BRIEF PRESENTATION CRITIQUE

School of Architecture Entrance Building

The present critique, related to the Briefing poster presentation, is provided to give you a useful support for the following project development and for the final exam documentation as well.

First of all, I positively consider your autonomous decision to tackle the Place analysis in a collective form and to work as team. It is a very valuable attitude in our multi-specialist profession where the project required different contributions and integration.

Instead, concerning your personal conceptual proposal and program here are my personal considerations.
Before to detail them, you have to understand that my observations are expressed as a synthesis. So take these observations when they might have references with your work.

1. All the information collected in the common analysis are very weakly reported and taken into account in your work. As a result in very limited works a schematic conceptualization of these aspects are sketched
2. With few exceptions, traces, and patterns recognition have very limited impact in the conceptual proposal.
3. View shed is largely ignored and in some case misapplied (wrong view directions)
4. Other misapplied information can be observed in winds or sun path (not to mention north/south shift)
5. Building area vocations, and polarities are not developed, even in the common work as well. No indication about sloping and drainage directions
6. In some students 'work, Adjacency Matrix is very poor. But in several cases it was carried out by integrating useful information such as the space relationship with the outside, accessibility, need for natural light... My advice is to look at the work of your colleagues who best used this tool.
7. The same consideration is for the bubble graph where in some works is drafted not taking in account dimensional proportions. Diameters have to correspond proportionally to the total space surface. In addition, try to simplify it or cluster different spaces that have some affinity. For example WC spaces are not so important because each floor or group of spaces need them.
8. Pay attention to some contradictions that arise from your work, from concept and schematic drawing representation. For example, take in consideration that the double skin facade is more useful in the north facade, not in the south facade; curtain wall is not the cheapest solution for the envelope
9. More in general, pay attention that some challenging solutions can be a hazard in a so small area with many constraints. (for example: protruding/receding facade, overhanging building blocks, rotations,...).
10. Always a disruptive approach requires a deep control and a good understanding of the context to motivate it.

11. Have a real control on materiality of construction or simply use the calculator because the total admitted height doesn't fit with four or more above ground floors.
12. If you intend to use ramps consider its real development in length. Also stairs need a proper dimensioning.
13. Slabs need a consistent dimension: are not simple lines. This is a problem for most of you especially in the underground floor.
14. Slabs need a consistent dimension: are not a simple lines. This is a problem for most of you especially in the underground floor.
15. According with the last observation be aware that an auditorium or a large space need a proportional height, which is not compatible with a location under the garden of the cloister. In fact, for a big space without intermediate pillars and air conditioning systems the slab thickness cannot be less of 100-80 cm (structure+ MEP ceiling space and floor finishing) with an increase of other 30-60 cm if you put loan/bushes on top of it. Act consistently: a) change destination and host there smaller spaces; b) verify with prof. Renzi, prof. De Stefano, and soil stratigraphy the possibility to go under the assigned limit of -3.5 m; conceive an architectural design able to integrate the volume that emerges from the zero level.
16. In any case all the proposals don't take in account how to deal with the cloister and the adjacent space in the public plaza. An architectural proposal in continuity with the building is strongly required
17. Again, materiality of construction doesn't let you to build over the garage, and over the vehicle ramp. Pay attention that the buildable portion on the east side cannot have pillars or other vertical structures,. As a consequence options are: a) don't build there; 2) define a structural concept to overhang first and second floors.
18. Very few students used a modular approach to define minimal dimensions of each functional space. This approach can be very useful to define the structural grid through which you can rule the design.
19. There is a diffuse lack of sections. In A. Loos teaching layout organization can benefit form a vertical organization of functional and architectural spaces.
20. In this phase detailed design is an unjustified headlong flight. I would much rather the use of hand sketches and/ or nice conceptual diagrams. Check my students' researches out for inspiration. One of them is the architect that won the competition for our building! Links from my website are:

http://www.mailab.biz/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/DIAGRAMMI.pdf

http://www.mailab.biz/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/visioni.pdf)

21. Cultural and architectural references are very poor. Try to developed a personal research to support your proposals and ideas and not forget to credit authors and sources.
22. To report sources is not optional. You must do it or your behavior is plagiarism even when your text comes from Wiki.
23. Who did it knows well to whom I'm talking, but you must also know that Internet is an easy way to discover this appropriation as well (including images).
24. I appreciated your effort to define a parametric cost estimation for your building even not everybody did it. As I told you, this assignment was mainly motivated to force you in researching architectural examples with some affinity with our project, but very few students presented very significant case studies. I confirm that in the next weeks I'm going to provide you a parametric cost reference for different categories of space in order to unify your budget estimation.

FOR INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION CHECK THE GRADE FILE OUT.
(Individual grade includes the partecipation to the collective analysis as well)