

STATEMENT OF OPINION

From Assoc. Prof. **Milena Dimitrova Nanova-Mikhailova** PhD

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On the scientific works and artistic-creative production for participation in the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor", in the professional field 5.7. 59/11.07.2023.

with only one candidate, Chief Assistant Prof. **Gergana Naskova Stefanova** PhD

This opinion is prepared on the basis of the Order H-RK-326/28.09.2023 of the Rector of the NBU and the Decision of the Scientific Jury from its first meeting held on 18.10.2023.

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

The competition for associate professor in professional field 5.7. Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy is announced according to the established legal procedure for the needs of the Department of Architecture at New Bulgarian University. The only candidate in the competition is Chief Assistant prof. arch. Gergana Naskova Stefanova PhD. The materials submitted by the candidate fully comply with the minimum national requirements of the regulations for the implementation of the law on the development of the academic staff in the republic of Bulgaria and the additional requirements of New Bulgarian University, according to the Regulation for the Development of Academic Staff at NBU and the Table of Indicators for the opening of a procedure for announcing a competition for "Associate professor" in the professional field 5.7. Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy. Proof of this is the submitted reference - self-assessment by Chief Assistant Prof. arch. Gergana Stefanova PhD, where 1168 pts. were recorded against the required minimum of 570 pts.

II. Research (creative) activity and results

Chief asst. arch. Gergana Stefanova has submitted the following published materials from the last years for participation in the competition for associate professor:

- 1 issue - habilitation monographic thesis - Stefanova, G., 2021 "Architecture and Light - Contemporary Trends", publisher "Color Group", ISBN 978 - 619-7226-15-7
- Along with this are presented - a published monograph, which is not a major habilitation work and a published book based on a defended dissertation.

- 3 issues - scientific publications in journals that are refereed and indexed in world-known databases of scientific information.

8 scientific publications in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals.

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

The presented monographic work "Light and Architecture. Contemporary Trends" explores light in architecture and its role not only as a means to achieve artistic effect in the volumetric-spatial construction of the architectural object, but also as a way to improve the living environment through its impact on the individual's psyche. The author discusses basic aspects of light from the perspective of a practicing architect and educator.

The work makes a significant scientific contribution to the existing theoretical knowledge on the relationship between light and architecture. Various methods of using natural and artificial light as an expressive tool and form-forming factor are examined. Typical examples of penetration through the façade surface using materials of different transparency and porosity are explored. Ways of directing the rays into light wells and slits of different shapes and depths are presented, as well as the effect of focusing them on certain fragments and architectural details. The role of color in modulating light through the color filters of stained glass or through the structure of the glass itself is explored. Special attention is paid to the complex psychological impact of color, light, sound and form. The role of contrast between lights and shadows as an important compositional principle is analyzed.

An important contribution of the monographic work is the typological study of the methods of using natural and artificial lighting in different buildings - residential, public, administrative, industrial, hospital, school, etc. The generalized requirements for each specific type, as well as the skillfully selected examples from the world practice provide valuable information and can find direct application in the work of architects and designers.

The in-depth study of the role of light as a compositional tool enriches scientific knowledge and reveals wide possibilities for practical application. The most important regulatory requirements related to the lighting of buildings and structures are summarized. An up-to-date glossary of terms related to natural and artificial lighting is included.

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

The topic of light in architecture is key for the scientific interests of Chief Asst. arch. Gergana Stefanova. Her research work is consistent and thorough. For years it has been reflected in numerous author's publications in our and international publications - in the periodical press and in collections of scientific publications. 13 of them have been published in peer-reviewed

scientific journals, and 7 in the Collection of Scientific Publications - Design and Architecture Department of NBU.

The scientific and applied contributions are related to the following:

- Systematizing the role of light in improving the volumetric-spatial impact and environmental characteristics of different building types.
- Formulation of key principles for the use of light as a compositional design tool.
- Summarizing the most important regulatory requirements related to the lighting of buildings and structures.

3. Quoting from other authors.

According to the presented table of scientific metrics, the candidate's publications are cited in monographs and peer-reviewed collective volumes (15 pts.), as well as in non-peer-reviewed journals (8 pts.). Her work as a designer has been evaluated in reviews of implemented author's products in specialized publications in the field of architecture or design (60 pts.).

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

As a researcher and professional, Asst. prof. Arch. Gergana Stefanova PhD has been involved in numerous projects that have been highly appreciated with awards and honors such as - Silver Badge of the SAB for active creative activity (2020), Award of the French Institute Sofia for Specialization with a scholarship of the French Government at Ecole Camondo, Paris / Sejour scientifique haute niveau (2018), I Prize for the project - "Training Center BULATSA Sofia" at the Design Biennial, Sofia (2011).

She is co-organizer of the international scientific conference "Villes en transformation" (NBU 2018). She participated in the organization and holding of the National Scientific Seminar of the NBU and the Color Group. Aspects of the Architectural Environment" (2017).

Arch. Stefanova is a participant in the International Research and Educational Program "Art and Living Environment" of the Group of Color 2011 - 2015 - 2019 - 2023 to which students from the program "Architecture" are attracted.

III. Teaching and learning activities

Chief Asst. Prof. arch. Gergana Stefanova is an active lecturer who regularly participates in the classroom and extracurricular activities, as well as in the electronic training module "MOODLE - NBU" with her author lectures and materials. She has made a significant contribution to the creation and updating of the curriculum in Architecture and Design and has supervised a large number of courses. She is involved in external accreditation of MP "Architecture" and Doctoral Program "Architecture of Buildings, Structures, Facilities and Details" by the National Agency for Evaluation and Accreditation, as well as internal accreditation of MP "Architecture".

Chief Asst. Prof. arch. Gergana Stefanova PhD works actively with students and graduates in the department, both in regular classes and in extra-curricular student competitions and events. She is the supervisor of 14 successfully defended Master's students and is the reviewer of 20 Master's thesis projects. She has mentored 16 students in the MES Student Practice Project between 2017 and 2019. The student survey rating for her work is 4.62.

IV. Administrative and public activities

Arch. Gergana Stefanova regularly participates in the meetings of the NBU Departmental Council and strictly performs her duties. She held the position of Program Director of the Dep. "Architecture" from the foundation of the department in 2007 until 2014. She has been a member of the Library Council of the NBU Library since 12.01.2021.

V. Personal impressions of the candidate

I know Arch. Gergana Stefanova as an intelligent, highly educated and sociable person and professional, dedicated to her creative, teaching and scientific activities. I believe that her habilitation will be a valuable contribution to the academic development of the Department of Architecture as well as the NBU.

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

The review of the presentations by prof. as. Dr. arch. Gergana Stefanova show that she has achieved significant scientific and applied results. The scientific publications have been developed independently and present the author's unquestionable research skills. Engaging to read, with rich illustrative material and detailed bibliographical references, they are valuable for students, professionals and researchers.

The attached reference shows that the candidate fully meets the minimum national and NBU requirements for the groups of indicators for the academic position of Associate Professor in the professional field 5.7. Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy.

Taking into account the above, I give my positive assessment of the candidate's academic activity and I suggest that the candidate should be appointed as the head of the faculty. Ph. Gergana Stefanova be admitted to election by the Academic Council.

29.11.2023 r.

Signature:

Assoc. Prof. Arch. Milena Nanova PhD