

STATEMENT OF OPINION

By **Assoc. Prof. Kliment Ivanov Ivanov, PhD**
Department of Architecture, New Bulgarian University (NBU),
Prof. field 5.7 Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy,

On the application materials for the competition
for the academic position of Associate Professor
in Prof. 5.7 Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy,
announced in the State Gazette, issue 59/11.07.2023,

Candidate **Chief As. Prof. Gergana Naskova Stefanova, PhD**
full-time lecturer at the Department of Architecture, NBU,

The opinion was prepared according to the order No. H-RK-326 dated 28.09.2023 of the Rector of the NBU. It complies with the requirements of the existing Academic Staff Development Act, the Regulations for the Implementation of the Act and the Regulation on the Development of the Academic Staff of the NBU.

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

The materials for the competition, presented by As. Dr. arch. Gergana Stefanova, include: monograph, scientific articles, citations, realized author projects and reviews of realized author products in the field of architecture or interior design, as well as data according to the requirements for the groups of indicators for academic positions.

The materials meet and exceed the minimum requirements and the requirements of New Bulgarian University.

II. Research (creative) activity and results

1. Evaluation of the monographic work, including an assessment of the scientific and applied contributions of the author

The monograph "Architecture and Light - Contemporary Trends" with sole author Gergana Stefanova explores an essential architectural phenomenon. This is light in

architecture. All architects, practitioners and theoreticians, are familiar with the importance of light for architectural works. The importance of this work lies in the fact that it analyses, clarifies and systematizes the different ways in which light affects and interacts with buildings. It explores in detail the approaches by which light can be applied and used in the process of architectural design.

The monograph is organized in six parts. The first part deals with the theory of light and its perception. It elucidates the basic theoretical principles that serve to understand the research that follows. In the second and third parts the compositional means of designing with natural and artificial light are discussed. These research papers are of great importance to architectural theory and practice, especially research on artificial lighting, which is usually neglected. The fourth part deals with light in buildings according to their architectural classification. These studies are valuable because they analyze a wide range of building types, and also certain parts of them, and have a strongly practical focus. The fifth part deals with the environmental aspect, which is particularly topical nowadays, and its future development. The sixth part is a glossary of terms. In it the important terms used in the work are translated, refined and explained. Assistant professor arch. Gergana Stefanova has presented, besides the monograph, 16 publications of which she is the sole author.

Of these, 13 are in peer-reviewed scientific publications - 7 of which are in the Collection of Scientific Publications, Department of Design and Architecture of the NBU.

2. Evaluation of the contributions in the other attached publications (creative appearances) made after the appointment to the academic position of "Chief Assistant Professor".

The competition materials include 3 publications in journals that are refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information and 8 articles in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or in edited collective volumes.

The remaining materials include: 6 realized author's projects in the field of architecture or design, 1 leading (independent) creative expression in the field of architecture or design, 5 citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific peer-review, and 6 reviews of realized author's products in specialized publications in the same fields.

The enclosed scientific publications and creative performances correspond to the profile of the candidate's scientific research and are related to the professional field

and scientific specialty of the present competition. In them Gergana Stefanova makes scientific research contributions of a scientific and applied nature.

3. Citation from other authors

There are 4 citations from other authors noted in the submitted material. One citation is from me, in my monograph "The High Space in the Living Room at Home's" - a fact that further emphasizes my high opinion of the candidate's scholarly work.

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

Gergana Stefanova is active as an architect and artist. She successfully applies her research activity in practice as a practicing architect with realized architectural projects - her own and in a collective. She is a member of the most serious professional organizations in Bulgaria such as the Chamber of Architects in Bulgaria (CAB) and the Union of Architects in Bulgaria (UAB).

II. Teaching and study activities

1. Auditory and extracurricular employment, work in the electronic training module "MOODLE - NBU", provision of student internships and placements, work with students and PhD students.

The applicant's employment significantly exceeds that required. She uses "MOODLE - NBU" in all the courses she teaches.

She has mentored 16 students in the "Student Practicum" programs.

She has also supervised 14 successful graduate students and reviewed 20 Master's thesis projects.

Gergana Stefanova's work with the students is distinguished by dedication, perseverance and her own contagious example. An example of her work is organizing students to participate in numerous national and international architectural competitions. In the international competition for architecture students "Saint-Gobain" 2022, the student she supervised won First Prize at the National Round and represented NBU at the International Round in Warsaw.

2. Evaluations from student surveys

The mentioned above determines the score of the student surveys - above 4.62.

IV. Administrative and public activities

Gergana Stefanova was the Program Director of the Department of Architecture and in this position - its official head, from the founding of the Department in 2007 until 2014.

She was a member of the Accreditation Commission at the Ministry of Finance in the period 2009-2017.

She has been a member of the Library Council of the NBU Library since 2021.

She has participated in external and internal accreditations of the Department and continues to participate regularly in Departmental Council meetings.

V. Personal impressions of the candidate

I know personally Gergana Stefanova from our joint work in the Department of Archi-structure of the NBU since 2006. It is to her that I owe my gratitude for being a university lecturer myself, as she invited me to start teaching at the NBU!

Her work at the university and beyond is distinguished by her attentiveness, responsibility and respect for colleagues and by her thoroughness and dedication to students.

VI. Opinions, recommendations and comments on the activities and achievements of the candidate

I have an extremely high opinion of the scientific and design activity of Gergana Stefanova. She is the only colleague I know who has two doctoral degrees - in Architecture and in Interior Design.

In view of the above - I have no critical remarks on her work.

I recommend the candidate to focus her research in the field of architecture and not to deviate in other directions.

Conclusion

On the basis of the demonstrated impressive scientific and creative activity, teaching skills, as well as my positive personal impressions of Gergana Stefanova, I give a positive assessment of the candidate's academic activity.

I propose to the Honorable Academic Council of NBU, as. prof. arch. Gergana Stefanova, PhD to be elected as Associate Professor in the professional field 5.7 Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy at the Department of Architecture of New Bulgarian University.

02.12.2023

Signature:

Arch. Kliment Ivanov (PhD)