

At the end of his studies Martin Kunc has clearly mastered the skills of our profession well. He is aware of the scale of the city, finds meaning in what is old and what is new, produces faceted well proportioned floorplans and has a stunning skill for the visualisation of his idea's. The project consist of a respectful refurbishment of the Chemapol administrative building, a seminal building of the 1970's, expanded upon by Kunc through the means of a series of 9 mid scale housing blocks that allow the site to connect to Prague's Vršovice district.

The floorplans drawn in both the existing structure as well as the new additions find great depth and engage with the skins of the buildings in a multifaceted way. All spaces seem to be well proportioned.

From an urban point of view the project tries to merit the modern scalelessness of the administrative buildings with the scalefullness of the grand urban Vršovice district. However the project seems to look more for meaning in its surroundings than from its own history. Even though Kunc clearly finds great admiration for the stark administration buildings themselves he seems to deny these qualities of abstraction within his own additions leaving a slightly indecisive sense lingering within the project when viewed from the street.

Where the qualities of the administration building do find their meaning is within the inner territories of the plot. The stark lines of the administrative building and its raised garden plinth find new meaning within the smaller scale that is set out by the newly added housing blocks. The contrast in scale creates a rare urban condition that adds a new dimension to the potential modes of living within the city. When one considers the city as a collection of memories this space will surely be a distinctive addition.

Kuncs ability to create well proportioned, well detailed architecture is a skill that he applies well. The project presented is more than complete and leaves little more to be solved. However Kunc should also be aware of the quality of that what is given. Sometimes an unsolved condition that is stuck in the site like a sore thumb can produce a found quality that could never be conceived on purpose. Therefore the fitting Miesian idiom of less is more might also fit this project well.

Final Grade: 1,0

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