

CHYBIK + KRISTOF ARCHITECTS WIN COMPETITION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE JIHLAVA MULTIPURPOSE ARENA, CZECH REPUBLIC

A vibrant multifunctional complex, the four-building project brings together sports, culture, and social venues open to diverse audiences. Revisiting the site as an urban sociocultural campus, they act together to revive the notion of public space and integrate the long-neglected area to Jihlava's city center.



July 1, 2020 (Jihlava, Czech Republic) – The result of a much-anticipated public competition, CHYBIK + KRISTOF ARCHITECTS & URBAN DESIGNERS have been selected to complete the construction of the Jihlava Multipurpose Arena – one of the largest sports and leisure complexes in the Czech Republic. The construction, due to begin in 2021 and end in 2023, will build on the city's existing hockey stadium, a deteriorating indoor sporting arena built in 1956, and expand into a four-building multifunctional center bringing together an adaptable ice rink, a rooftop running track and a gym as well as a sports academy, hospitality establishments and shops. Hosting both regional sporting and cultural events, the completed structure will act as a public platform open to a variety of audiences for a diverse range of activities, in an effort to revitalize this long-neglected area of the city.

CHYBIK + KRISTOF's design for the new Jihlava Multipurpose Arena revisits the existing structure of the building, initially developed as the home stadium for the regional ice hockey club. A multifunctional space with a capacity of 5,600 spectators, the project extends the stadium's original purpose by creating a versatile space, adapted to both its primary sporting purposes within state-of-the-art facilities and a broad spectrum of activities – and their respective audiences. Located on the border of Jihlava's historical center, the arena – a structure usually confined to the periphery of cities – is adjacent to a park and university and places itself in the continuity of these two spaces. The several public spaces nested throughout the four-building "urban stadium" allow it to melt into the surrounding urban landscape. Rather than marking an interruption in the existing city structure, the arena serves as a transparent and fluid transition between seemingly distinct spaces, thereby reviving and opening up the area to new functions, and ultimately extending the city center beyond its strict historical bounds. In this new permeable space, which the inhabitants are encouraged to invest in their daily lives, the architectural framework lays the foundations for the prominent notions of free movement and interaction.

The new structure unfolds into four distinct buildings, two of which already exist, connected through open-air walkways and green spaces. While the existing rectangular stadium undergoes full reconstruction and the sports academy is maintained as a key element of the site, they are both refurbished to host new functionalities and better blend within the overall environment and its signature aesthetic. At the heart of the project, the architects erect a spacious new arena: a monumental structure, its materials and forms reflect the city's Baltic origins – a reference likewise mirrored in the triangle-patterned façades of the various refurbished and new buildings in the complex. The oval arena is structurally conceived as a versatile space: the interior space, endowed with the complex technical equipment necessary, serves at once as a hockey rink, exhibitions and events hall, and concert venue, complemented by an indoor gym. On its roof rests an outdoor track, further enriching the building's sports functionality and inviting audiences to look upon the surrounding views of the city.

Adjacent to it, the architects have placed a hospitality building. Placed at an intersection, its elevated pedestrian-friendly structure invites visitors into the complex by allowing them to view the full environment from the street and thereby easily orient themselves within it. Combining a restaurant, hotel, gym and office spaces, it is exclusively dedicated to enriching visitors' multifaceted experience of the complex and ensures the connection with the neighboring sports venue. Beyond a circumstantial, events-based site, the Jihlava Multipurpose Arena is an everyday space, an urban sporting, cultural and social campus for visitors of the arena, athletes, students of the academy and university, and the general public to invest. As the four buildings' complementary and interconnected functions contribute to this, they share a distinct red metal grid façade, formed by apposed triangles. The expansive, highly visible and recognizable complex – both aesthetically and structurally – grows into an icon for the city, a definite, familiar, and understandable building for its inhabitants.



Founding architects Ondřej Chybík and Michal Křištof outline the sociocultural significance of the project: *“We envisioned the Jihlava Multipurpose Arena as a deeply versatile complex, whose various functions are reflected at once in the technical structure, the landscaping and the aesthetics of the buildings. In integrating multiple purposes, we took significant consideration of their various audiences, thereby seeking to reflect the city’s diverse social and generational communities and to encourage their interactions. More than a center for sports and events, the arena is a social campus for the city – used by the people, thereby designed for the people.”*

The Jihlava Multipurpose Arena is CHYBIK + KRISTOF’s most recent announcement as they prepare to complete the much-anticipated Lahofer Winery – one of the studio’s major projects. Nestled in the Czech Moravian countryside, the winery fuses the region’s longstanding wine tradition with a contemporary design, reflective of and in dialogue with the surrounding vines. The practice was also recently amongst the European Centre for Architecture Art Design and Urban Studies’s 2019 40 Under 40 Award winners, following on their award of Architectural Record’s 2019 Design Vanguard Prize.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About CHYBIK + KRISTOF

CHYBIK + KRISTOF is an architecture and urban design practice founded in 2010 by Ondřej Chybík and Michal Křištof. Operating with 50+ international team members and offices in Prague, Brno and Bratislava, the practice aims at creating bridges between private and public space, transcending generations and societal spheres. Taking into account local histories and environmental specificities, the studio works on a wide array of projects, ranging from urban developments to public and residential buildings. Recent projects include: Gallery of Furniture (Czech Republic), the Czech Pavilion at Expo 2015 (Milan, Italy) and Lahofer Winery (Czech Republic). The studio has been awarded a number of prizes, including the 2019 Vanguard Award from Architectural Record.

<https://chybik-kristof.com/>

About the Project

Client: City of Jihlava

Project team: Jiří Richter; Luděk Šimoník, Kryštof Foltýn, Martin Holý, Denisa Annová, Ondřej Mičuda, Urszula Sedziak, Tomáš Wojtek

Project completion: 2023

Structure: Ice rink; oval running track; gym; 24 locker rooms; 36 sky boxes; restaurant; bar; 8 small gastronomic establishments; hostel; hall of fame; fan shop; academy/university; 8 offices.

Size:

- > Premises for athletes: 4,786 m²
- > Premises for spectators: 5,256 m²
- > Gym: 400 m²
- > Restaurant: 674 m²
- > Small gastronomic establishments: 690 m²
- > Administration: 289 m²
- > Shops: 729 m²
- > Accommodation: 826 m²

- > Technical facilities and supplies: 4,498 m²
- > Parking: 4 852 m²

Volume: 183,630 m³

Costs: 30 million EUR

Jihlava Multipurpose Arena (Horácká Aréna)

Statutární město Jihlava

Masarykovo náměstí 97/1

586 01 Jihlava 1

<https://www.jihlava.cz/arena/>

Image credits:

Image 1. Rendering for the Jihlava Multipurpose Arena. Image credit: monolot. Courtesy of CHYBIK + KRISTOF Architects & Urban Designers.

Image 2. Drawing for the Jihlava Multipurpose Arena. Courtesy of CHYBIK + KRISTOF Architects & Urban Designers.