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Report Colloquium City of Landshut on June 1, 2021

**Launching day of the competition
5th of April 2021**

**Organiser
Europän – German Association for the Promotion of
Architecture,
Housing and Urban Planning
in cooperation with the City of Landshut**

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**Colloquium in the city park of Landshut
Start: 16.30 p.m., End: 16:45**

Question 1: What is important from the point of view of monument preservation?

Answer from the Department of Monument Preservation (Mr. Herrmann):

The fundamental goal of monument preservation is to keep interventions in the historic building fabric as low as possible. And that the overall appearance is preserved in its entirety as far as possible. At the same time, we know that changes are needed to make the JVA usable again. The planning task is: how can I find a new use and at the same time preserve the essence of the building? The corridor access is important, the areas to the left and right of the corridor can be adapted. I would find it problematic to enlarge the windows. The character of the perforated façade should be preserved. The appearance of the closed building should remain. But perhaps there are also areas of the façade that are less prominent...

Question 2: The surrounding wall, it appears from the competition documents, has been raised further over time and also filled in, the arches used to be open. Is it possible to revert to the original condition here?

Answer from the Department of Monument Preservation (Mr. Herrmann): Over-forming happens again and again. For us, it is not necessarily the last deformation that is important. What is important with the wall is that there is a closed area. If there were openings in the past, I am sure that a solution can be found.

Answer from the City of Landshut's Building Director (Mr. Doll): At the same time, the area currently looks very closed off and not very inviting when you come into the city. From our point of view, it would be important to harmonize the wall with a certain opening. After all, it should also be made accessible to the public.

Question 3: And what about the question of new buildings? That the existing building remains as it is and is then extended? So that it works well together, of course.

Answer from the Department of Monument Preservation (Mr. Herrmann): I can imagine something like that in principle, if it is subordinate. In the new building area you can do things that you can't do here - and then they complement each other in terms of function. Please do not see our specifications as limitations, but as challenges.

Answer City of Landshut (Mr. Doll): Yes, and the courtyard situation can also be reinterpreted. From our point of view it is possible to make additions.

Question 4: What can you imagine in the correctional facility? What can you imagine on the part of the city? And what are the needs of the city of Landshut and the region? What is absolutely needed here, and preferably tomorrow?

Answer from the Director of Construction, Government of Lower Bavaria (Mr. Klar): I don't think there is ONE use. Otherwise there would already be something here. We deliberately want it to be open-ended. A multifunctional use that also opens up the area and makes it accessible and continuous would be the most promising at this location. Because every other individual use, which is then self-contained, perhaps comes closest to the character of the monument, but then it remains a plug that separates the old town from the river Isar. And we definitely want to see that broken up. This permeability must be created, and not only by opening up the wall in two places, but also by making the building more inviting - with whatever mixture of uses.

Question 5: What can be done with the large car park?

Answer: City of Landshut (Mr. Doll): This is an important question, because this is an area that has an important joint function. Various uses already meet there. On the one hand, parking is somewhat subordinate, then there is the beautiful green area with the river Isar and the old prison as a hinge, and then the unique old town behind it, separated again by the big street. So the question is: how can I deal with such an important joint function - and that's where the car park can be considered. One may then be so free - to ask whether this quarter should only be permanently occupied by parking. Even if this is not politically desirable at the moment, we can leave that out of the equation for an idea competition.

Answer from the european board (Mr. Weber): You can see very well where we are: the life that you can feel right here now - people walking around, meeting, sitting...and then there's an intermediate part - the joint - and then, behind it, there's life again (in the old town). But in between, there is actually nothing. No life. We walked past the high wall, on a 1.5 m wide pavement, next to the street... and at that point you wish that this eye of a needle was no more. The task is to connect the life that takes place here with the life that takes place in the city centre. To the question, what can I imagine: connecting life up there with life down here - without the leak in between.

Supplementary answer to the preservation of historical monuments (Mr. Herrmann): This is also due to the impassability of Wittstraße. We crossed an area without a zebra crossing. Of course, there have to be crossing possibilities everywhere that work and are safe. That certainly plays a role. And of course: if I have nothing to do over there, I'd rather stay here. At least at this time of year. As a cyclist or pedestrian, I avoid the tight situation there.

Answer euopan Board (Mr. Weber): If there was such a simple table of needs, then we wouldn't need a european - then the table would simply be worked through. What we would like to see are unusual things that perhaps already exist in Düsseldorf or Madrid - how can something like that be transferred to Landshut?

Answer City of Landshut (Mr. Doll): Regarding the needs - that can be answered relatively quickly and easily: we are one of the fastest growing municipalities in the Munich area. There is nothing that is not needed.

Answer from the Government of Lower Bavaria (Mr Klar): Social infrastructure is always an important issue in a growing city. Whether this is the right building for it - that is something to consider.

Question 6: Would a university location be conceivable?

Answer Director of Construction, Government of Lower Bavaria (Mr. Klar): The university is already at the other end of the city. But yes, perhaps that is possible, the university is also growing. There are some universities in Bavaria, for example in Deggendorf, which have different university locations. There are campuses and they function very well.

Response from the City of Landshut's Director of Construction (Mr. Doll): It is an issue that the university currently has relatively few links with the city. But it is also more of a commuter university here, unlike perhaps in Hamburg or Munich.

Answer from the euopan Board (Mr. Weber): But of course it is also a representative location. Institutions that are in the city could also represent themselves here - because it is also an important entrance to the city.

Answer from the City of Landshut's Building Director (Mr. Doll): Well, on the question of possible uses: We have enough hotels at the moment.