

INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE COMPETITION FOR SCHEMATIC DESIGN OF A NEW BUILDING FOR KARIN DOM FOUNDATION

New building for Karin Dom Fondation is designed as a comfortable and safe space for education, recreation and health services for children and their parents.

The building is designed according to the required functional program mentioned in the competition brief. Main challenges were to preserve the maximum amount of the existing trees, to subordinate to human scale, to make a sustainable building with a logical distribution of units that will require minimum budget and will make its visitors feel comfortable and welcome.

Green areas

Karin Dom Foundation building is located in the green area. The new structure is designed with minimal intervention to the existing landscape and as much trees as possible are saved.

Additionally, green roofs are proposed in order to dissolve the designed volume within the existing green area.

Rain garden is designed on the lowest part of the plot to collect rainwater.

Recreation areas

Entrance garden in front of the reception serves as a representative zone.

Climate and orientation of the building dictated the location of the recreation areas on the plot. South part of the plot is designed as a children playground to have optimal insolation with shading from the existing trees. Playground has a direct connection to the Montessori Center as well as can be used by visitors from other units.

Roof terrace is designed on the second floor as a recreation area. It has a connection to the training center.

Traffic and pedestrian access

Main existing connections with the surrounding are preserved.

Main entrance of the building is close to the entrance to the plot from the main road and bus stops from Tsar Osvoboditel Boulevard. In front of the main entrance are preserved the existing trees in order to create a green representative area and to divide it from the car road. Main traffic access is designed from the main road with a place for the car to stop in front of the main entrance. Ramp to the underground parking is designed on the plot area instead of the existing road.

Functional zoning

All the required premises in the competition brief with the appropriate areas are designed in the competition proposal. Main aim was to make the most rational and logical planning with minimal required area but with all necessary connections to provide good circulation of the visitors in the building.

Ground floor consists of 6 units:

- A – RECEPTION
- B – TOY LIBRARY
- C – PHYSIOTHERAPY
- D – MONTESSORI CENTER
- E – HYDROTHERAPY UNIT
- I – MEDICAL CENTER

Main entrance is from the southwest facade, but reception can be reached from the northeast facade as well. Medical Center and Montessori Unit have its own entrances. From the Montessori Center children can access the children playground, located on the south of the plot.

Ground floor as well as first and second floor has connection to the underground parking through the elevator and stairs.

On the first floor are located 7 units:

- F – CENTER FOR DIAGNOSTICS AND THERAPY
- G – EARLY INTERVENTION CENTER
- H – CENTER FOR FAMILY-MEDIATED INTERVENTION
- L – STAFF REST AREAS
- N – SERVER ROOM(S)
- K – ADMINISTRATION
- M – GREEN ROOF

Skylight is designed above the corridor in the F Unit to give more light to the designed spaces.

On the second floor are located Training Center (J) with a conference room and a big roof terrace with areas for recreation and green zones.

Exterior

Rhythmical pattern of the facades and natural materials as wooden planks correspond to the surrounding green area. The composition of the main facade is longitudinal with a glass entrance with wooden planks welcoming visitors.

The second floor goes back from the main facade that makes it look like a 2-storey building - more of the human scale. The roof above the second floor creates a feeling of the flying leaf that adds lightness to the overall volume.

From the children playground the volume consists of smaller cubes that makes a building look not so solid.

Interior

Rounded angles are designed in the interior for the safe circulation of the visitors on the wheel chairs.

Natural materials, soft colours and the maximum use of the natural light are used in the interior to create a comfortable atmosphere for the visitors of the center.

Atrium above the ground floor of the semi-elliptical shape adds light to the corridors, divides the units and makes the reception a more representative zone.

Budget

The overall building area of the ground, first and second floors is 1 672 m². It is less than 1 800 m² (which was mentioned in the competition brief as maximum). The final budget depends on the chosen materials. The designed building is expected to be under the existing budget of the Euro 1,452,000.

Sustainability

The compact shape and logical functional distribution of units makes the building more energy-efficient and sustainable. Green roofs dissolve the designed building within the surrounding and play an important role in water management in combination with rain gardens.

Ecological materials as wood are used for the exterior as well as interior.

Maximum amount of the existing trees are preserved and the existing road is reused as a way to the underground parking.

Floor area on the underground level - 649 m²

Number of parking spaces in the underground parking - 21

Gross floor area on the above-ground level
(including terrain level) - 793 m²

Floor area (ground, first and second floor level) - 1 672 m²

Total landscaped area within the plot and the building - 1514 m² (including green roof areas - 512 m²)