

O P I N I O N

by **Professor Orlin Slavchev Davchev, PhD, Architect**

Dean of the Faculty of Architecture at

University of Architecture, Civil Engineering, and Geodesy (UACEG), Sofia

on the materials, presented for participation in a competition for attaining the academic position “**Associate Professor**” in professional field 5.7. “Architecture, Construction, and Geodesy” for the Department of Architecture, Graduate School, New Bulgarian University (NBU), announced in State Gazette No 87 of 19 October 2021 and in the NBU’s site. The only candidate is **Chief Assist. Prof. Kliment Ivanov, PhD, Architect**, from the Department of Architecture of the New Bulgarian University, Sofia.

The review is prepared in my capacity as:

- Member of the Scientific jury, appointed by order No 3-3K-63 of 02 February 2021 of the Rector of NBU, based on the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Rules of Procedure for it.
- Reviewer in the competition, appointed by resolution of the Scientific jury on its first meeting.

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

The minimum national requirements for the scientific, scholarly, artistic, and creative activities of the candidate for attaining the academic position “Associate Professor” in professional field 5.7. “Architecture, Construction, and Geodesy” (Minimum number of required points by groups of indicators for different scientific degrees and academic positions, and Number of points achieved by indicators) are fulfilled. The requirements of the New Bulgarian University are also met. With the minimum required points by groups of indicators 570, a total of 1052 points have been reached, according to a self-assessment report, submitted by the candidate.

II. Research (creative) activities and results

The presented documents are a comprehensive and explicit illustration of the scholarly, professional, creative, scientific, research, and applied activities of the candidate.

The monographic work “High Living Room Space in Houses” is aimed at exploring the current notion of this spatial scheme and its role in the contemporary dwelling. It consists of two main parts. In the first part, titled “Past and Modernity”, a detailed historical research is presented, while in the second part, titled “Theory and Application”, a theoretical research with a practical focus is conducted. The compositional analysis presents different approaches to achieve a balanced equilibrium between the high space in the living room, the other rooms in the house, and the outdoor areas. The book is richly illustrated with many examples of houses with images and architectural drawings, many of which are made by the author ab initio. The research on the topic, chosen by the author, is almost non-existent worldwide, while it is highly valued among the professionals and is a subject of considerable interest amongst the students. The monograph “High Living Room Space in Houses” will definitely benefit researchers, practicing architects, and students in architecture, interior, and spatial design.

The candidate Chief Assist. Prof. Kliment Ivanov, PhD, presents the following publications and creative output for the competition:

- 5 Scientific publications in editions, referenced and indexed in world-famous scientific information databases, or in non-referenced journals with scientific review or edited collective volumes;
- 3 Scientific publications, other than those presented for the doctorate;
- 7 Built author's projects in the field of architecture or design;
- 1 Citation in non-referenced journals with scientific review;
- 7 Reviews of built author's designs and products in specialized editions in the field of architecture or design;
- 1 Participation as a member of the research team in a Scientific research project.

In summary, the scientific and applied activities of Chief Assist. Prof. Kliment Ivanov, PhD, correspond to his gradual and ascending scientific, scholarly, and creative growth.

III. Scholarly and academic activities

The presented documents demonstrate that the candidate, Chief Assist. Prof. Kliment Ivanov, PhD, implements active academic and pedagogical activities, dedicated to live current topics and creating favourable conditions for teamwork.

The candidate delivers public lectures, both at the Department of Architecture at NBU and at foreign universities in San Sebastian, Spain, and Belfast, UK. He takes active part in the upgrade of academic courses and the external accreditation of the Master's Programme in Architecture. He has autonomously created two entirely new academic courses of the curriculum of the Master's Programme in Architecture and has participated in the creation of nine other ones. He has taken part in the organization of two Interdepartmental seminars at NBU. His average score from the satisfaction inquiries of students per course and lecturer is 4.51.

Kliment Ivanov has supervised 11 successfully defended Master's graduates and students' academic projects for 8 international competitions. Some of them have been awarded.

IV. Administrative and social activities

Chief Assist. Prof. Kliment Ivanov, PhD, regularly participates in the meetings of the departmental and the programme councils of the Department of Architecture. He is a member of the Accreditation Commission of the Graduate School of NBU. Since 2014 till now he has been a Programme consultant (Programme director) of the Department of Architecture. He is registered with the Chamber of Architects in Bulgaria (CAB) with Full Range of Services. He is the founder of the architectural bureau "Kliment Ivanov Architects" (since 2005), which has numerous built projects and has won many competitions and awards.

V. Personal impressions of the candidate

The research work of Chief Assist. Prof. Kliment Ivanov, PhD, is directed mainly to the residential buildings. It has been naturally affected by his academic work – his lectures and design studios on residential buildings and compounds. His scientific interests are focused on the high space in the residential buildings, both in their interior and exterior. The candidate applies his theoretical studies in the architectural design practice through the design and construction of real buildings and participation in architectural competitions.

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

With the development and the publication of scientific production, important for the profession, Kliment Ivanov stands out and proves himself as a brilliant specialist in both theory and practice. I recommend the candidate to continue his work on the research of the high space in the other types of buildings, and also its application in the adaptation of existing buildings.

VII. Conclusion

The competition complies with the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Rules of Procedure for it in terms of its announcement and the submitted materials. The scientific, research, scholarly, academic, design, and implementation activities of Kliment Ivanov comply with the requirements in this area.

Based on the above, I give my positive vote “YES” and propose Chief Assist. Prof. Kliment Ivanov, PhD, be elected and attain the academic position “ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR” in professional field 5.7. “Architecture, Construction, and Geodesy” as a member of the academic staff of the Department of Architecture, Graduate School, New Bulgarian University.

Reviewer:

(Professor Orlin Davchev, PhD, Architect)

Sofia, 26 February 2022