

O P I N I O N

By Prof. Atanas Kovachev, Corresponding Member of the Bulgarian

Academy of Sciences, DSc

Head of the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies

Varna Free University

Head of the “Project Center”

At the University of Forestry, Sofia

CONCERNING:

The materials submitted for participation in the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor under the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRACPB) at the Fine Arts Department of the Institute of Art Studies (IAS) at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS) under:

- Scientific Specialty "Theory and History of Architecture" (Digitization and Architectural Heritage).

The review was developed in my capacity as:

- Member of the Scientific Jury appointed by Order No 474-RD of 25.07.2024 on the basis of Art. 1, 2 and 3 of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (Law No. 38 of 21.05.2010, and subsequent amendments and supplements), Chapter Three, Section III, Article 57 (1-4) of the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the decision of the Scientific Council of the Institute of Art Studies (Protocol N 7, item 2, of 19.07.2024);

In the competition for "Associate Professor", announced for the needs of the Fine Arts Department of the Institute for the Study of Art Studies (IAS) at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences participated **one candidate – Senior Asst. Dr architect DIMITRINA POPOVA.**

1. BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

The candidate, Dr. Arch. Dimitrina Popova graduated from the University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy in Sofia in 2000. She obtained a Master of Architecture degree with a diploma project at the Department of Public Buildings of the Faculty of Architecture. Followed by a period of architectural practice in various design offices in a team and independently, with reg. number from CAB 03724. In 2011, after a competition, she became a full-time PhD student at the Institute of Art Studies - BAS. On September 29, 2024, she successfully defended her dissertation for the degree of PhD. Since May 2015 until now she has held the academic position of Senior Assistant at the same Institute. She has participated in three research projects at the National Program “Bulgarian Studies”, Heritage BG-Interactive Map of the Arts in Bulgaria and the Scientific Research Fund.

2. ACADEMIC AND APPLIED ACTIVITIES

In the competition Senior Asst. Dr. arch. Dimitrina Popova presents scientific production after the defense of her dissertation on the topic: “The Borders of Interference of the Roman Empire through the Architecture in Thrace” (defended in 2014) i.e. for the period 30.09.2014 – 18.08.2024

The classification of the candidate's publications can be presented as follows: total of 21. Of those: **10** published articles; **10** reports and **1 book** chapter.

For articles and reports, the classification is as follows:

- **by place of publication:** articles in foreign journals - 1 pc; articles in national journals - 9 pc; papers in proceedings of national scientific conferences - 1 pc; papers in proceedings of international scientific conferences - 9 pc.

- **by language in which they were written in English** - 6 pcs.; in Bulgarian - 15 pcs.

- **by number of co-authors:** independent - 20 pcs.; with one co-author - 1 pcs.

In terms of paper presentations, the classification is as follows: total: 10 printed.

Senior Asst. Dr. arch. Dimitrina Popova participated in the competition with a developed and published Monograph “Architectural Heritage in Photographs of Houses from the 19th Century” with the subtitle “Analysis and Digitization of the Architectural Archive of the Institute of Art Studies”.

It "represents a serious contemporary analysis of a collection of architectural documents - part of the architectural archive of the Institute of Art Studies at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. The digitalization of documents and the method of research lead to a new way of imagining and analyzing architectural space. Of particular interest is the study of ruined, destroyed houses, for which the only witnesses are the drawings. Graphics rendering through digital reconstruction replicates the construction in a real environment. Three-dimensional digital reconstructions provide new opportunities for exploring the data of the architectural archive" (based on a review by Prof. DSc Arch. Margarita Kharbova). The book is clearly structured and illustrated. The bibliography at the end of the work is useful for those interested in the problems under consideration.

Among the more significant publications one can highlight:

- **Popova, Dimitrina.** 2023. Digital Reconstruction of Lost Architectural Heritage in the Case Study of Two 19th Century Houses. Proceedings of the Thirteenth International Conference Digital Presentation and Preservation of Cultural and Scientific Heritage, 13, Institute of Mathematics and Informatics - BAS. ISSN:1314-4006, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.55630/dipp.2023.13.11>, pp. 117-126, (*indexed in Scopus and Web of Science*)

- **Popova, Dimitrina.** 2024. Architectural heritage in a collection of architectural photographs from 1949-1962: ideology, rules, practice. Art History Readings 2023. Module New Art. Metamorphoses, Institute of Art Studies, BAS. ISSN:1313-2342, pp. 196-204. (*indexed in Web of Science*).

- **Popova, Dimitrina.** 2023. Research on digital archival collections of photographed 19th century houses. - Cultural and Historical Heritage: preservation, presentation, digitization, Volume 9, Issue 2, Institute of Mathematics and Informatics, BAS. ISSN:2367-8038, pp.72-83. DOI: <https://www.doi.org/10.55630/KINJ.2023.090205>. (*refereed in ERIH PLUS*)

- **Popova, Dimitrina.** 2022. Three-dimensional digital reconstruction of disappeared houses and their spatial analysis in virtual reality on the example of the Bey house of Tulesko in Berkovitsa. – Art Studies Quarterly, Issue 4, Institute of Art Studies, BAS, ISSN:0032 - 9371, pp. 66-77 (*referred to in ERIH PLUS*).

They have been printed in various journals and publishers including:

- Institute of Art Studies - BAS and Institute of Mathematics and Informatics- BAS.

OVERVIEW:

The **scientific publications** submitted to the competition (published and accepted for publication) **correspond** to the research profile of the candidate in the competition and are related to the theory of architecture, and specifically to digitization and architectural heritage. They have been **published** in scientific journals in the country and abroad and in the Proceedings of scientific forums, thanks to which they have become the property of the scientific community and of all those who have a relation to the problems under consideration, i.e. they have received citizenship after their approval. The developed works represent the candidate in the competition as a research scientist and are a testimony of knowledge of the theory and practice in the researched field. In them, Chief Asst. Dr. arch. Dimitrina Popova shows the ability to analyze problems, to generalize and conclusions with scientific and applied contributions.

3. LECTURING ACTIVITIES

Senior Asst. Dr. arch. Dimitrina Popova has been involved in teaching and lecturing activities in the last years at the University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy (UACEG), Sofia, Bulgaria. Sofia (2015, 2016) and the European Polytechnic University (EPU), Sofia. (2015, 2016, 2022, 2024).

Specifically, she has taught classes - lectures and exercises in the following disciplines:

- Exercises in the course "Architecture" for the master's Program in Construction of Buildings and Facilities at UASG, including English-language training.
- Exercises and lectures for the course "Architecture" for the bachelor's Program in Civil Engineering, EPU, English-language training.
- Lectures for the course "Preservation of Architectural Heritage" for the Master of Architecture program, EPU, English language training.
- Lectures for the course "Aesthetics" for Master of Architecture, EPU, English-speaking.

4. REFLECTION OF THE CANDIDATE'S ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS IN THE LITERATURE (KNOWN CITATIONS)

Senior asst. Dr. arch. Dimitrina Popova has provided a reference of reviews, reviews and citations of her academic publications by other authors. She has 2 reviews for her monograph **"Architectural Heritage in Photographs of Nineteenth-Century**

Houses" (Analysis and Digitization of the Architecture Archive of the Institute of Art Studies.)

Arch. Dimitrina Popova has submitted a list with a total of **10** citations and reviews for realized author's products in specialized publications in the field of architecture and design.

The candidate has **3 citations** of articles and reports - **1** citation abroad in an indexed journal in Scopus and Web of Science and **2** citations in Bulgaria by different authors.

Considering that these were made in the period after 2014, it can be stated that she is "recognizable" through her publications in the academic world.

5. CONTRIBUTIONS (scientific, scientific applied, applied)

With her academic production Senior Asst. Dr. arch. Dimitrina Popova makes contributions of scientific and scientifically applied nature.

Among the most important contributions I highlight the following:

- The candidate tests and shows how digital databases lead to new research methods and new results. Specifically, through quantitative values she derives qualitative parameters from a collection of architectural photographs of ancient houses.
- The author defines criteria for evaluating the completeness of archival data from the Architecture Archive. She gives an idea of the level of completeness of the capture in relation to the typology of captures compiled in the 1950s: abbreviated and complete capture.
- For the first time, a three-dimensional digital reconstruction of non-existing buildings is undertaken, for which there is undisputed evidence in the form of archival architectural documentation.
- A methodology in two components is compiled, which enables to fill in, through the digital reconstruction, missing portraits from the genealogical tree of the 19th century residential architecture in the Bulgarian lands.
- Complex data on the architecture of houses from Berkovitsa, Teteven and Etropole are published. The information from the architectural photographs is supplemented by the author with photographs, memories of contemporaries, collected administrative documents about the houses in regional museums.

- Five three-dimensional digital houses with a high degree of authenticity have been created. The new medium of virtual reality opens a new horizon for rethinking architectural heritage

- In a comparative analysis, Dr. Arch. Dimitrina Popova examines the advantages and challenges of reconstruction presented in two-dimensional image, video animation, 360-degree panoramas and virtual reality.

OVERVIEW:

The nature of the scientific contributions can be attributed to:

- Enriching existing knowledge by obtaining confirmatory facts and obtaining and proving by new means existing facts and problems.

- application of scientific achievements through the implementation of the results in real educational practice - in lectures and exercises.

6. EVALUATION OF THE PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE CANDIDATE

The predominant number of the publications of Dr. arch. Dimitrina Popova are developed independently, which shows that they are the personal work of the candidate in the competition.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- To senior asst. Dr. arch. Dimitrina Popova, I have a **recommendation** to continue in her future work the development and publication of **academic studies and articles in scientific journals in the country and abroad in refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases and especially in journals with Impact Factor**. The increase of her scientific production in quantitative terms and the publication of materials in reputable scientific journals will allow her to achieve a higher citation rate in the Bulgarian and foreign academic literature, which will bring her recognition as a scientist with a position and place in the professional field in which she works.

8. PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS

Until the development of the Opinion, I did not personally know the candidate in the competition – Dr. Dimitrina Popova, except for some of her publications. I got acquainted with her scientific production in detail during the preparation of the Opinion. I believe that she is a trained scientist in the field in which she works.

9. CONCLUSION

The competition complied with the requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADAB) in terms of both the announcement and the materials submitted.

The academic activity of senior asst. Dr. arch. DIMITRINA POPOVA complies with the requirements of the LAADRB Act and its Regulations.

The scientific metric requirements in terms of the number of points in the various indicators have been met and exceeded.

In connection with the above, I give my positive assessment and recommend the Scientific Jury to propose to the Scientific Council of the Institute of Art Studies - BAS to elect Dr Dimitrina Popova to the academic position of associate professor in **Theory and History of Architecture (Digitization and Architectural Heritage)**.

Developed the Opinion:

(Corresponding Member of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Prof. DSc. ATANAS KOVACHEV, (Foreign Member of the Russian Academy of Architecture and Construction Sciences)