

# STATEMENT

by **Prof. Dr. Arch. Asen Metodiev Pisarski**, UASG retiree, "Architecture of buildings, constructions, facilities and details", member of the Scientific Jury (on the basis of Order No. 3-RK-276 of 11.07.2023 of the Rector of the NBU) for the defense of a dissertation for award of an educational and scientific degree "doctor" in a professional direction 5.7. "Architecture, construction and geodesy", with candidate

**arch. Mitko Anatoliev Mitkov**,

PhD student of independent training at the Department of Theory and History of Architecture, topic: "**Contribution to the architecture of Bulgaria between the two world wars. Selected Etudes Vasilyov - Tsolov.**", professional direction 5.7. Architecture, construction and geodesy", supervisor: Assoc. prof. Zarko Dinkov Uzunov.

## **1. Significance of the researched problem in scientific and scientific-applied terms.**

The dissertation is devoted to the study of one of the most romantic and significant periods of Bulgarian architecture - the late 1920s and 1930s. This period is marked by the remarkable work of Bulgarian architects who received their education in Europe and brought to our country the breath of modernism, which found its Bulgarian realization, embodied in some of the most significant public buildings in the capital. Even today, they radiate their charm, an inseparable part of the face of the capital city, part of its multi-layered history of time.

The study is dedicated to the work of the remarkable creative architectural tandem "Tsolov - Vasilyov". In contrast to previous studies on the creativity of the bureau, which reveal biographical data or analyze their individual realizations, this work is focused on the creativity of the tandem, examined in the context of the cultural and time period in Bulgaria. This is the era of modern trends between the two world wars, in which the tandem created unique public buildings - "modernized" classics 1 .

## **2. Justification of the objectives and tasks in the dissertation work.**

The tasks that the work sets are aimed at achieving the set goals - revealing the characteristics of the creativity of the Tsolov - Vasilyov tandem in the context of the cultural features of the time period in which they were created, namely:

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1. "Modernized classics" the author uses to name "simplified classics built in the spirit of the modern movement between the two world wars, in which the subject is preserved, but the detail is modernized and reduced to a simplified statement.

- Clarification of the basic schemes and principles of design for each of the objects and analysis of the influence of the cultural context of the era. The analysis is aimed at the implementation of public buildings, carriers to the greatest extent of the ideas, culture, spirit of the time period;
- To formulate the author's thesis regarding the meaning, style and concepts in the analyzed work of the two architects; to determine as much as possible the contribution of each of the two in the realizations of the creative tandem.

### **3. Correspondence between the chosen methodology and research methodology and the set goal and tasks of the dissertation work.**

The research methodology fully meets the set objectives and tasks. It is based on a comprehensive system-structural analysis of a group of factors, giving a complete picture of the sign implementations under consideration, including:

- Functional, compositional and urban characteristics of the site, its spatial connections and symbolic role in the urban structure;
- Analysis of the culture of the given period and the mutual connection "work - cultural environment";
- Analysis of the creator's personality and the context of the environment in which the creative views were formed.

On this basis, the main conclusions, having theoretical and applied-practical value, have been synthesized.

### **4. Scientific and scientific-applied contributions of the dissertation work (description and evaluation), including the presence of an original contribution in science.**

The scientific and theoretical contributions of the work are connected with the theoretical contribution to the history of Bulgarian architecture in the period between the two world wars. The analysed tandem-specific creative style, "Modernized" Classic, is revealed as a kind of creative interpretation of modernist ideas in Bulgarian architecture, which contributed to the wealth of creative ideas in this fundamental period for Bulgarian architecture.

The confirmation of a theoretical model of the study of the work of prominent architects, determined by the influence of the specific cultural environment of the relevant time period and expressing an important part of its distinguishing characteristics, is also of a contributing nature.

The dissertation research also has significant scientific and applied contributions:

- The purposefully collected rich documentary information, a solid base of work, can be used by other researchers both of the creativity of the considered architectural tandem, and of the exceptional time period, an important stage in the development of Bulgarian architecture and culture;
- The theoretical statements and factual material will undoubtedly find their place in the various levels of architecture education in Bulgaria.

### **5. Assessment of publications on the dissertation work: number, nature of the editions in which they were published.**

The author has 4 independent publications in referred publications related to the topic of the dissertation. Two of them represent parts of the dissertation study of Vasilyov-Tsolov's work. The other two analyze the work of two other famous architectural tandems from the same period – Belkovski – Danchov and Yordanov – Ovcharov. They used a similar approach to analyze their architectural creativity in the context of the era.

Arch. Anatoliev took part in an international anniversary conference at NBU "100 years of Bauhaus" with a report.

#### **6. Citations from other authors, reviews in the scientific press, etc.**

The provided review materials lack information about citation by other authors of the dissertation work and its publications.

#### **7. Opinions, recommendations and notes.**

The dissertation is written in clear, understandable language, presented in the style of a scientific study. It would be interesting and useful for the author to make a comparison of the features of the work of the three bright architectural tandems, to whose work the dissertation work and publications related to it are dedicated. This would contribute to enriching the picture of creative ideas in architecture and the cultural environment during the time period under consideration.

#### **8. Conclusion with a clearly formulated positive or negative assessment of the dissertation work.**

The dissertation work of arch. Mitko Anatoliev Mitkov demonstrates in an indisputable way his abilities to conduct independent scientific research and generate significant conclusions of a theoretical and applied nature. The dissertation meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the regulations to it and the relevant normative documents of the NBU in this area. Given the above, I propose to the honorable Scientific Jury to award arch. Mitko Anatoliev Mitkov the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the scientific specialty "Theory and History of Architecture" in professional direction 5.7. "Architecture, construction and geodesy".

Date 15.10.2023

Signature: .....

Prof. Dr. Arch. Asen Pisarski