

## STATEMENT OF OPINION

by **Prof. Dr. arch. Ekaterina Krasteva Sentova, UACG,**  
"Architecture of Buildings, Structures, Facilities and Details", on the scientific works and  
artistic-creative production for participation in the competition for the academic position  
„Associate Professor", in the professional field 5.7. "Architecture, Civil Engineering and  
Geodesy", published in SG No. 59/11.07.2023 with the candidate Assistant Professor Arch.  
Gergana Naskova Stefanova (PhD)

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

In the submitted reference by the Assistant Professor Arch. Gergana Stefanova (PhD) for compliance with the minimum national requirements and those of the New Bulgarian University (NBU) - at the required minimum of 570 points are reported 1168 points. The data on the overall academic activity of the candidate exceed almost twice the minimum national requirements for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the professional field 5.7. Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy, set out in the REGULATIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAW ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ACADEMIC STAFF IN THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA, as well as in the requirements of the NBU. They reflect the significant scientific, teaching and artistic-creative activity of the candidate.

The specific obligatory requirements for NBU - groups "G", "H", "I", respectively, have been significantly exceeded, as follows: for group "G" - with the required min. of 50 points 160 points have been achieved; for group "H" - 120 points have been achieved, with the required minimum of 50 points. 70; and for group "I" - 110 points achieved with a required minimum of 50.

### **II. Research (creative) activity and results**

The main topic in the research and design activity of the Assistant professor arch. Gergana Stefanova (PhD) is the role and importance of light - an essential factor in architecture, design and fine arts. The monograph "Light and Architecture" consistently covers key issues about the physical nature of light and its characteristics, as well as its multifaceted impact in creating a quality and healthy living environment. Architectural compositional means of natural and artificial light are explored in the context of the main theme, including through the analysis of examples and theoretical positions of world-renowned architects. As a result of the conducted complex and multifaceted study of the issues, with the author's focused long-term research and design experience, the work formulates conclusions and recommendations of significant practical importance for the education of students of architecture and design, as well as for the design activity of architects.

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.

#### **• Scientific and practical application contributions**

The main scientific, practical and educational contributions of Assistant professor arch. Gergana Stefanova is the monographic work "Light and Architecture". The main result of the work is in the extensive complex research and enrichment of the existing knowledge in this significant issue. The candidate's publications related to:

- the specific application and use of light in the renovation and conversion of industrial buildings;
- research on futuristic lighting technology from bio-sources as a promising trend in the context of sustainable architecture;
- the studied influence of natural and artificial light, their role and importance in architectural creativity.

The main scientific and scientific-applied contributions in the presented scientific production of the candidate are in the comprehensively conducted analyses, formulated conclusions and recommendations on the nature and role of natural and artificial light in architecture. The in-depth research and the complex information in the different aspects of the considered problems are a valuable and useful source - for the purposes of training in the educational practice of students and for the design practice of architects.

According to the provided reference and CV data, arch. Gergana Stefanova has an extensive design practice, with implementations in the field of public, residential buildings and interior design. In this competition, materials for 5 architectural projects - for the reconstruction and interiors of housing and office building, comprehensively illustrated with computer visualizations, are submitted. They reflect the undisputed professionalism of the author and the emphasis placed on natural and artificial lighting in interior solutions.

#### ● **Citation from other authors**

In this field of study, Assistant professor Arch. Gergana Stefanova (PhD) achieves a total of 83 points, out of a total required min. 50 points. According to the presented table for the scientific-metric indicators, the highest score is for the indicator - Reviews of realized author's products in specialized publications in the field of architecture or design - 60 points. The remaining citations are in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review (15 points), as well as in non-refereed journals with scientific review (8 points).

#### ● **Evaluation of the results of participation in research and creative projects and application of the results in practice**

The projects for the BULATSA training centre in Sofia and the interior design of an office for law firm LBDM in Paris were awarded the first prize of the Union of Architects in Bulgaria (UAB) in the section "Product Design" at the Second Design Biennial, Sofia, Shipka Gallery 6, 2011. In 2018 arch.Stefanova won an award of the French Institute Sofia for specialization with a scholarship of the French Government at Ecole Camondo, Paris / Sejour scientifique haute niveau.

## **II. Teaching and study activities**

According to the materials provided in the competition, the Assistant professor Arch. Gergana Stefanova develops active teaching and study activities, including participation in international and national educational programs, scientific conferences, public lectures delivered at various forums in the country and in foreign universities. They could stand out in this direction:



- **Auditory and extracurricular employment, work in the electronic learning module "MOODLE - NBU"**

Arch. Stefanova has a high involvement in creating and updating a large number of courses in the curriculum of the Department of Architecture (4) and the Department of Design (2), as well as in the Master's program "Product Design for Interiors" (2).

The author's lectures and materials for the courses are uploaded on Moodle and regularly updated by Arch. G. Stefanova.

- **Participation in international and national educational programs, scientific conferences**

In the years - 2011, 2015, 2019, 2023 arch. G. Stefanova regularly participates in the international research and educational program "Art and Living Environment" of the "Color group" Bulgaria. She actively participates in the organization and conduct of National Scientific Seminars (2016) and scientific conferences of NBU and "Color Group" (2017). Co-organizer (together with Dr. Radostina Krustanova from the Department of Political Science) of the international scientific conference "Villes en transformation" 10.2018, NBU. She has given public lectures in her research area of lighting in architecture on behalf of the NBU, at the invitation of HEIs or prestigious national/international organizations, both in Bulgaria (2013, 2017) and abroad (2015, 2017).

- **Working with undergraduate and postgraduate students**

Assistant professor Arch. Gergana Stefanova is the supervisor of three students who participated in international competitions in 2020 and 2022. One of them was awarded first prize at the national level and presentation of the project in Warsaw, Poland (Architecture Student Contest Saint-Gobain 09 -13.06.2022). Under her supervision 14 graduate students have successfully defended their master's degrees; she has reviewed 20 diploma projects. Within the framework of student internships under the project of the Ministry of Education (2017-2019) she is a mentor of 16 students.

With a grade requirement above 4.00, the average score given by the student surveys for the Asst. Prof. Arch. Gergana Stefanova (PhD) is 4.62 with the highest grade of 5.00 (2021).

#### **IV. Administrative and public activities**

Arch. Gergana Stefanova was the Program Director of the Department of Architecture from its establishment in 2007 until 2014.

She is an architect-designer with full planning license at the Chamber of Architects in Bulgaria (CAB). She is also a member of the Union of Architects in Bulgaria (UAB), where she was awarded a silver badge for her overall creative activity.

#### **V. Personal impressions of the candidate**

I have no direct observation of the teaching activities of Arch. G. Stefanova, but I know her from our common student years and I can summarize my personal impressions from this period: a responsible and loyal colleague, with authority and respect, who is distinguished by her

professional resources for future development since then.

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

In view of the high linguistic skills and scientific research results of the Assistant professor Arch. Gergana Stefanova (PhD), I have a recommendation for wider popularization of her scientific production - for publication of materials in authoritative international scientific publications.

The submitted materials for the competition testify to the undeniable professional skills and qualities of the Assistant professor Arch. Gergana Stefanova as an architect - researcher, designer and teacher.

#### **Conclusion**

The materials submitted for participation in the competition about the teaching, research and design activities of Arch. Stefanova fully comply with the requirements of the Law on Architecture and Design, the Regulations for its implementation, as well as the relevant Regulations of the NBU. The minimum national requirements for the groups of indicators for the academic position of Associate Professor are satisfied.

On the basis of my fully positive assessment of the candidate's academic performance, I propose that the Assistant professor Arch. Gergana Stefanova (PhD) to be admitted for election by the Academic Council of NBU for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the professional field 5.7. "Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy" for the needs of the Department "Architecture" at the Master's Faculty.

12.11.2023

Signature:

Proff. Ekaterina Sentova (PhD)