

“The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart.” Helen Adams Keller

## Overview

Karin Dom is a project that responds to relations between children, their lives, the nature, the site and the building. It will be a new kindergarten paradigm designed for young children with special needs where its goal is to conjure up a diverse and unique world for all pupils. This proposal has envisioned an adaptable and flexible building that would ooze an aura to exude an atmosphere of a charming relaxation and accommodating changing needs of children with variety of characters, while capturing the spirit of the place without boasting grand gestures but rather creating architecture that provides a feeling of ease and comfort.

## The Site

Entering to the site, An Existing Garden is kept between the entry and The New Building. You walk in through The Natural Landscape, of which at its center there is a playground on a lower terrain. This will help to perceive The Nature with its trees and fresh air before entering The Building.

A new elevated bridge smoothly and precisely is extending between the trees, connecting the entry of the site to the main lobby at second floor.

## The Building

The relations between the children, the site and the building were our primary architectural concern in this project. For that, we introduced an open, permeable and breathing building, which positions itself at the far end of the site with minimum possible footprint making minimum impact on existing landscape. The program is strategically organized across five levels, accommodating children's uses on the upper levels and public uses on the lower ones. This design method allows, firstly, to ease the accesses for public and adults at lower levels and secondly, to provide privacy, security and joyful views with pleasant natural light and natural ventilation for children on upper levels. Building's Façade hosts a veranda, which we call "Ring Balcony" at each floor that its role is to be a connecting buffer zone for children, public and staff to engage with nature on all levels. For such, the building is emerging with a squarish layout where all its rooms have immediate access to this open-air gallery at the envelope. The Ring Balcony will work as a path finding tool for pupils and they will be able to localize themselves easily in the building. The minimum building footprint raises the presence of the existing landscape allowing the outdoor spaces to be enhanced by for outdoor activities.

The lobby is conceived as a spatial continuation of the inviting path-bridge from the site.

Lightweight structure of a steel mesh functions as screen to provide protection and privacy on outer facade. The clear and opaque glass panels behind this light color wire mesh make see-through walls on either side of these façade verandas to generously control the quality and density of light and fresh air that enter to the spaces in the building. There are alcoves designed besides the class for pupils to sneak a

peek before and after being in classes. The full height Bi-fold glass doors fully open at fifth floor in warm season allowing the exterior playground at the center of plan to expand to corridors for the Montessori education. At the lowest level, the building reshapes itself under the ground level to find rooms with no tree routes for an amazing underground pool space with earth as thermal mass, which will remain warm in cold and cool in hot seasons. Also, as children will look upwards while being in pool, the underground pool gives them an amazing view at the ceiling; framed with grinded natural light passing through the branches of trees in the sky. This amazing picture frame will change seasonally from snow white to blossoms, to dense greens and then to gold and red colors of falling leaves. The pupils will connect to their friends outside the pool who play in the garden and look down from these flush-with-floor skylights. This will make the children to love getting treatments at hydrotherapy department. On ground level, the seminar hall is a transformative space that changes from a lecture hall with 102 retractable seats to an open and flexible event space for activities such as fund raising that expands to the garden at front of the building.

This building with the continuous balconies along the rooms on four sides of every floor and its connection to surrounding nature will ask pupils to walk, watch, love and play on outdoors helping them to learn more skills to be successful and happy in their future lives.

The below is the approximate total value of implementation in this proposal:

| <b>Schedule of Values</b> |  |                       |             |
|---------------------------|--|-----------------------|-------------|
| <b>1</b>                  | <b>Construction Items (Labor + Material)</b> |                       |             |
| <b>1-1</b>                | <b>Architecture</b>                          | <b>€ 319,440.00</b>   | <b>22%</b>  |
|                           | Skin / Exterior Walls                        |                       |             |
|                           | Interior Walls                               |                       |             |
|                           | Floors + Stairs                              |                       |             |
|                           | Ceiling                                      |                       |             |
|                           | Glazing                                      |                       |             |
|                           | Millwork                                     |                       |             |
|                           | Finishes and Arch. Fixtures                  |                       |             |
| <b>1-2</b>                | <b>Structure</b>                             | <b>€ 406,560.00</b>   | <b>28%</b>  |
|                           | Excavation                                   |                       |             |
|                           | Foundation                                   |                       |             |
|                           | Columns                                      |                       |             |
|                           | Beams  |                       |             |
|                           | Floor Slabs                                  |                       |             |
|                           | Bridges                                      |                       |             |
|                           | Shear walls                                  |                       |             |
| <b>1-3</b>                | <b>MEP</b>                                   | <b>421,080.00</b>     | <b>29%</b>  |
|                           | Mechanical Equipment                         |                       |             |
|                           | Electrical Equipment                         |                       |             |
|                           | Plumbing Fixtures                            |                       |             |
|                           | Fire Suppression system                      |                       |             |
|                           | Sewerage                                     |                       |             |
|                           | Green Energy                                 |                       |             |
| <b>1-4</b>                | <b>Other</b>                                 | <b>145,200.00</b>     | <b>10%</b>  |
|                           | Landscape + Site works                       |                       |             |
|                           | Acoustics                                    |                       |             |
|                           | Lighting                                     |                       |             |
|                           | Façade                                       |                       |             |
| <b>2</b>                  | <b>Technical / Permits</b>                   | <b>87,120.00</b>      | <b>6%</b>   |
| 2-1                       | Local Authorities                            |                       |             |
| 2-2                       | Environmental Impact Report                  |                       |             |
| <b>3</b>                  | <b>Miscellaneous</b>                         | <b>72,600.00</b>      | <b>5%</b>   |
| 3-1                       | Unforeseen Conditions                        |                       |             |
| 3-2                       | Construction Alternatives                    |                       |             |
| <b>Total</b>              |  | <b>€ 1,452,000.00</b> | <b>100%</b> |