

# ASYMMETRICAL NORMALITY

## Intro

The new Karin Dom site is located among a large green area, next to two campus buildings, a hospital and a tall modernistic building near Varna's city-center. After a detailed research of the site context, it has become clear that the plot is located in an area dominated by 2-5-story high buildings with pitched roof and plaster façade.

Due to the dense environment, the design owe to be contextual and respectful to the buildings in its proximity. Additionally, according to the program and Karin dom's requirements, it is important to go with calm and not too dominative design.

As a result, the project aims to emphasize the central symmetry of the school campus as well as to blur the boundary between the interior and the outdoor green spaces. The building consists of two blocks connected by a glass passage that keeps the visibility along the symmetry axis and introduces the nature to the interior of the building, as well as the green spaces nestled between the rooms on the second and third floors with a variety of visual connections. Its position and configuration allows many paths of movement, flexible use of the outdoor space and easy connections between in and out.

## The axis

One of the main physical characteristics of the site is the central symmetry of the plot and the aligned on the same axis dormitory building. The park in front of it and the stairway leading the park have been specially design symmetrical as the building. For a further enhancement a fountain has been added to enhance the symmetry even more.

The current design respect this by using the axis and keeping the visibility along it. This leads to introduction of two separate blocks of the building which work perfectly in terms of functions, natural lighting and cosiness of the spaces.

## **The normality**

Due to the specific nature of the building and the physical context, the design has to be calm, respectful and pleasing, however contemporary. A contemporary design doesn't always mean impressive façade or technology, but well situated, perfectly functioning, contextual and not dominative design. The large windows, result of the high number and height of the trees around, they provide open accessible spaces, outdoor extension of the interior as well as natural sunlight to the classrooms. The roof enhances the project's silhouette while interpreting the convectional pitched roofs in the area. The façade uses light plaster. The height of the building is chosen so that it hides between the trees in the plot. All cut trees during construction will be used for the cladding and the furniture in the new Karin dom's premises.

## **Asymmetry**

As the architecture itself is not enough to express a concept and make something special, the design intentionally uses asymmetrical plan and elevations, raw timber cladding on the facades, and adapted floor plan among the trees. These are dedicated to the kids visiting Karin dom – the asymmetrical movements, one of the first signs that a child may need special attention; their natural and fragile minds; the adaptation they all achieve in this place.

## **Quantity and price estimation**

Due to the scale and the stage of the project it is impossible to estimate a correct price for construction. The following quantity and price estimate is based on average prices and the information available at this stage. The budget for the project divided by the current area equals about 500 euros per square meter, which is above average construction price for this kind of building and technology – 350-400 euros/sq.m. Therefore, the dedicated budget would match perfectly the construction of the proposed design. The detailed estimate has been additionally attached.