

STATEMENT OF OPINION

By **Prof. Arch. Eng. Penyo Dosev Stolarov, PhD**
professional field 5.7 Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy,
Department of Architecture, New Bulgarian University
59/11.07.2023, with **candidate Chief Asst. Prof. Arch. Gergana Naskova Stefanova, PhD**
full-time lecturer at the Department of Architecture
at New Bulgarian University

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

Presented by the Chief Asst. Prof. Arch. Stefanova monograph "Architecture and Light. Contemporary Trends" and articles in edited collective collections, reports from specialized scientific conferences, as well as author's projects for residential buildings and interiors, exceed the minimum requirements for the academic position "Associate Professor" in the professional field 5.7. Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy, as stipulated in the regulations for the implementation of the "Law on the development of the academic staff in the republic of Bulgaria" and the requirements of the New Bulgarian University, which is evident in the reference attached by the candidate.

II. Research (creative) activity and results

In the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" Chief Asst. Prof. Arch. Gergana Stefanova presents scientific production after obtaining the academic position of "Chief Assistant Professor": monograph (habilitation thesis) "Light and Architecture" - 1 pc; 16 publications, 13 of them are in peer-reviewed scientific journals; Scientific conference papers - 2 pc.

● Scientific and practical contributions

The monographic work "Light and Architecture" by its scientific, applied and educational contributions of the head as. Dr. Arch. Gergana Stefanova is the main one in the presented

materials. The work is devoted to a topical theme - the aesthetics and impact of architecture achieved through light. Architecture in the monograph is explored as an art and as a space that should create a living environment that is not only functional but also creates "exciting experiences" for its inhabitants. The significance of the monograph lies in the exploration of light, both natural and artificial, as a key factor in the creation of architectural objects that are not just construction but become art through their impact. The applied contribution is in the study of the importance of light in different functional types of buildings - industrial, residential, public with the basic lighting requirements that an architect must know.

- **Creative design activity**

It is clear from the submitted reference and the CV data that Arch. Gergana Stefanova has a rich design practice, with realizations in the field of interior design, public and residential buildings. Materials for five architectural projects, illustrated with photographs and computer visualizations, are presented: reconstruction and furnishing of a training center of the BULATSA - Sofia, two single-family residential buildings (in Pravets and Osoitsa), reconstruction and interior of an office of the company "Dino" in Sofia, interiors and reconstruction of an apartment in Geneva and attic space in Paris (realized).

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

Chief Asst. Prof. Arch. Gergana Stefanova won a competition of the French Institute Sofia (in 2018) for specialization with a scholarship of the French Government in Ecole Camondo, Paris - "Sejour scientifique haute niveau", and the projects for the training center of BULATSA and a law firm were awarded the first prize of UAB (Union of Architects in Bulgaria) in the section "Product Design" at the Second Design Biennial, Sofia, Gallery "Shipka" 6.

- **Quotations from other authors**

In this area, the Chief Asst. Prof. Arch. Gergana Stefanova has a total of 83 points - citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review 15 points, as well as in non-refereed journals with scientific review - 8 points, as well as reviews for realized author's products in specialized publications in the field of architecture or design - 60 points.

II. Teaching and study activities

In the materials submitted for the competition it is evident that Asst. Prof. Arch. Stefanova has an active teaching and learning activity: participation in scientific conferences, international and national educational programs, public lectures delivered at home and in foreign universities.

Arch. Gergana Stefanova is involved in the creation and updating of a large number of courses in the Master's curriculum of the Department of Architecture, Department of Design and in the Master's program "Product Design for Interiors".

The author's lectures and materials for the courses are presented in the university's Moodle system and are constantly updated by Arch. Stefanova.

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

Arch. Stefanova actively participates in the organization and conduct of National Scientific Seminars (National Committee on Lighting "Lighting – 2016") and scientific conferences of the NBU (100 years of Bauhaus - 2019), UASG (conference 100 years of the birth of Prof. M. Pisarski 2022) and Group "Color" Bulgaria (2017, 2018, 2019, 2021). Co-organizer with Dr. Radostina Krustanova from the Department of Political Science of the international scientific conference "Villes en transformation " 10.2018, NBU.

Arch. Gergana Stefanova gave public lectures in the field of lighting in architecture on behalf of the NBU, both in Bulgaria and abroad (2015, 2017).

Main as. arch. Stefanova participates in the international research and educational program "Art and Living Environment" of the group "Color" (2013 - 2021).

- **Working with undergraduate and postgraduate students**

Arch. Gergana Stefanova is a supervisor of students who participated in international competitions:

- International competition "International VELUX Award 2020 for students of architecture" - supervisor of Mila Minkovska and Delyan Bonev;
- International competition for students of architecture "Saint-Gobain" 2022 with the theme: "Student dormitories in Warsaw, Poland", headed by Slavka Ilieva - first prize at national level and presentation of the project in Warsaw (09 -13.06.2022).

Chief asst. Dr. arch. Gergana Stefanova is the supervisor of 14 successfully defended Master's graduates and is a reviewer of 20 Master's thesis projects and a mentor of 16 students within the student practice project of the Bulgarian Ministry of Education in the period 2017 - 2019. Arch. Gergana Stefanova is 4,62 (2021) (with the requirement that the grade be above 4,00).

IV. Administrative and public activities

Arch. Gergana Stefanova is one of the founders of the Architecture Program at the NBU and Program Director of the Dep. "From 2007 to 2014.

- Member of the Library Council of the NBU Library since 12.01.2021
- Participated in the accreditation committee for students from 2007 to 2018.

- Arch. Stefanova is a member of the Chamber of Architects in Bulgaria (CAB) and has full design capacity. She is also a member of the Union of Architects in Bulgaria (UAB). She has been awarded a silver badge for active creative work by the Union of Architects in Bulgaria.

V. Personal impressions of the candidate

I would like to emphasize the impressive consistency with which our colleague, head asst. arch. Gergana Stefanova has been working for years on the problems of light and color in architecture. Arch. Gergana Stefanova approaches design and scientific work with deep sensitivity, competence and erudition. In both areas - designing and teaching she shows good taste and professionalism. The text of the monograph, the main habilitation work, is fascinating to read, with rich illustrative material and a detailed bibliographical reference.

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

Knowing the work of Asst. Prof. Arch. Gergana Stefanova in the scientific and design field of architecture, I would recommend that in the future she continue her research on the importance of light in the creation of architectural objects as these studies could grow into the creation of teaching courses in the Architecture program, as well as in other programs related to the topic at the NBU.

Conclusion

Taking into account the provided materials in the field of design, science, teaching and considering the personal qualities of the candidate, as well as the qualities of the submitted materials - monograph, publications, citations and projects, I propose the head. asst. prof. arch. Gergana Stefanova PhD to be admitted for election by the esteemed Academic Council of the NBU for the academic position of "Associate Professor", in the professional field 5.7 Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy, scientific specialty "Architecture of Buildings".

20.11.2023

Signature:

Prof. Arch. Eng. Penyo Stolarov (PhD)