

SEMINARY – PROPAEDEUTIC PERIOD

Lublin, Zemborzycki Lake

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Subject of thesis

The subject of the thesis is to develop a project of a Catholic Seminary intended to a first and second years students – the period thereafter called propaedeutic. The building is planned as part of the Archdiocesan Seminary in Lublin.

The plot of the investment is located near the Lublin city, on the shoreline of Zemborzycki Lake. It is the part of large, oak-pine Dabrowa Forest. The study includes building design and plan of immediate surroundings.

Reasons for taking topic

Seminary connects interesting design subjects. In this type of building combines spiritual, daily life and education functions. Chapel – sacrum, works next to residential part, refectory (canteen), libraries and lecture halls. A multitude and infiltration of topics allows to inspiring shaping of form and it's challenge for designer – to skillfully connect every functional element of Seminary.

The number of vocations goes down year after year, which may be one of the reasons of lower confidence to Catholic Church. This situation results a loss of interest in joining the clergy. It may be due to bad preparation of candidates and their wrong selection.

The project of seminary in Lublin for first and second year students – future priests – is an attempt of isolate the preparatory period (propaedeutic) from whole course of study (six years). The aim is to check the suitability of the candidates to be a priest.

Type

Seminary – propaedeutic period – is an educational function. It's an offer addressed to candidates to the priesthood of the Roman Catholic Church. The designed building is intended for about sixty candidates, professors and potential guests. Building combines functions necessary for everyday life and education of future priests. It serves as a place for living - living area, a place of prayer - the chapel, education - the library, classrooms, and lecture hall. Whole object is an integrated residential – educational complex, fully used by students and cater for all needs without need to leave the Seminary.

Spatial, compositional and functional assumptions

"Seminary - propaedeutic period" is a specific function that has to comply with many needs of young person, who decided to become a priest. Apartment, faith, science, insulation, recreation, entertainment, meeting, silence, focus, prayer - all must provide the seminary. Designed building includes an idea of "the way" of a young candidate who wants to enter into the spiritual realm, into the realm of transformation. During the whole period, his stay in the seminar is accompanied by learning, knowledge, understanding and meeting God – to meet God, you need to understand and acquire knowledge. The result and the end of the road which needs to travel the seminarian (candidate for the priesthood) is complete maturity, transformation and readiness for further education - a new existence, which symbol is a tree at the water's surface. Proposed building has been modeled on example of mentioned road and it has been divided into stages (zones), which are merged by mutual

visually - compositional axis and centrally situated chapel. Axis is accentuated by sequence of wooden vertical beams, running through the whole complex. Concrete and wood in the form of vertical divisions are the main theme in the shaping of the buildings facade. Wooden elements irregularly placed on the building relate to forestry location of seminary.

Main entrance to the building is located in residential part (level +/- 0.00) and educational part (level -3.65m). Both parts are connected by symbolic "mine of knowledge" – library (reading room and book collection). Above the library is placed a chapel, which together symbolize encounter with God and recognition Him.

The functional arrangement of the proposed building corresponds to seminarians day plan. The chapel is located directly to the residential part, because every day begins with Eucharist, than students and professors eat first meal – breakfast. For this purpose they should go along the library, to refectory. Space reserved for eating meals is located in educational part of complex, because after meal students are going to classes.

Future priests are spending their free time in their rooms and common space located in residential part – where are a TV room, and table tennis room. Whole divided by mobile walls, so students can organize space in any way they want.

In addition, there is an informatics room in education part and students can use it after classes in fixed hours.

There is designed auditorium, which can accommodate all of the students and guests (100 people). It is located next to the main entrance to the educational part. It's preceded by representational hall with cloakroom and stairs to the conference room.

Conclusion

"Seminary – propaedeutic period" is an innovative and quite brave object to the current requirements of the ecclesiastical authorities in Poland. Designed building is a function introduced in Archdiocesan Seminary in Lublin on the example of Major Seminary John Paul II Diocese of Siedlce. It is the result of reflection on the state of the Polish Catholic Church. Propaedeutic period aims at a rigorous selection of candidates for the priests and putting them in the philosophical aspects of the priesthood. This is the right time to decide about continuation studying in seminary.

Location in an isolated part of Lublin and Zemborzycki Lake promotes thinking and deep meditation about validity of choice undertaken by young men joining the seminary. The proposed architecture is not distracting, it's ascetic by natural and raw materials - concrete and wood. The structure is equipped with all necessary elements needed for clerics education and life, without having to leave it.