



AD – CONCEPT PRESENTATIONS

Bachelor and Master students presented their concepts for this semester's AD project – a site-specific housing proposal located within the Prague 6 district. One site, common to all studios, is located at Pohořelec at the center of a complex and historically rich urban environment. The site is an incomplete block, adjacent to a local public school, at the upper edge of Prague 1 above the castle, and rests upon the former gothic and baroque fortification walls with a view to the Strahov monastery.

In Dlesk-Horová studio, students defined their own briefs and types of housing for this site, exploring three possible conceptual solutions. In Schindler-Fessler studio, the theme of city-owned affordable housing was explored in two different sites for Bachelors and for Masters students. In Wertig-Kopecký studio, the option for a second site was given at the 'gateway to Podbaba'.

After a socio-economic and contextual analysis of the place, the questions of densities, scales, shared spaces and urban relationships were developed in a specific way within each proposal. Over the day of reviews, students presented their models and drawings to visiting guest critics, both digitally and in a pin-up format.



STUDENT TRIP TO VENICE

A small group of students travelled again to the Biennale in Venice this year. They spent the trip visiting and studying various pavillions. Third year student Sinan Birsal also participated in the student workshops at the Turkish pavillion. Megi Davitidze, who organised the trip, said: Biennale was educative and inspirational for us as Architecture students, to see, touch and experience the spaces and to analyze and discuss techniques used in pavillions.

Students explored the range of spatial interventions, in both Giardini and Arsenale, starting with the Swiss pavilion, which lets one explore homes as if Alice in wonderland. Vatican City's debut at the Biennale invited ten architects to design and build ten temporary chapels on the island of San Giorgio Maggiore. The chapels were stunning representations of sacred architecture. Eduardo Souto de Moura's four stone walls, Ricardo Flores and Eva Prats' threshold into the forest, and Norman Foster's play of light and shadows left the students full of emotions, and with a greater appreciation for Architecture! The variety of materials and textures created peaceful and intimate spaces in the woodland of the island, and was one of the students' favorite pavillions.



WORKSHOP IN SLAVONICE

Master students from ARCHIP, and others from the Czech University of Life Sciences and the Faculty of Architecture of Czech Technical University in Prague, joined in an exploratory project to understand the population-change dynamics of Slavonice, a small Czech town on the border with Austria. Although Slavonice has endured numerous political, economic and cultural shocks over the past century, it is currently experiencing both population and demographic changes. Students from these three Universities employed a variety of participatory techniques to explore the basis of these changes.

Preparing designers of the built environment to engage with the public is usually of low priority, with limited efforts made to understand those people who will be affected by others' design decisions. Although we usually collect data and analyse observable conditions, an engagement of the public interest is often undervalued. Designers of the built environment, however, have a fundamental responsibility to understand the impacts that their proposed changes to the built environment will have on people. It was the goal of the workshop to develop this methodology and practice.

This workshop was part of a larger project supported by the Visegrad Fund, bringing together a multi-national team including partners from Serbia, Poland and Hungary.

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER

Also in October, students of the Pre-Diploma Seminar presented their preliminary ideas for their Diploma projects. In November, third-year students will visit the MMCité factory as part of their Product Design course, and take a trip to Berlin with their Landscape Design course. Second-year students from this semester's Sculpture and Modeling class will also showcase their works in a small exhibition at the school.

WORKSHOPS AND TRAVELS