

24 Years Euregional Prize for Architecture

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Prague. Heart and Brain

Participant info

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Project info

Through the experience of the rising vltava river 2013 in Prague, the idea to create a safe storage for objects which are endangered by the water emerged. Not only items displayed in museums should be saved but also possibly everyone's treasure. All objects which represent Prague's culture and memorable in certain ways should be collected in one microkosmos. The mountain Petřín with its prominent position in the city is chosen as the construction site. Items will not just be saved there but also partly displayed.

On the one hand rational issues form the building (Brain), on the other the cultural exception needs to be honored (Heart).

But what's worth saving? After an analysis of the cities museums and its districts a system of preselection was found: important curators define by specialized knowledge the value of every item considered in the storage building.

The logistic ways to the storage and in the building itself define the design and layout of the building. Items arrive in the delivery hall from where they are reorganized and brought to a lift either downstairs to the mass storage (Brain) or upstairs to the exhibition stock (Heart).

The large underground storage offers each one level to every bigger district in Prague (Praha 1 – 10). Due to the individual focus on objects in each district, the groundplan and size of storage boxes differs on each level.

The aboveground situated seven storage towers display each one category: arts, nature, curiosities, documents, jewelry, furniture and technics. Shapes, sizes and interiors of these building parts are influenced by places in Prague where these items are originally displayed. Nevertheless they are all unified by type of construction and material used on the facade. No windows distract the visitors view from the exponents, the beautiful cityscape unfolds on the connecting bridges between the storage towers.

