

STATEMENT

by **Prof. Dr. Eng. Arch. Penyo Dosev Stolarov,**
NEW BULGARIAN UNIVERSITY,

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.

Significance of the research problem

The scientific topic is dedicated to architecture between the two world wars. This period is marked by the architectural bureaus created by two leading architects. This is also the case with the Vasilyov-Tsolov office considered in the dissertation. The Bureau actively participates in cultural life, especially in the capital, building some of the most significant architectural objects.

Recently, there has been an increased interest in the architecture of this period, with various publications, clubs and online platforms being created to research, popularize and systematize architecture in the context of modern movements.

The goals and objectives of the dissertation work

The aim of the work is to study the creativity of the presented tandem Vasilyov - Tsolov

The tasks that labor sets are:

To find the necessary source information for the public buildings of the tandem identified in the research;

To take into account sources focused on the personality of the two architects;

To analyze the cultural context in the period between the two world wars within the geographical cultural area;

To clarify the guiding design principles for each of the objects;

To formulate generally valid conclusions based on the analysis;

To formulate the author's thesis regarding the importance, manner and design skills of the two architects;

Research methodology and methodology

A system-structural analysis was used for the methodology of the study, through which comparisons of the functional and compositional schemes were made, including the urban planning features of the environment. I want to emphasize the contribution of colleague Anatoliev in the discussion of modernism in Bulgarian architecture between the two world wars. The connection of Tsolov's and especially Vasilyov's education with classicist formation is part of their professional development already in their student years. Their professors are important representatives of "modern classicism". Ostendorf in Karlsruhe showed Vasilyov "the inexhaustible possibilities of designing in the classical manner". Bestelmeier in Munich instilled in the young Tsolov a sense of the classical in modern times. Classical prototypes became leading for the Vasilyov-Tsolov bureau. I find it interesting to connect the presented work with the personality of the authors and the spirit of the time. The analyzes of the relations between the Balkans and the German educational system, as part of the German-speaking culture, are logical and coherent and give a clear idea of the context surrounding the architectural profession.

Scientific and scientific-applied contributions of the dissertation work

The study represents a qualitative contribution to the history of Bulgarian architecture in the period under consideration. Of interest are copies of original materials attached in part Appendices to the scientific work. The author has tried to clarify the connections between the academic environment in which the two artists were formed and the influence of their teachers on the construction of their thinking. This is a clear sign that their work concerning public buildings was completely carried out in a classical spirit, capturing the spirit of the time and place in which they appeared.

The models presented by the author to clarify the functional schemes and the formation, especially of the Bulgarian National Bank, are an essential contribution in the analytical part of the work.

The collected and systematized source information, which served as the basis of the research, from which the conclusions were drawn, is also a contribution.

Evaluation of the publications of the dissertation work: number, nature of the editions in which they were published.

There are 4 independent publications in refereed publications related to the topic of the dissertation, two of which are specifically related to the topic of architectural office Vasilyov - Tsolov, and the rest examine two other architectural offices (Belkovski - Danchev and Yordanov - Ovcharov). The doctoral student took part in an international jubilee conference at NBU "100 years of Bauhaus" with a report.

No citation data is provided for the author's publications by other authors.

Opinions, recommendations and notes.

The dissertation reflects the topic. The work is done concisely, systematically and in a logical sequence, has a free and comprehensible expression. It would be necessary to consider a slightly more extended contribution to the study, which the author has not sufficiently developed.

My recommendation for the future is for the PhD student to expand his research even further and publish it in a monograph or book.

Conclusion

The presented dissertation is dedicated to an important discussion topic concerning the development of Bulgarian architecture, a qualitative study of architecture between the two world wars. Of interest is the work and consideration of the works in a general cultural context. The doctoral student proves his abilities to prepare independent scientific research. 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.

According to 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. Eng. Arch. Peño Stolarov