

PROPOSALS ON OPEN DESIGN COMPETITION TO REVITALIZE COLLAGE BUILDING IN JAVOR STREET

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Abstract: *University of Obuda Ybl Miklós Faculty of Architecture and Civil Engineering launched an architectural competition to seek for forward-looking solutions for rehabilitation and revitalization of an unused and eroding building. The estate in question is located near the Faculty campus, under 9. Javor Street, 1145, Budapest. When the possibility of a renovation arose, leaders of the Faculty decided to involve the community of the students in order to represent their points of view. The open, secret competition had been launched on 8th September, and by the deadline 30th November fifteen proposals were submitted. Two of the most promising designs were awarded 1st prizes, one got a 2nd prize and two further submissions earned 3rd prize..*

Keywords: *students' competition, architecture, rehabilitation, revitalization*

1. PREPARATIONS, DESIGN GOALS

After publishing the call for submissions, despite the Covid-19 pandemic it was still possible to organize visits to the site in smaller groups (to minimize contacts) and kickoff the design process with a set of lectures during September. All this aimed to facilitate high architectural quality of the proposals, both in term of concept and construction and to fulfil aspects of ecology and sustainability. Besides attractive design, criteria of evaluation included technical details, engineering, security and electrical technologies. The design program of the new Reischl Gábor Kollégium not only included accomodations for students and professors, but also required suggestions for spaces of two important organizations of the community: Kapy Jenő Építész Szakkollégium and Pozsgai Lajos Építőmérnök Szakkollégium, named after two honourable former professors of the Faculty.

2. REQUIREMENTS OF PROPOSALS

2.1. Points of views of applicants

As the criteria mentioned above premised, both the design process and the evaluation of the proposals needed a complex approach. In addition to the function and the design proposal

servicing it, graphical and technical details and several other areas were subject to consideration. Besides sensible connections to the urban environment, it was also important to create a bold, characteristic design to appear in the streetview. Following the local regulations, it was also important to establish quality outdoor spaces and green areas. Also, economy played a significant role both in terms of construction and sustainable operation. This required ecological structural solutions, optimized spaces and circulation systems and also careful consideration of connections to the neighborhood.

2.2. Criteria of the jury

Regarding this complexity, the Jury itself included professionals from different fields. Leading professors of the Faculty joined the University's rector, chancellor and leaders of technical and operating fields. To further represent the community, the elected president of EHÖK (student's democratically established organization) and two 3rd grade students were also invited and participated in the work of the jury. This way different approaches and viewpoints could appear, as different age groups, genders and professional fields met.¹

3. RESULTS OF COMPETITION

3.1. Jury's statement and winners

In its final report, the Jury stated that 'after close examination of all proposals, the competition proved to be valid and successful and accomplished its aim. As a result, several valuable suggestions were submitted for the transformation of the old building and for enhancing its connections, spacial disposition, interiors and exterior green areas.' Individual and community spaces, studying and leisure activities are served by the architectural solutions. These obviously are the keys to build a stronger and active community, however, it also became clear, that the greatest challenge is to find the balance between design and rationality. The usable results at the same time, are the well-organized living units, the creative and unique furniture designs, the external landscaping and most importantly: the fresh and different approaches represented by the students.¹

A survey among students, engineering and technical calculations supported the No. 8. design proposal of the interdisciplinary group of six students (Andrea Tünde Hajdú, Dorottya Skornnyák, Diána Nagy, Anh Quan Nguyen, Béla Palocsai, Dávid Ikladit). Through sensible interventions they transformed the building not only as a hostel and accomodation, but also a multifunctional community place. According to the Jury, their concept was thoughtful, had good floor plan layouts and friendly interiors.

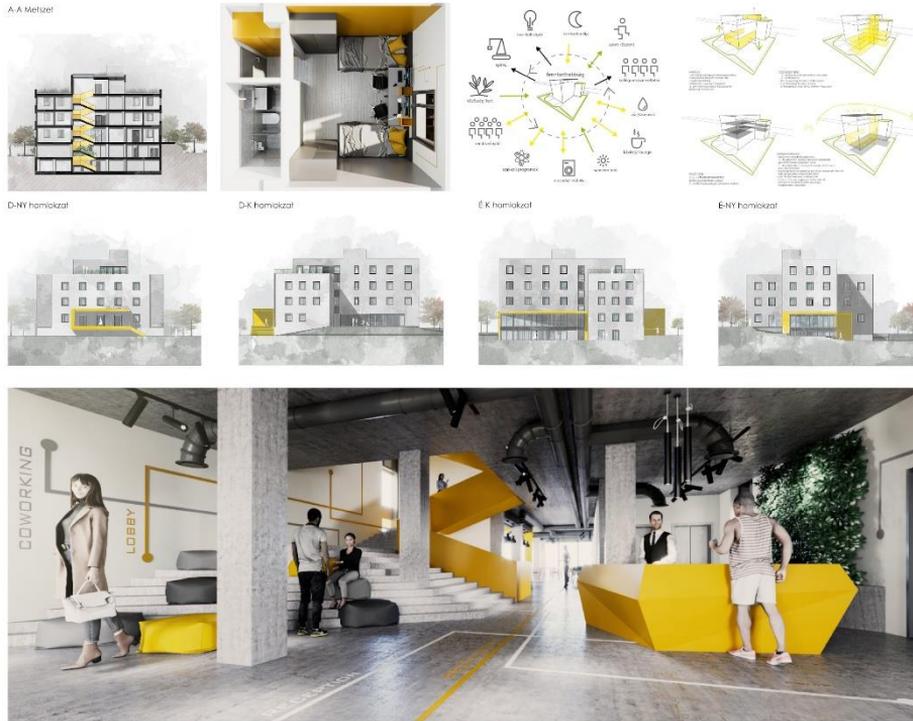


Figure 1 Proposal No.8.

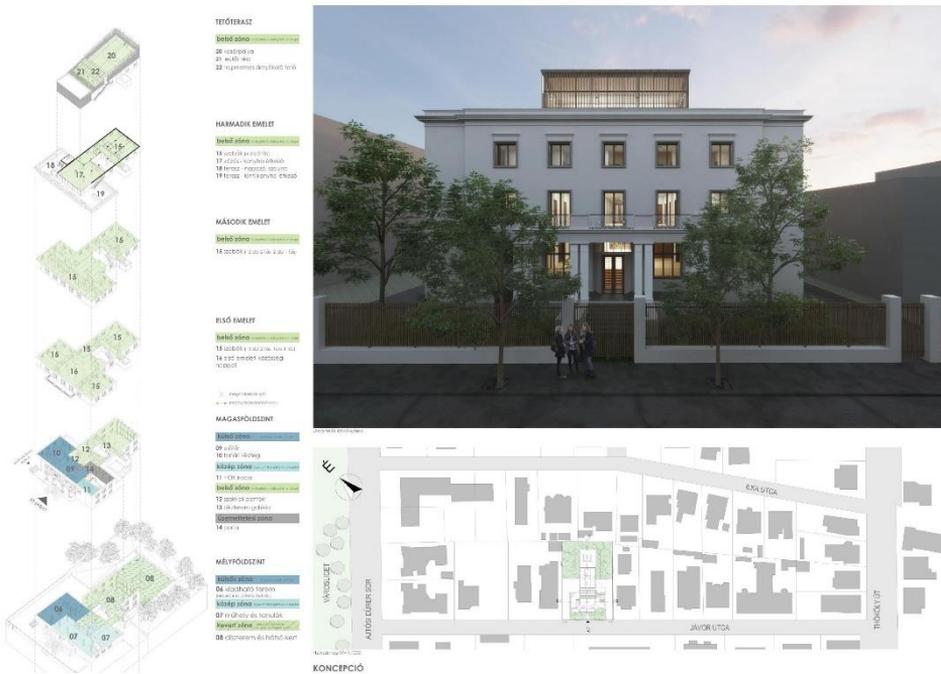


Figure 2 Proposal No.3.

Group No. 3. (Nikoletta Tóth, Nóra Kóhalmi) submitted a similarly clear structure, paired with a spectacular design. They also took care of the old building and created a responsible intervention for its appearance. However different the two designs were – No. 8. preferred industrial look and No 3. chose more natural materials, the Jury decided on to award both with 1st prize.

3.2. Further prizes

A capsule-like system inhabited the old building in the proposal, which came up to the 2nd place. However its circulation system could be subject to further improvement and also the engineering and ventilation raised questions among the Jury members, the progressive concept earned the prize. Orsolya Dorothea Hónigh, Zsanett Keresztes and Gábor Tibor Tóth completed their design with detailed plans of built-in and mobile pieces of furniture, which also proved to be a valuable result of their concept.



Figure 3 Proposal No.1.

Two further proposals earned 3rd prize from the Jury, and as it turned out after announcing the results, the very same team submitted the two (Tibor Ábrahám, Eszter Kapitány, Anikó Kazsoki). It is even more surprising, that they worked with two basically different approaches. One created a rather traditional hostel-like system, with central community spaces and smaller rooms opening from corridors. For this concept, they designed small terraces and a spectacular perforated extension for the roof terrace. The other design included larger living units and community spaces and a more free layout and combined it with a more liberal intervention of the exterior. The latter was considered a bit too much by the Jury, yet, both designs included valuable solutions.



Figure 4 Proposal No.15.

4. SUMMARY

To sum up, it seems, that preserving the architectural values of the existing building and balancing it out with contemporary design are the most difficult questions of the rehabilitation. The proposals, on the other hand, clearly outline the needs of the community, when it comes to the characteristics of a future hostel and common space. Therefore as a result of the competition it will be possible to prepare further steps and find the basis of a new vision, later to be realized.¹

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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