MSC 4 PRAGUE STUDIO | Jiameng II 4738217

VYSEHRAD PERFORMING ART CENTER
architectural translation of indigenous images in Prague
Vysehrad

Founded in 10th century as an initial royal fortress, it is believed as the birthplace of Czech nation and later developed to the city Prague.

Vysehrad has become a national symbol and been beloved by both locals and tourists.

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P2 RECAP | SITE

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SITE HISTORY

A fortified Royal Castle (Before 1420)

• 960-1000, AD founded
• 11th, concentration of religious buildings
• 1249, the buildings of the acropolis turned into ruins due to battles
• 1348 to 1350, Fortification was extensively redesigned and expanded to connect to simultaneously constructed fortification of the New Town
• 1420, the demise of Vysehra as a royal castle because of Hussite Wars, most of royal acropolis was leveled to the ground

The Town of the Vysehrad Hill (1452-1650)

• new habitants: mostly poor city people, artisan, unskilled laborers and people with heavy debt.
• upper town: market, town hall, the chapter deanery, the canon’s house, a forge, houses with gardens and vineyards, pubs, brothel
• lower town: early medieval market street, church, hospital, spa, lime kiln, beer brewery
• 1650, decision to build the Vysehrad Citadel
SITE HISTORY

The Baroque Citadel (1650-1866)

- 1650, demolition of most of the medieval fortifications, the upper town disappeared, the lower town preserved.
- 1651-1652, the outermost angular rampart was reconstructed

A national symbol (since 1866)

- In old legend: origin of Prague
- In Medieval: a testimony to the ancient origin of the Premyslid dynasty
- Present: national symbol connected to earliest history of the Czech nation.
STATISTICAL ANALYSIS:

Vysehrad is located in cadastral district Prague 2 and next to one of the most desirable Prague neighborhoods, Vinohrady. Vinohrady is most popular among young professionals, international residents and hold one of Prague’s main epicenter of nightlife, while Vysehrad is featured with a more authentic glimpse of Czech lifestyle than Vinohrady. From the official statistic result at end of 2017, Prague 2 is the highest density of population (11,857). The neighboring Prague 4 is the most populated city section (128455 population).

Vysehrad is meanwhile at the intersection of three areas, Prague 2, Prague 4 and Prague 5. Prague 4 is a large, primarily working class district which isn’t highly desired by tourists or recent arrivals, while Prague 5 is a more upscale neighborhood with newly renovated buildings, hotels, trendy restaurants and shipping center. Farther out of Prague 5 is more residential with houses and recent housing development.
SITE ANALYSIS

traffic
SITE ANALYSIS

programmes
SITE ANALYSIS

segregation of programmes
P2 RECAP | DESIGN INTENTION

How a historical compound with highly symbolic identity respond to the ongoing complexity of urban context?

Can Vysehrad be regenerated by creating a secondary identity and introducing new functions beyond its current condition? How will the new identity connect to the existing one and served by specific functions?

How to tackle the coexistence of historical relics and new construction?

How will the scheme response to the genius loci of Prague?
[Vyšehrad Spring]  
a subterranean cultural compound

The goal of the project is to add a secondary identity to the site, a place where the new possibilities of future Prague will be born. It will be the next cultural compound out of the central PragueVyšehrad will be a national symbol not only for its past history but for its creativity to the future as well.

Program:
- art performing center
- library
- gallery
- artisan studios
- sanctuary (meditation center)

Site Perception Diagram
P2 RECAP | THEME

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PRELIMINARY DESIGN | INTENTION

Project Inception
- Public space with high flexibility to accommodate a wider range of activities
- Young professionals
- Multi-form theater
- Amateur artists
- Educational practice (Music/Dance/Drama studio)

Programme
- Multi-form theater [professional performance]
- Art Performing Learning Center
  [Music/Dance/Drama studios]
- Public accessible collective space
- Event Space
PRELIMINARY DESIGN
| INTENTION

Independence and connection
Two major volumes (the learning centre and theatre) are linked by a large collective hall in between while retaining their independence in functions and efficiency in accessibility by separated entrances and circulation system.

Architectural Volume
Break down the volume on the ground level.
PRAGUE INSPIRATION

**COLOR**
Pinkish color tone in different shades

**COLONNADE**
dominated images of Prague
massive form
dramatic cast shadow
hidden materiality
strong geometric configuration

**GRAND STAIRCASE**
circulation route
public space
component of townscape
genius loci of Prague
a sense of promenade

**GALLERY**
gallery space of residential blocks and open courtyard formed a pair of shifting roles as stage and audience
EXTERIOR VIEW
FLOOR PLANS | ENTRANCE LEVEL (LEVEL -3)
FLOOR PLANS | RESTAURANT (LEVEL -1)
WEST ELEVATION
NORTH ELEVATION
DETAIL

[Diagram and models of architectural details]

Msc 4 Prague Studio | Jiameng Li
EXTERIOR VIEW
Ground Level
EXTERIOR VIEW

Ground Level
INTERIOR VIEW
INTERIOR VIEW
INTERIOR VIEW
THANK YOU