

Standpoint

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5.7. Architecture, Construction and Surveying,
for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"
by professional field 5.7. Architecture, Construction and Surveying
and State Enterprise "Architecture of Buildings, Structures, Facilities and Details"
with candidate: arch. Hassoon allawi Hassoon al-Mamoori
and the theme of the thesis **"Urbanization and Town Planning of Baquba"**

The opinion was prepared on the basis of Order No. 3-RK-16 of 09.10.2019 by Prof. Dr. Plamen Bochkov, Rector of New Bulgarian University, and by a decision of the Scientific Jury. When writing the opinion, the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act, the Rules for its implementation and the Regulation for the development of the academic staff of NBU were observed.

The dissertation contains 198 pages, which include an introduction, a three-chapter presentation, a conclusion, two annexes, a list of publications by the author on the topic - 2, a list of figures, photos and diagrams - 170, a list of tables - 10 ., a bibliography with 52 electronic and printed sources.

- The relevance of the thesis for the urban development of Iraq and in particular for the city of Baquba and its Diyala district is beyond doubt. In recent years and decades, this is one of the countries that have experienced wars and horrific events with consequences that are hard for us to imagine! Along with treating wounds on Iraqi society from the tragedies that have taken place in Iraq both psychologically and demographically, the state and its cities must recover physically and economically as quickly as possible in order for the population to live normally and overcoming destruction and poverty. But this must be done through the use of world-class scientific and applied experience in the recovery of affected areas and settlements, in order to avoid the mistakes of the past made by hasty and incompetent decisions.

In this sense, the intention of my colleague Arch. Hassoon Allawi Hassoon Al-Mamoori to be competent to address the problems of the city of Baquba, as well as other cities and districts in Iraq, deserves special attention and support from us. Iraq needs specialized scientific staff to restore and develop the scientific fields that are important above all for the normalization of life and the prosperity of this suffering nation.

- The PhD student demonstrates the qualities of a researcher with a broad knowledge of the history and current state of Iraqi cities and regions. He is highly motivated in his desire to be useful with his knowledge and research on the urban development of the territories in this region of the Middle East, the cradle of some of the oldest civilizations.

- The tasks that the doctoral student has set in his dissertation are properly selected in order to achieve his goals. In this case, these are proposals for changes in the regulation for the development of the territory and creation of conditions for the creation of a new one - working! - urban development plan.

- I accept correctly the description of the methods in the research described by the doctoral student on page 5 of the autoreferate and on pages 5 and 6 of the dissertation that led to the result desired by the author.

- On page 29 of the autoreferate and on page 175 of the work the doctoral student has formulated a practical contribution, which consists of a proposal for a new place and a new direction for the development of the city center of Baquba. I find this important and valuable, but in the next phase of work (for example, when it is eventually published), it must be emphasized very much on turning this idea into a specific project, because this will achieve the true ultimate goal - culminating in research. .

On page 30 of the autoreferate and on page 178 of the work are listed 4 scientific and applied contributions that relate to specific programs and ideas of the author for the proper preparation of urban plans and strict principles in their implementation.

Due to the specifics of the dissertation, I am inclined to accept that there is no need to separate the scientific from the applied scientific principles.

- The PhD student has cited two publications in the Diyala Journal of Engineering Sciences - DIYALA Journal of Engineering Sciences (DJES):

1. Research - "Problems with the planning of transport networks and their impact on urban growth in Baquba", Publishing vol. 10, No 4 of DJES 2018.

- 2. Scientific research - The effect of accidental urban expansion on the urban plan of Baquba, Paper ID: 542-2017 DJES 2019.

- As the titles indicate, the publications are directly related to the topic and content of the dissertation. We do not have a list of scientific publications in Iraq, but there is hardly a more authoritative publication in the field of engineering sciences in Baquba and the Diyala region. data for citing doctoral students' articles in publications by other authors or scientific publications.

Maybe I should start making recommendations

- The work does not refer to the work primarily with its title in Bulgarian language: Urbanization and Town Planning of Baquba. The meaning of the two terms urbanization and urbanization in our language is largely covered. The title in English, Urbanization and Town Planning of Baquba, immediately addresses urban planning instead of urban planning, which really fits the point and would solve the problem, especially when cited by Bulgarian authors of the Bulgarian version of work.

In the autoreferate and in the dissertation there are places where units of measure used only in the United States are mentioned - miles, feet, yards. They should be aligned with European and Bulgarian standards, ie. - to the metric system. Only when an author prepares an article for a US publication can their units be bracketed (or vice versa depending on the US publisher's requirements).

In a few places I noticed serious inaccuracies in dating. For example, on page 25, in the dissertation, we read below the 3rd century BC, and in fact it is the 3rd millennium BC, because it is the town of Assyria (Ashur), and the period is 2600–2500 BC). The date goes back to 627 BC, but it probably dates back to AD because the Byzantines are mentioned there. (Unfortunately, in my notes, I lost the page, but the PhD student will quickly navigate his or her own work to find it and see if I'm right.)

I was also impressed by the mixing of Cyrillic and Latin names, but without the necessary separation and parenthesis.

All the notes and recommendations listed here, as well as the many minor spelling mistakes in the Bulgarian and English texts presented by the doctoral student, are more relevant to spelling and punctuation, and some of them may be due to translations between Arabic, Bulgarian and English. They do not directly affect the content, but still require a thorough and calm review by the author. Together with the appropriate language editor, the dissertation should be brought to the required language level for its possible publication - in whole or in part.

I find my recommendation for a better ratio between the volumes of chapters in the dissertation because it is unacceptable that the historical part should occupy 2/3 of the whole text, although - at least for me - it was very interesting as well as the presentation of Islamic spiritual values related to the urban environment.

At the same time, both the title and the goals of the work require a stronger emphasis on modernity, such as the author's good idea of a new location for Baquba city center at the end of the work is only illustrated.

Not to be outspoken, I will allow myself to make one suggestion: if he had advanced a little more in his idea, the doctoral student would have inevitably come to the conclusion that it would not be good to have the two main and solemn spaces opposite one another.

another, on the two banks of the Diyala River, only to "look out" between the two existing bridges. Obviously, this strong spatial axis must be materialized with at least one pedestrian bridge, and wide enough to make the movement of people between the two lively parts of the city center unobstructed, convenient and enjoyable.

- Seen in this way, the work would benefit from a change in the volume ratio of the respective parts by avoiding some repetitions and by a much more concise statement in Chapter 1, as well as by emphasizing the analysis and proposals for the present and future of Baquba . This will not be difficult, because in his work the doctoral student has shown that they are also strengths in his work.

- In conclusion, I can say that I generally accept the dissertation presented! It shows that its author Arch. Hassoon Allawi has extensive theoretical knowledge in the fields of urbanism and architecture, has demonstrated a capacity for independent research and shows a broad general culture.

For these reasons, I give a positive assessment of the dissertation work of the doctoral student and, as a member of the scientific jury, I will vote to be awarded an arch. Hassoon Allawi Hassoon Al-Mamoori Educational and Scientific Degree Doctor of Science in Architecture of Buildings, Structures, Facilities and Details of Professional Degree 5.7. Architecture, Construction and Surveying.

Sofia, December 20, 2019

/ Assoc. arch. Dimitar L. Andreychi /