

## **REVIEW**

By Professor Georgi Nikolov Georgiev, PhD, architect  
professional field 5.7 Architecture, construction and geodesy,  
Department of Architecture, New Bulgarian University  
of the materials submitted for participation in a competition for the attaining of the academic  
position of "associate professor" in professional field 5.7 Architecture, construction and  
geodesy, announced in the State Gazette, no. 65/12.08.2022,  
with candidate chief assistant professor Plamen Mihailov Rilski, PhD, architect,  
full-time lecturer at the Department of Architecture of New Bulgarian University

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

The presented publications, including a monograph on the topic: "Architecture for the people of the third age", three articles in edited collective collections, as well as a large number of realized author's projects for new single-family and multi-family residential buildings, public buildings, reconstructions of existing buildings, interiors, reviews of realized author's products in specialized publications in the field of architecture or design, etc., meet the national scientometric requirements, as well as the additional ones of the NBU for the academic position "associate professor".

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

In the competition for the academic position "associate professor" chief assistant doctor of arch. Plamen Rilski presents a scientific production after receiving the academic position of "chief assistant".

In the submitted materials for the competition, the following are of primary importance:

1. Monograph (habilitation thesis) – 1 pc.
2. Articles – 3 pcs.
3. Realized author's projects in the field of architecture or design - 24 pcs.

## **1. Evaluation of the monographic work**

The monograph: "ARCHITECTURE FOR SENIOR AGE PEOPLE", publishing house of NBU, Sofia, 2018, ISBN 9789545359910, Volume: 218 pages, is dedicated to the topical issues of the development of the design, construction and development trends of the spatial environment for the elderly. of arch. Plamen Rilski has a scientific and applied character. It appears on time in the conditions of a clearly expressed need and relevance of designing and building a suitable spatial environment for the ever-increasing number of people from the so-called "third age" mainly in the countries of Europe and North America, due to the socio-economic development as well as the development of health care. The topic of architecture for people of the third age is still little represented in the Bulgarian specialized literature, not least because of the lack of modern projects and realizations of such buildings in Bulgaria. These facts determine the significance of the study of this little-researched, but nevertheless important topic for architectural theory and practice. A successful attempt was made to formulate the main problems, tasks and typology of the development of architecture for the "third age" in Bulgarian conditions, based on the detailed description of the trends in the design, construction and functioning of the environment for the elderly, by analyzing and systematizing examples mostly from the countries of Western Europe and North America.

The essential and contributing points in the monograph can be indicated in three main directions:

- Critical analysis and conclusions about the history and development of buildings and environments intended for people of the "third age" in Europe and the world in their national and regional specificities. The author argues that the comfort of living in existing residential and specialized buildings for the elderly often does not meet their needs. Therefore, the book structures and analyzes the main problems related to the general concept, siting, design - in new construction or reconstruction and exploitation of the living environment for the elderly. The tendency of the newly designed and built environment to provide conditions for leading a quality life is emphasized, thus the elderly remain integrated and active in society for as long as possible.
- Formulation of the various typological architectural schemes of the buildings for the elderly and an overview of the perspectives of application and development in the actual design and construction in the context of the conclusions drawn. This demonstrates both the theoretical level and the practical orientation of the monograph.

- The inclusion of an extremely large number of examples of built objects for the people of the "third age" that guarantee representativeness, as well as the high scientific level of the research. The extensive bibliography at the end of the book is also worth noting.

The monograph "ARCHITECTURE FOR PEOPLE OF THE THIRD AGE" was developed independently by arch. Plamen Rilski, based on his accumulated solid design and teaching experience, and its content reflects the individuality and creative nature of the author. The monograph is linked to the training and preparation of students in the courses led by chief assistant professor Plamen Rylski in the field of building structures and architectural technologies within the framework of the Master's program "Architecture" at the New Bulgarian University. In my opinion, the monograph would also be useful for teachers and students from other specialties/departments at NBU, related to the problems of people of the "third age" - such as psychology, sociology, health care and social work, economics, etc. In addition, it will definitely be useful for students from all universities in the country where the "Architecture" major is studied: UASG - Sofia, VSU "Chernorizets Hrabar" - Varna, VSU "Lyuben Karavelov" - Sofia. The publication is also useful for professionals working in the fields of architectural design considering the prospects for increasing the importance of the development of the environment for the elderly and in Bulgarian conditions.

## **2. Evaluation of the results of participation in research and creative projects and application of the obtained results in practice.**

The research work of Chief assistant professor Plamen Rilski, PhD is primarily associated with his intensive design work. It is also logically influenced by his teaching work with the students of the Faculty of Architecture of NBU in the last ten years - the courses on designing residential buildings and complexes. His scientific interests are in the field of modern architecture, new building schemes, systems, materials, techniques and technologies. Of more special interest to Plamen Rilski represents the design and construction of buildings and facilities related to the life and lifestyle of people of the third age generation. His PhD thesis is the first part of a complex scientific systematization of his design experience and his personal knowledge and research in this field. The "Theoretical model of a (built) complex for people of the third age" created by him contains the widest possible range of social, medical and household services, meeting the modern needs and wants of this rapidly growing group of people and the related urban planning and building solutions.

Chief assistant professor Plamen Rilski, PhD is also actively involved as a practicing architect in a big number of projects that reveal his versatile creative interests and distinct individual signature in the field of artistic design and architectural design: single-family and multi-family residential buildings, public buildings, industrial buildings, reconstruction of existing objects, interiors , urban projects, etc. It should be noted that the participation of arch. Pl. Rilski in the development of significant architectural projects abroad – design of residential and public buildings in Germany and Switzerland, including homes for the elderly. He is the winner of the "Building of the Year" award for 2010. with the design and implementation of the residential and administrative complex "Residential Park Sofia", in a competition of the City - Media Group under the patronage of the Ministry of Regional Development.

Arch. Plamen Rilski has full planning legal capacity as a member of the Chamber of Architects in Bulgaria (CAB). Since 2003, he has founded and managed his own design bureau "Archibau" with numerous completed projects, won competitions and awarded prizes.

### **III. Learning and teaching activity**

#### **1. Work on curriculum and courses.**

Since 2008 Plamen Rilski was actively involved as a part-time, and subsequently as a full-time lecturer in the work of the Department of Architecture, as follows:

- Participation in updating the Ministry of Education "Architecture" according to the new requirements of the "ORDINANCE on the state requirements for acquiring higher education in the specialty "Architecture" at the educational-qualification degree "Master" with the professional qualification "Architect" from 2016;
- Regular and active participation in the changes and improvement of MP "Architecture" with initiatives to introduce new courses;
- Courses created entirely by of arch. Plamen Rilski are:

ARCM272 Lectures Building Construction Part I

ARCM336 Training: Building Construction Part I

ARCM274 Lectures Construction II part

ARCM300 Training: Building Construction Part II  
ARCM021 Lectures: Architectural constructions Part I  
ARCM022 Training: Architectural Structures Part I  
ARCM321 Project: Architectural Structures Part I  
ARCM221 Lectures: Architectural constructions Part II  
ARCM288 Training: Architectural Constructions Part II  
ARCM421 Project: Architectural Structures Part II

- Courses created and developed with the participation of arch. Plamen Rilski are:  
ARCM 059 Specialized areas: Business Park (together with Assoc. Dr. Avramova).

Arch. Plamen Rilski was a reviewer of 6 diploma projects for masters.

## **2. Work with students and doctoral students**

Arch. Plamen Rilski prepares/supervises students from the Department of Architecture of NBU for participation in various national and international architectural competitions:

- Italy: Entertainment complex on the territory of the abandoned cargo port in Porto di Pesaro, Italy
- international student competition for a museum building in Buenos Aires, Argentina

Arch. Plamen Rilski participated as a representative of NBU in the jury of the Student Architecture Competition "Positive-Negative" - November 2011 edition.

## **IV. Administrative and public activity**

- Participation as a trainee in the training program for the teaching and administrative staff of the NBU - Trainee in the "Teacher's Cafe" program (training on working with Moodle)
- Participation as a trainer in the training program for the teaching and administrative staff of the NBU - Trainer in the "Teacher's Cafe" program (training on working with Moodle)

## **V. Opinions, recommendations and notes on the activity and achievements of the candidate.**

Knowing well the work of arch. Plamen Rilski, I recommend him to continue his work in the future in the field of the development of the MP Architecture program at NBU, in particular regarding the group of courses related to architectural constructions and modern construction technologies. I also expect him to continue his research work in the field of optimizing the design of buildings and environments for people of the "third age" as a means of integrating them into society.

I do believe that he has the potential to engage with the topic of the multidisciplinary team approach in architectural design, which in my opinion is becoming more and more relevant and for which a New Bulgarian University could provide a suitable environment.

### **Conclusion**

Based on all the above mentioned arguments and merits of the teaching and creative work of chief assistant professor Plamen Mihailov Rilski, PhD, architect, the overall positive assessment of the candidate's academic activity is indisputable. That is why I propose to the honorable Academic Council of the New Bulgarian University chief assistant professor Plamen Mihailov Rilski, PhD, architect to be elected as an "associate professor" in professional `field 5.7 Architecture, construction and geodesy in the Department of "Architecture", Master's Faculty of New Bulgarian University.

Sofia, 21/11/2022

Reviewer:

Professor Georgi Georgiev, PhD, architect