



AD – CONCEPT PRESENTATIONS

Students from all studios and years presented their Architectural concepts to external juries.

Individual studio presentations for Bachelor's and Master's students took place in the lecture rooms and in the studio. Whether they presented their drawings and models in a pin-up format or projected digitally – in either case, the work was on the walls! Despite the different briefs, a consistent thread across the studios is an interest in civic programs and public space. Even in proposing new residential objects in the city, is a concern for the open and shared spaces between. Among the proposed institutions were a 'knowledge hub' and library, a centre for Muslim cultures, a collection of temples for all faiths, museums and archives for film, as well as new urban fabrics and housing.

The first year students, working together, are creating a new block of individual row houses in Prague 7. A variety of themes was presented for a range of clients, particular to each proposal: from houses for a defined family and dorms for ARCHIP students, to tailored housing for specific groups such as 'gamers', and particular dynamics between domestic couples, such as a body-builder and a chef, an astronomer and a gardener, and a pair of Japanese artists.



'CROWN FOR PORUBA' WORKSHOP

Fourth year Master's students participated in a student workshop competition: 'Crown for Poruba', organised by the Technical University of Ostrava. The location for the project was within the city of Ostrava, in the east of the Czech Republic, an industrial city in an ongoing process of its renewal. Its transformation from a concrete city towards a green and living city is a major theme, in general.

The workshop goals were to imagine a new possibility for the public space within and between an ensemble of residential and retail objects of the 1960's city fabric. In its current state, this public space is a mostly un-programmed concrete ground, with minimal activities for residents. Working in pairs, over a two-day period, the proposals had to respond to the site in an intense and immediate way.

One proposal, by ARCHIP students Anna Kutuzova and Dandika Thanos, called 'Water Ripple', imagined the power of a ripple effect as a concept for a new local centre. From this original point of contact, at the centre of the spatial field, waves of interconnection echo throughout the area, forming new paths and parks in a multi-directional diffusion of movement, overlapping and exchange. Bringing new life to the area with playgrounds, restaurants and shops. Well done!



PSYCHOGEOGRAPHY

As part of their Urban Design - Critical Cities course, second year Bachelor's students prepared psychogeographical readings of cities, drawn from the writings of Guy Debord and WJ Mitchell.

Cities from around the world, already known to students, were selected, such as Tashkent, Istanbul, Bangkok, Ankara, and Warsaw for example. Students mapped selections, qualities or figures of their cities and the readings of their experiences were represented in drawings. These 'mental maps' - living images - articulate a story which is both subjective and true, as a technique for entering the subconscious space of the city. Students explored the relations between city space and the psyche, drawing from the influences of memories, actions and places, limitations, feelings and possibilities, on the experience, form and image of the city.

The beautiful drawings were exhibited in the main entry foyer of DOX II. This exhibition 'PSYCHOMAPS' was accompanied by a lecture 'Potentials and Threats of Emotional Maps in City Planning' by Jiří Pánek PhD, from the Department of Development studies from Palacký University in Olomouc.

MARCH - APRIL

Also in March, Michael Muecke and Diane Al Shihabi (Iowa State University) presented on Historic preservation & virtual reality. And Toni Kotnik and Pia Fricker (ALTO University Helsinki) discussed with us their teaching methods. Next month, ARCHIP will be part of the MAME OTEVRENO (WE ARE OPEN) event organized by DOX and Prague 7. All spaces, including the ARCHIP premises, will be open to the public. Have a look!

OPEN HOUSE