywords ● semi-private spaces, excluded settlement, social ties, phased construction, Kras, Brno

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Martin Vojtíšek

ProjectStructuralism for the 21st CenturyMaster's thesis – shortlistSupervisor ● Szymon Rozwałka

Nomos is partly a theoretical project that explores the differences between Dutch Structuralism and Japanese Metabolism and seeks to find an architectural system that is intended as a contemporary interpretation of these movements. The project emphasizes the temporary underutilisation of the variability of our environment and tries to incorporate it into the design of the system so that the user can customise it. It is looking for ways to combine the benefits of organic growth and modular design through reaction-diffusion simulation. Within the application of the system, a possible solution is shown in a specific context with the design of its fragment.

From the statement of the reader Václav Štojd ● The author has presented a comprehensive work constructed on the basis of a thorough analysis, innovated by other interdisciplinary and contemporary principles.

Keywords ● structuralism, metabolism, reaction-diffusion simulation, modularity, growth, variability, adaptability

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Oskar Madro

ProjectKraví hora between Production and RecreationAwarded master's thesisSupervisors ● Jan Hora a Adéla Šoborová

The project is based on an analysis of the Kraví Hora area in the centre of Brno prepared before the writing of this thesis. On the basis of this analysis, the author addresses the questions of the current shape of the profession of architect and urban planner and the challenges this work faces. The author describes the area as the inner periphery of the town and defines the qualities of the area within a perceptive documentation of the area. The result of the research is the acceptance and appreciation of the existing state of Kraví hora and the view of the issue from different perspectives.

Jury Statement ● A complex and sophisticated project with a strong theoretical basis. The author has demonstrated a deep insight into the issue and the outputs of his thorough research are appropriately applied in the implementation of the actual design of the new solution for the area.

Keywords ● urban wilderness, Kraví hora, urbanism, public space, sustainability

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The studio
of Ivan Koleček
and Vojtěch JemelkaTopicUnderground Culture – Adaptation of the Old Brewery in LitovelAwarded studio

students ● Radek Daniš, Jakub Dohnal, Zoja Doupovcová, Silvie Drešrová, Jakub Igaz, Alžběta Jansová, Karina Shumlyanska

Assignment ● The adaptation of historic unused buildings for future living is one of the key themes in the development of our municipalities. One of the three historic breweries in the core of Litovel, owned by the town, is facing demolition due to pressure to build new apartments with parking. Some members of the public and the town's leadership do not like this development approach and have come up with an alternative vision that works with preserving the historic building with its brewery cellar and generous halls in favour of a possible adaptation to a cultural centre for the whole town. Will you support this vision with your suggestions?

Jury Statement ● The jury appreciated the analytical introduction and the organised treatment of the assignment, which moved on to independent work during the semester and each student went on his/her own way. The projects are very sensitive to the town of Litovel itself, the students take carefully in the existing condition and all the remains of the original buildings and react to them sensitively. The outskirts of the town and the Morava River offer a lot of opportunities that students take advantage of.

Keywords ● brewery, Litovel, conversion, culture

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Karina Shumlyanska

ProjectUnderground Culture – Adaptation of the Old Brewery in Litovel – At St. AugustineBachelor's thesis – shortlistSupervisors ● Ivan Koleček and Vojtěch Jemelka

The project presents a proposal for the adaptation of a former brewery in Litovel, where the spirit of the place and the legacy of history has been lost. The author tries to revive the area with functions of culture, work, rest, crafts and sales with a connection to the organism of the town and the landscape lines of the river with the newly created promenade. Equally important is the re-establishment of the relationship between the inhabitants and the external environment and the connection of various communities and associations active in the Litovel area.

From the statement of the reader Jiří Kolomazník ● The author demonstrates a high degree of conceptual thinking, which underpins the basic principles of architectural design. In the articulation of ideas, she works very creatively and sensitively with elements of architecture. This is evidence of the author's advanced thinking and understanding of architectural creation and her strong aesthetic talent. The author's artistic talent is strongly manifested also in the presentation.

Keywords ● culture, community, reconstruction, brewery, Litovel, extension, crafts

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Karolína Tichá

ProjectCarbon Visitor CentreAwarded bachelor's thesisSupervisors ● Jiří Marek and Petra Žalmanová

Conversion of a former mining tower into a visitor centre of the Frenštát Coal Mine near Frenštát pod Radhoštěm. The aim of the project is to encourage people to visit the abandoned industrial heritage and to create a new place with a rich cultural programme. In the proposed conversion, the author emphasizes sustainability and working with renewable energy sources.

Jury Statement ● The author has thoroughly analysed the landscape, the site and the structure itself, which she works with sensitively so as not to destroy the character of the building. She adds prefabricated wooden cells to the existing tower structures. The jury highlighted the student's sensitive and artistic approach to the given assignment and the emphasis on the mining activity, which she puts at the heart of the design – she confronts visitors with the physical remains of the mining towers and finds new uses for them.

Keywords ● visitor centre, education, mining tower, Frenštát pod Radhoštěm, wooden building, industrial heritage, conversion, viewpoint, steel construction

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Matyáš Černík

Project

Opportunities of the Urban Gap – Kapitána Jaroše Avenue “Behind the Curtain”

Bachelor's thesis – shortlist

Supervisors ● Barbora Ponešová and Kristýna Smržová

The project is looking for an ideal use for a historically valuable urban plot in an urban gap on Kapitána Jaroše Avenue in the centre of Brno, a place with a lively cultural and social life. Based on the analyses aimed at finding and understanding the genius loci, the author proposes a multifunctional cultural and social centre responding to the presence of the city theatre, a grammar school and an art school. The "Behind the Curtain" project has the ambition to culturally enrich the urban gap with activities chosen by the inhabitants themselves and to become a stage for events.

From the statement of the reader Ondřej Mráz ● The project is conceptually strong, believable and creative, encouraging critical reflection on contemporary building production for art institutions in Brno.

Keywords ● urban gap, variability, multifunctionality, culture, art space, Kapitána Jaroše Avenue

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Adam Hajdák

Project

Heterogeneous Block – Between the Town and the Landscape

Bachelor's thesis – shortlist

Supervisors ● Jan Hora and Adéla Šoborová

The author deals with the problem of the lack of affordable housing for socially disadvantaged citizens in the town of Louny. He comes up with a proposal for a contemporary housing estate based on a regular grid that is economical, ecological, but at the same time provides maximum comfort for its inhabitants. The author works with the typology of a universal room, which allows for a change of use over time and has the potential to connect rooms in different directions in the future.

From the statement of the reader Jan Stibitz ● The project has a holistic and coherent effect. The concept of versatility and variability is very clear also thanks to the modular design of the houses. I trust the durability of the proposed open block.

Keywords ● rental flats, block of flats, housing estate, affordable housing, socially disadvantaged citizens, Louny, community

Two other projects also attracted the jury's attention:

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Filip Bala, Tereza Kuklová, Matěj Ledvina, Daniela Ondřejová, Peter Papcun

Project

Dancing in Brno – common part

Master's thesis – shortlist

Supervisor ● Nicol Galeová

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Kristýna Kučerová

Project

Architecture of staging and installation of space-time. A case study by Robert Willson and James Turrell

Master's thesis – shortlist

Supervisor ● Monika Mitášová