

Design Studio

Studio ČTYŘSTĚN Tomáš Págo, Milan Joja, Karel Kubza

Collaborators

Marek Holán, landscape architect, exteriors

Design Team

Martina Fojtíková, Nikola Korábová (building design), Tereza Minárová, Monika Mozolová (interiors), Roman Koplík (civil engineering, construction)

Client Dům pro Julii, City of Brno

Contractor UNISTAV CONSTRUCTION

Start and Completion Year 2020-2024

Gross Area

1841 m²

Sustainable and healthy materials or systems wooden cladding of larch bio-boards

Photography Alex shoots buildings

Contact and more information

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More information

House for Julia. <u>Children's Hospice</u>

'Casa per Júlia'<u>. Centre infantil de cures pal·liatives</u> 'Casa para Julia'.<u>Centro infantil de curas paliativas</u> Brno, Czech Republic, 2020-2024

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REPORT. Sustainable and Healthy Architecture

The project redefines the concept of a children's hospice not as a purely clinical facility, but as a sanctuary that provides care, comfort, and connection with nature.

The key challenge was to create a space that supports children with serious medical conditions and their families, not only medically but also emotionally and psychologically. Our design addresses this and improves. We embedded the complex into the natural landscape of the original park and created a large courtyard at its centre with old pine trees, which is intended to create a feeling of peace and privacy despite its proximity to the city. The courtyard creates its own safe space with a warm and harmonious atmosphere.

The circular corridor, running all around the atrium, is generously glazed, offering beautiful views of the trees and sky above. There are also reflections of light from the pond's surface for the lying patients to enjoy. The circular layout of the corridors with living niches and many views to the outside is one of the most important elements of the design. The building allows for movement on foot, with a stroller, or in a wheelchair. Alternating environments and spending time alone or with others. It provides contact with nature, regardless of the weather or one's physical condition. It's a modern sanctuary.

During the design process we had to take into account all situations. So we created a dedicated farewell apartment with a memorial atrium which allows families to say their last goodbyes in a deeply personal, undisturbed setting.

Despite its size, is quite discretely set into the surrounding area. It blends into the terrain which is overflowing onto the roof reducing heat buildup. Thanks to the layout of the building and integration into the terrain, all three floors are accessible from the outside, so the house is barrier-free. We used monolithic reinforced concrete as the main construction material. Its aesthetics are reflected both inside and on the building's facade. Large windows with wooden frames are oriented southward, allowing natural light to enter the interior during winter. The prominent overhangs of the monolithic ceilings cover the terraces, creating shelter at each entrance and serving as passive shading to prevent the interior from overheating. Shading is further enhanced by sliding sunshades from Siberian larch. The walls are insulated from the outside with mineral wool and covered with wooden cladding of larch bio-boards. A green roof which seamlessly blends it into the landscape and a pond creates a pleasant microclimate, improves the building's energy balance, and contributes to cooling. Excess rainwater is collected in a large underground tank and is used as a water supply for the pond and to irrigate the trees and lawn in the courtyard. The walkway in the inner atrium is made of permeable concrete, allowing rainwater to soak into the soil.

Heating and cooling are managed through a conduit system embedded in the concrete and fibre-cement ceilings. It is supplied by three air-to-water heat pumps hidden in the facade niches of the underground floor.

Suppliers

Ateliér LIPROJEKT (structural engineering), Staviař (fire safety solutions), Projekt 315 (sanitary infrastructure), Michal Kysilka (ventilation), TPS Projekt (heating and cooling technology, high voltage electrical), Alexaprojekce (low voltage electrical), CENTROPROJEKT GROUP, Berndorf Bäderbau (pool technology) Small lake, www.zahradnijezirka.net (lake), Jiří Kozlovský (lightning protection), Rostislav Beneš (traffic and transport), Sollus nábytek (atypical built-in furniture, wooden cladding, terraces), Qualibau (polished plasters), ATEH, Bretricon (lighting), ADI interiér (sanitary partitions), GEMO (monolithic load-bearing construction), Flora Urbanica (green roof), Mirror (interior doors and glazed walls),: Urban Forestry (soil grouting and tree pruning)