

ER-ARCH-BA_601

Design Studio 6

The task for the spring semester is to design a **Home for the Elderly** in the south-western part of the **Buda Castle district**.

Site:

Budapest, I. Logodi utca 37.

History has rushed through the once densely built-up medieval town, dotted with streets and alleys. Although its scale was laid in the Baroque period (based on medieval origins), the construction boom of the Millennium (eclecticism, historicism) played a decisive role in shaping its scale as we know it today. In the winter of 1944, the German military authorities declared Budapest a fortress to delay the unstoppable advance of the Soviet army. The decision sealed the fate of the castle district, the Vörösmarty and the houses of the Logodi Street. The treatment of the consequences of the destruction, the wounds inflicted on the urban fabric, and the replacement of the destroyed buildings, still define the face of the neighbourhood today. More than half a century later „only” post-war modernist buildings and the heritage management approach is targeted, while historicist reconstructions and restorations are having a renaissance on the hilltop. Our task is to find authentic architectural responses to heritage and modern living needs in this intellectual context.

Planning area and guidelines:

Planning area is the steep, southwest facing, partially built-up hillside defined by lots 37-39 Logodi Street and above at 11-12 Lovas Road.

- The currently vacant municipally-owned residential building at 37 Logodi Street is expected to be retained. The internal spaces of the building can be adapted to the needs of the architectural programme, the retention of its roof structure and roof shape is a matter of design choice.
- Ensure the accessibility, serviceability and operability of the building as a public institution by providing appropriate infrastructure.
- The extent of the existing paved and green areas is a matter of design choice, but the most dominant and valuable trees, or parts of them, should be retained if possible.
- The scale of the proposed building(s) should be determined as a result of an analysis of the wider context, the urban fabric, and the existing building. Also consider to create an intensive connection between the adjacent public spaces and between the existing and new building. Accessibility for disabled would be great not only from Logodi Street but also from Lovas Road.
- The volume of the new building should be harmonised with the scale of its surroundings, although its height may differ from its neighbours where justified.

- The new elements of the old building and the new building's use of materials and architectural appearance can be designed by everyone, with great freedom, taking into account the historical values of the castle district. It is important to be familiarised with the relevant local regulation plans and to remember that we are talking about a World Heritage core zone, a historic environment.
- The landscaping design of the surroundings is also an integral part of the task. The building must be accessible to service vehicles, with a minimum of 2 taxis and 1 ambulance car.
- The design concept and the spatial relationships of the proposed new buildings should also take into account the architectural and technical aspects of environmental awareness and sustainability.
- The feasibility of a basement level can be considered, taking into account the possibility that remains of medieval basement systems may be found.
- It would be great to provide parking lots for workers, if possible (5-6 cars).

It is necessary to visit the site and get to know the neighbourhood, as well as to study the architecture of similar institutions, centres in Hungary and abroad.

Home for Elderly architectural programme:

The aim of the programme is to provide housing for the elderly residents of the district who need supervision, care and assistance, in the close vicinity of their familiar and preferred place of living, thus reducing the risks of segregation, loneliness or apathy in old age.

Public spaces:

- reception and information desk
- medical room, examination room (1 of 15 m²)
- staff toilets for the staff and service areas (designed in accordance with the hungarian building regulations)
- public toilets serving all public needs in the building (designed in accordance with the hungarian building regulations)
- multifunctional room, lecture room, where it is possible to organise local cultural events, mini-conferences, club events, educational lectures, concerts, occasional exhibitions, small fairs (maximum capacity of about 60 people, floor space of about 70-80 m²)
- small club room, film clubs, other events can be organised (with a maximum capacity of c. 30 people, c. 40 m² of floor space, but can also be used as a lounge for communal activities like TV watching)
- small furniture storage attached to the club room to facilitate rearrangement

- dining room (~100m²), possibly with an adjoining terrace, a small scale kitchen to meet sanitary requirements and a small adjoining communal kitchen
- DIY workshop (textile, wood, craft activities)
- mini-library (could also be part of the club room)
- outdoor areas for active recreation (orchard, vegetable and herb garden, relaxation garden, greenhouse for hobby gardening)
- café terrace with connection to the public space (circa 50-60 m²), possibly a mini-bakery, a small shop, could be even in the same space as the café (optional programme element)

Private areas:

- apartments, 1 or 2 bed units (capacity to be discussed, but a maximum of 50 persons per unit is recommended), living rooms have en-suite bathrooms and are accessible for disabled
- sauna and steam room with adjoining rooms, small scale gym
- office unit for the administrative management of the house (2 offices of 15 m² each)
- necessary service areas (corridores, stairs, elevators, engineering spaces, etc.)
- storage for bicycles (designed in accordance with the hungarian building regulations)
- small apartments for the staff (3-4, 35-50 m²)