

REVIEW

By Professor Georgi Georgiev, PhD, Architect,
professional field 5.7. “Architecture, Construction, and Geodesy”,
Head of the Department of Architecture, New Bulgarian University (NBU),
on the materials presented for participation is a competition for attaining the academic
position “Associate Professor” in professional field 5.7. Architecture, Construction, and
Geodesy, announced in State Gazette No 87 of 19 October 2021, with candidate
Chief Assistant Professor Kliment Ivanov, PhD, Architect, full-time lecturer
at the Department of Architecture, New Bulgarian University

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

The presented publications, including a monograph (habilitation work), two scientific articles in editions, which are referenced and indexed in world-famous scientific information databases, three articles in non-referenced journals with scientific review or in reviewed collective volumes, eight built author’s projects in the field of architecture or design, citations and reviews for built or in-production author's products in specialized editions in the field of architecture or design, participation in research projects, etc., fully cover the national scientometric requirements, as well as the additional ones of NBU for the academic position “Associate Professor”.

II. Research (creative) activities and results

In the competition for the academic position “Associate Professor” Chief Assist. Prof. Kliment Ivanov, PhD, presents his scientific output after attaining the academic position “Assistant Professor”.

In the materials presented at the competition the following are of major importance:

1. Monograph (habilitation work) – 1 pc;
2. Studies and articles – 5 pcs;
3. Public lectures on behalf of NBU at the invitation of other High Schools or prestigious national and international organizations – 3 pcs;
4. Built or in-production author's projects in the field of architecture or design – 5 pcs.

1. Evaluation of the monographic work

The acute current issues of the house, the residential building, and the residential design are addressed in the monograph “High Living Room Space in Houses”, NBU Press, Sofia, 2021, ISBN 9786192331511, 206 pages. The habilitation work of Kliment Ivanov has both scientific and applied nature, and it comes into being at the right time in a situation of clear necessity and present interest. The topic corresponds to the rise of the residential development after the stagnation during the global financial crisis a decade ago in the world and our country, and the demand for modern housing with a higher standard of living. The concept of planning, development, and operation of the residence and the residential building has undergone significant changes in comparison with the well-known ideas from the last century, due to the effect of technological and socio-economic factors. The traditional ways of development of the urban environment have been largely exhausted and there is a substantial need of finding new forms of habitation or rethinking the ones of the past. The habilitation work of Kliment Ivanov is focused on the research on an unexplored but at the same time important topic for the architectural theory and practice – the one about the high space in single-family residential buildings in its contemporary magnitude. A successful attempt had been made to formulate the main problems and tasks in the development of high space in the modern housing along with options and means for its implementation.

The essential contributions in the monograph can be specified in three main directions:

- Critical analysis and conclusions on the development of this compositional scheme in the European and other countries according to their social and regional specifics. Study of their applicability according to the conditions in Bulgaria, based on investigation and analysis of built and unbuilt examples in the country. In this way a place in the on-going processes in the global context is ensured;
- An exceptionally large selection of reviewed examples that guarantees the representativeness of the research, analysed by modern two- and three-dimensional computer-aided methods, which determines the contemporary scientific level of the research;
- A review of the future perspectives of this spatial scheme in the context of the conclusions made and a theoretical basis for its implementation in the real architectural practice and construction of houses, which demonstrates both the theoretical standard and the practical direction of the monograph.

The monograph “High Living Room Space in Houses” has been developed autonomously by Kliment Ivanov on the basis of the solid designer’s and scholarly experience, accumulated by him, and its content reflects the individuality and creative nature of the author. The monograph is related to the training and preparation of his students in the academic courses in residential buildings design that he lectures and leads in the Master’s Programme in Architecture of the New Bulgarian University. Its significance spans to other programmes of the New Bulgarian University related to interior and spatial design. In addition, it will be of use for the students from all universities in the country with programmes in Architecture: University of Architecture, Civil Engineering, and Geodesy (UACEG) – Sofia, Varna Free University (VFU) – Varna, and VSU “Lyuben Karavelov” – Sofia. The book will also be very useful for the professionals, working in the areas of architectural design and interior design. Finally, the monograph demonstrates a remarkably high level in terms of architectural graphics, composition, and colour scheme, for which the author deserves the main credit.

2. Evaluation of the contributions in the other presented publications (creative activities)

The materials, presented for the review, correspond to the profile of the Department of Architecture at NBU and the academic courses, lectured and led by Kliment Ivanov. All of them had been published in scientific journals at home and abroad. The elaborate works present the author as a researcher with a deep knowledge of the theory and practice in this research field. Chief Assist. Prof. Kliment Ivanov, PhD, demonstrates the ability to analyse problems and to make summaries and conclusions with solid scientific and applied contributions.

3. Citation by other authors

The scientific output of the candidate has been cited in articles by other authors in non-referenced journals with scientific review. In addition, several reviews for built or in-production author's products in specialized editions in the field of architecture or design are presented.

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

The research work of Chief Assist. Prof. Kliment Ivanov, PhD, is oriented towards the residential buildings. It is naturally affected by his academic work during the last ten years – lectures and design studios in residential buildings design. His scientific interests are directed predominantly to the high space in residential buildings. According to him, this spatial scheme is the most impressive example of residential space design and has enormous potential for improvement both in the level of architecture and the quality of living. Research on this topic is almost non-existent worldwide, while it is highly valued by the professionals and causes considerable interest in the students. These reasons predetermine his research and the formation of the conclusions in his monograph “High Living Room Space in Houses”. Undoubtedly, it will benefit the researchers, the practicing architects, and the students in architecture, interior design, and spatial design. Many of the issues, addressed in it, have arisen during his work with the students on their architectural projects and the solutions to them have already become part of the curriculum.

Under the leadership of the author of this review, Kliment Ivanov has participated in the scientific research project: “Three-dimensional survey, virtual reconstruction, and online exhibition of prominent monuments of residential architecture in Bulgaria in support of their physical and social adaptation in the urban and natural context”, funded by the Bulgarian National Science Fund under the procedure for providing national co-financing for participation of Bulgarian teams in approved actions under the European programme for cooperation in the field of scientific research and technology COST.

Chief Assist. Prof. Kliment Ivanov, PhD, is also active as a practicing architect and many of his architectural designs demonstrate his diverse creative interests and outstanding individual style in the areas of architectural design and arts:

- Ivanov, K. Filling station with a personnel training centre, OMV-“Korabcheto”, public building, Gorubliane, Sofia, 2001;
- Ivanov, K. Apartment house “Villa Katalina”, residential building, Manastirski livadi – east, Sofia, 2006;
- Ivanov, K. Reconstruction and enlargement of “Prof. Iliya Petrov” City Fine Arts Gallery, public building, Razgrad, 2006. First prize and assignment at a National architectural competition;
- Ivanov, K. House Fidanovi, three-family residential building, Plovdiv, 2006;

- Ivanov, K. Door handle “Glow Stripe”, product design, Milano, Italy, 2011. First prize at an International design competition.

Kliment Ivanov is a Registered Architect with Full Design Capacity at the Chamber of Architects in Bulgaria (CAB). Since 2005 he has established his own architectural bureau “Kliment Ivanov Architects”. Many of its designs have been built and have won numerous architectural awards and competitions.

III. Scholarly and academic activities

1. Auditorium and extracurricular employment, work with students and PhD students

Since 2010 Chief Assist. Prof. Kliment Ivanov, PhD, has participated actively as a full-time lecturer in the activities of the Department of Architecture:

- Updating of the Master’s Programme in Architecture to meet the new requirements of the ORDINANCE on State requirements for acquiring higher education in “Architecture” ... from 2016;
- External accreditations of the Master’s Programme in Architecture and the Doctoral Programme “Architecture of Buildings, Structures, Facilities, and Details” from the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency (NEAA);
- Modifications and upgrades of the Master’s Programme in Architecture, initiating the implementation of new academic courses;
- Academic courses, created entirely by Chief Assist. Prof. Kliment Ivanov, PhD: ARCM271 Computer Architectural Design Part I and ARCM275 Computer Architectural Design Part II;
- Academic courses, created and developed in collaboration with Chief Assist. Prof. Kliment Ivanov, PhD: OOOK230 Fundamentals of Architecture, ARCM280 Computer Architectural Design Part IV, ARCM270 Computer Architectural Graphics Part I, ARCM273 Computer Architectural Graphics Part II, ARCM163 Design Studio: Residential Buildings and Compounds Part I, ARCM284 Design Studio: Residential Buildings and Compounds Part II, ARCM295 Specialized Zones (Business Parks and others), ARCM297 Design Studio: Specialized Zones (Business Parks and others), ARCM267 Architecture of Buildings and Estates II.

Chief Assist. Prof. Kliment Ivanov, PhD, had been an academic supervisor of 11 successfully defended diploma projects of Master of Science graduates. He had also been a reviewer of 18 diploma projects. He has been actively involved in engaging the students from the Master's Programme in Architecture for participation in various national and international architectural competitions:

- International Competitions for Students of Architecture “Multi-Comfort House” 2014, theme “School of the Future”, Gaziantep, Turkey, with a series of lectures. Attended by 1 NBU student;
- International Competitions for Students of Architecture “Multi-Comfort House” 2015, theme “Residential Function in Cold Climate”, Astana, Kazakhstan, with a series of lectures. Attended by 2 NBU students;
- International Competitions “International VELUX Award 2016 for students of architecture” 2016. Attended by 1 NBU student, under the supervision of Chief Assist. Prof. Kliment Ivanov, PhD;
- International Competitions for Students of Architecture “Multi-Comfort House” 2017, theme “Urban Regeneration of a Community in Madrid”, Madrid, Spain, with a series of lectures. The NBU student Aleksandrina Aleksandrova won Third Place at the National stage and presented Bulgaria at the International stage of the competition at a ceremony in front of the Mayor of Madrid in Spain, with a project under the supervision of Chief Assist. Prof. Kliment Ivanov, PhD. Attended by 2 NBU students;
- International Competitions for Students of Architecture “Multi-Comfort House” 2018, theme “Community development in Dubai”, Dubai, UAE, with a series of lectures. The NBU students Amer Baroudi and Alaa AlMallah, in a team, won the People Choice Award at the National stage, with a project under the supervision of Chief Assist. Prof. Kliment Ivanov, PhD. Attended by 5 NBU students;
- International Exhibition XV World Triennial of Architecture “Interarch 2018”, Sofia, 2018. The NBU student Nina Sergieva participated with 2 projects under the supervision of Chief Assist. Prof. Kliment Ivanov, PhD.

2. Score from student's inquiries

The average score from the student surveys for Chief Assist. Prof. Kliment Ivanov, PhD, is: 4,51 – indicative of both his undisputed professional competence and exactingness, as well as his authority among the students.

IV. Administrative and social activities

Chief Assist. Prof. Kliment Ivanov, PhD, is a member of the Programme Council of the Department of Architecture. Since 2013 he has successfully performed the functions of a Programme Consultant of the Department of Architecture and has distinguished himself by active participation in the department councils. During his work as a full-time lecturer in the Department of Architecture at the New Bulgarian University, Kliment Ivanov has established himself with his energetic assistance in the creative dialogue between professors, students, and PhD students, organizing exhibitions and seminars, such as: Interdepartmental Seminar-Exhibition “Seven Years International Travelling University in Chiprovtsi”, together with the Educational Network “Place for the Future” and the Chiprovtsi Municipality; Interdepartmental Practical Seminar “Our Brand as a Business” (together with the Departments of Design, Architecture, Cinema, Advertising and Show Business, and the Bachelor Programmes in Photography, and Graphic Design), etc.

Kliment Ivanov had been an External Expert of the Commission for Spatial Planning, Architecture, and Housing Policy at the Sofia Municipal Council for two years.

V. Opinions, recommendations, and remarks on the activities and achievements of the candidate

Being well acquainted with the work of Kliment Ivanov, I recommend him to continue in the future his research on the high space in the other buildings types too, including its application in the adaptation of existing buildings. I believe that he has the potential to engage also with the topic of the multidisciplinary approach in architectural design, which in my opinion is becoming increasingly relevant and the New Bulgarian University provides a fertile environment for it.

Conclusion

Based on all the above arguments and merits of the scientific, scholarly, and creative work of Chief Assist. Prof. Kliment Ivanov, PhD, the positive overall assessment of the academic activities of the candidate is indisputable. This is the reason I am confident in my proposition to the honourable Academic Council of the New Bulgarian University Chief Assist. Prof. Kliment Ivanov Ivanov, PhD, be elected “Associate Professor” in the professional field 5.7 Architecture, Civil Engineering, and Geodesy in the Department of Architecture, Graduate School, New Bulgarian University.

Sofia, 16.02.2022 г.

Reviewer:

Professor Georgi Georgiev, PhD, Architect