

REVIEW

By Prof. Arch. Georgi Nikolov Georgiev, PhD

professional field 5.7 Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy,

Department of Architecture, New Bulgarian University

on the materials submitted for participation in the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in the professional field 5.7 Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy, announced in the State Gazette, issue 59/11.07.2023, with candidate chief assistant professor Gergana Naskova Stefanova PhD architect, full-time lecturer at the Department of Architecture

of New Bulgarian University

I. Evaluation of compliance with the minimum national requirements and the requirements of the New Bulgarian University

The presented publications, including a monograph on "Architecture and Light. Contemporary Trends", numerous articles in edited collective collections and reports from specialized scientific conferences, as well as author's designs for single-family residential buildings and interiors, meet the national scientific-metric requirements, as well as the additional ones of the NBU for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor".

II. Research (creative) activities and results

In the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" chief assistant professor Gergana Stefanova PhD presents scientific production after obtaining the academic position of "Associate Professor".

In the materials submitted for the competition the following are of main importance:

1. Monograph (habilitation thesis) - 1 pc.
2. Articles - 11 pcs.
3. Scientific conference paper - 1pc.
4. Author's projects in the field of architecture and design - 6 pcs.

1. Evaluation of the monographic work

The presented monograph "Architecture and Light. Contemporary Trends" represents an independent original scientific research of the author, based on systematic long-term research. The relevance of this research is dictated by the lack of sufficient scientific studies in the specialized Bulgarian literature on the role of light in contemporary architecture. Because of this fact, and also because of the convincing and engaging way of presenting the material in the book, I believe that the monograph will be a significant contribution both in architectural theory and in terms of the practice of architectural design and the education of architecture students.

The chosen structure of the monograph is lean and logical, subordinated to the systematic approach and consists of six chapters.

In the first chapter "Light, Health and Architecture", Arch. Stefanova discusses the theoretical aspects of light - natural and artificial and its relation to human health. Important conclusions are drawn about the role of light in human daily life.

In the second chapter of the monograph "Architectural Compositional Means with Natural Light" the author gives a detailed overview of the role of natural light as the main principles of forming and perception of the architectural object. Contemporary approaches to the use of light, made possible by modern developments in technology, are examined. In this chapter the colour-light relationship is examined.

In the third chapter of the monograph the author discusses architectural and compositional means using artificial light. Here, special attention is paid to the new possibilities of using artificial light - the fruit of the extraordinary development of technologies creating a new architectural world. The role of light in the nocturnal cityscape is also worth exploring - also in this chapter.

In the fourth chapter "Natural and Artificial Lighting in Different Architectural Spaces" the author explores the regularities in the application of light depending on the typology of different architectural objects - childcare facilities, schools, hospitals, office buildings, industrial buildings, museums, churches, residential buildings, etc. This chapter is important for its practical and applied character.

Chapter 5, "Light, Ecology and the Future", is innovative in its treatment of light in terms of sustainable development and the prevention of light pollution in our cities caused by the oncoming commercialisation.

A glossary of terms used and a list of normative documents are included at the end of the monograph, which further facilitates the practical application of the work.

In the bibliography to the monograph a considerable number of sources from Bulgarian and foreign authors are listed. The monograph is well illustrated, with a significant number of illustrations by the author.

2. Quoting from other authors.

The candidate's scientific work has been cited in articles by authors in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals and also in a monograph. According to the scientific metrics presented in the competition, the chief ass. prof. arch. Gergana Stefanova meets the requirements for indicators Group E (citations and reviews for realized author's products)

3. Evaluation of the results of participation in research and creative projects and application of the results in practice.

The research work of chief assistant professor arch. Gergana Stefanova is mainly related to the topic of the role of natural and artificial lighting as a functional and aesthetic component for the formation of the architectural object, as well as for the formation of the spatial environment created with the participation of the architect. The topic of light and architecture has been explored in a series of papers for the scientific conferences of the Color Group - Bulgaria, ("Lighting in Museum Buildings" 2016, "Architectural Effects with Color and Light", 2021,); also in lectures delivered at foreign universities - "Natural Phenomena with Color and Light and Their Architectural Parallels" (Yedi Tepe University, Istanbul, 09.2016.), "The History of Architecture narrated by Light", ("Basque University" in San Sebastian/Donostia, 03.2017), as well as lectures on the topic of light in cities in the framework of the First and Second School of Urbanism at the NBU (09.2021, 09.2022), a lecture on "Light as a factor in the transformation of industrial buildings" at a scientific conference at UASG, dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the birth of Prof. Arch. Metodi Pisarski (03.2022).

Arch. G. Stefanova develops research activity in the field of study and promotion of the work of the great masters in architecture, both in the use of light by these eminent architects and in relation to the history of furniture design.

Arch. G. Stephanova's plans for future scientific research are aimed at developing and deepening research in the above-mentioned areas of her scientific interests - new lectures related to the use of light in architecture (currently she has created 5 lectures within a lecture course for graduate students), and in the field of furniture history - publishing a monograph.

III. Learning and Teaching Activities

1. Curriculum and course work.

Since 2008, chief assistant professor Gergana Stefanova actively participates as a regular lecturer in the work of the Department of Architecture as follows:

- Participation in the updating of the Master's Degree in Architecture according to the new requirements of the "Regulation on the State Requirements for the Acquisition of Higher Education in the Specialty of Architecture" of the educational-qualification degree "Master" with professional qualification "Architect" since 2016;

- Regular and active participation in the changes and improvement of the MP "Architecture" with initiatives for the introduction of new courses;

- Courses created and developed with the participation of head as. Dr. Arch. OOK 067 "The Greatest Historians in Architecture", ARCM009 and ARCM209 "Introduction to Architectural Design" - Part I and II, "History of Interior Design".

Arch. Gergana Stefanova has been a scientific supervisor of 15 successfully defended graduate masters, as well as a reviewer of 22 diploma projects for masters, of which 20 - in MP "Architecture" and 2 - in Bachelor program "Culture and Art".

2. Work with undergraduate and postgraduate students

Arch. Gergana Stefanova supervises students from the program Master of Architecture to participate in various national and international architectural competitions:

- Supervisor of Slavka Ilieva, first prize at the national level in the international competition Saint Gobain 2022 (Student Dormitories, Warsaw, Poland), and presentation of the project in Warsaw, Poland.

- Supervisor of students for the International VELUX Award 2020 for students of architecture - project "Green Light" by Mila Minkowska (2020) and project "Breathing Light" by Stiliyan Bonev (2020).

IV. Administrative and public activities

- Participation as a trainee in the training program for the teaching and administrative staff of the NBU - Trainee in the program "Teaching Café" (2020 - 2023).

- Participation in the NBU Reading Club - as a discussant and with musical illustrations to books (2018 - 2023).

- Participation in the NBU Francophone Club- in Francophone days, Francophone readings, book launches and other events. (2017 - 2023)

- Participation in the NBU Library Council (2020 - 2023)

V. Opinions, recommendations and comments on the candidate's activities and achievements.

Knowing well the work of Arch. Gergana Stefanova, I would recommend her in the future to continue her research in the field of the role of light in the formation of the architectural image, given the insufficient study of this topic in the scientific-theoretical and scientific-applied aspect. This research could also support the creation of appropriate content necessary for the creation of new courses and the renewal of existing courses in the Master's Program in Architecture of the NBU, as well as courses in other art programs of the NBU.

Conclusion

On the basis of all the above arguments and merits of the teaching and creative work of chief assistant professor Gergana Naskova Stefanova PhD the overall positive evaluation of the candidate's academic activity is indisputable. Therefore, I propose to the Honorable Academic Council of New Bulgarian University that chief assistant professor PhD arch. Gergana Stefanova to be elected as "Associate Professor" in the professional field 5.7 Architecture Civil Engineering and Geodesy in the Department of Architecture, Master Faculty of New Bulgarian University.

Sofia, 31.10.2023.

Reviewer:
Prof. Dr. Arch. Prof. Georgi Georgiev