

EXPLANATORY NOTE:

I.

The proposal keeps the typology of the current home of the foundation as a starting point, that of the *urban villa*. While that form of building maintains an overall ambience of domesticity and cozyness, it has an intrinsic ability to serve as a flexible framework for complex and multiple programs over time.

Thus we propose an enlarged, simplified urban villa as an evolution for Karin Dom that corresponds to the conditions of the plot and the lush greenery without didactic formal gestures.

II.

It is conceived as two distinct volumes, the smaller and lighter one stacked on top of the larger and heavier one, which anchors the whole composition into the inclining landscape as a solid yet perforated plinth. The sober and restricted forms are perforated with geometrical openings alluding to forms of non-figurative building blocks.

The plinth contains the parking garage and the hydrotherapy centre on its souterrain level and the medical and physiotherapy centers on the ground floor. Here the spaces of the training center and the oversized reception area is arranged as a field of interconnected spaces flexibly usable as the welcoming *living room* of the Karin Dom Villa. The Toy Library and the Art Therapy Room are arranged as transparent alcoves around the entrance patio to display the activities of the house and to make a continuous sequence between inside and outside.

III.

The upper volume contains the spatially more fragmented elements of the program in a dense yet easily navigable assembly, integrated by vertical and generously sized horizontal circulation spaces. The profusion of natural light can be filtered or completely screened by the interior system of plywood folding shutters, which acts as a secondary, more natural layer behind the regular curtain wall. The overall „typical plan” configuration of the volumes allows the easy prospective rearrangement of the internal program if needed.

The free roof surface of the plinth offers a large yet protected elevated courtyard accessible from the foyer of the Montessori centre. There are a set of spatial and formal „curiosities” scattered around this playground in the sky, in the form of lookout booths, sculpted lightwells and other surprises.

IV.

The building in overall is arranged in an elongated rectangle to create a pedestrian portico towards the remaining, enclosed and protected garden towards the north-eastern part of the plot. Guests and visitors can access the building on feet and wheelchairs trough moving around the corner towards and trough the entrance patio facing the garden or by directly using the elevator and stairwell from the souterrain car park.

V.

Karin Dom is a decidedly simple, almost generic building that could be easily elaborated and constructed using prefabricated elements extensively to reduce costs and increase quality. Its main aim is to be flexible and recognisable rather by using a few geometric elements as a kind of clumsy but memorable ornamentation than excessive structural forms and shapes.

According to our calculations based on our average domestic prices (vaguely similar to Bulgarian prices) the implementation of the Karin Dom Villa project fits into the available budget defined by the brief easily.

BOARD ONE:

The proposal keeps the typology of the current home of the foundation as a starting point, that of the *urban villa*. The form is an ideal resolution of the tension between the need for an efficient healthcare facility and to avoid it becoming an inhumane machine to institutionalise children with need for special care. Thus we propose the Karin Dom house as an enlarged and abstracted villa in the green, an evolution rather than a total reinvention.

It is conceived as two distinct volumes, a lighter one stacked on top of the heavier one, which acts as a plinth holding an elevated courtyard animated by a set of formal „curiosities”.

The central space of the difficult whole is the oversized reception area, arranged as a field of interconnected spaces flexibly usable as the welcoming *living room* of the Karin Dom Villa.

The upper volume contains the spatially more fragmented elements in a dense but easily navigable assembly integrated by generous vertical and horizontal circulation spaces. The overall „typical plan” configuration of the volumes allows for easy rearrangement in the future.