

# OPINION

From Assoc. Prof. arch. Kliment Ivanov Ivanov  
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Professional direction 5.7 Architecture, Construction and Geodesy

On Materials for participation in the competition for acquiring  
The academic position of Associate Professor  
In Theory and History of Architecture  
Professional direction 5.7 Architecture, Construction and  
Geodesy,  
For the needs of the Fine Arts Department, Institute of Art Studies  
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS),  
Announced in State Gazette, issue 52/18.06.2024

Candidate Senior Asst. Dr Architect Dimitrina Marinova Popova

The opinion was prepared based on Order No. 474-PD of 25.07.2024 of the Director of the Institute of Art Studies at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. It complies with the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act and the Regulations for its implementation.

## **I. Assessment of compliance with the minimum requirements**

The materials for the competition, submitted by Senior asst. Dr. arch. Dimitrina Popova, include monograph, scientific publications, implemented author's projects, citations in scientific publications and reviews of implemented author's products, as well as data according to the requirements for the groups of indicators for academic positions. The submitted materials correspond to and significantly exceed the minimum national requirements and the requirements of BAS for the activities of candidates for academic positions in the professional fields.

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

### **1. Evaluation of the monograph, including an assessment of the academic and applied contributions of the author**

The monograph "Architectural Heritage in a Collection of Survey Drawings of Nineteenth-Century Houses. Analysis and Digitization of the Architecture Archive of the Institute of Art Studies", with Dimitrina Popova as the sole author, represents a thorough academic study of an extremely important and asset, which, however, is unknown to the wider professional and scientific community. This is the archive of architectural surveys of the Institute of Art Studies at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. I admit that until the publication of this paper, I was unaware of the existence of this archive, especially in terms of its considerable size and content.

In the present work the author starts with the specific problem of the architectural archive of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences as an existing entity but extends the boundaries of the research to the problems of the contemporary archive in its entirety and to the ways of

contemporary and future use of the materials in it. The work addresses two main themes, which are reflected in its division into two parts. The first part presents a study of the history of the archive, its contents, its organization, and the activities that are carried out with it today. I appreciate the explanations of the ideological and historical reasons why the archive was created and how the selection of the materials for it was decided. A new system of reorganization of the archive, in line with contemporary trends, is also proposed, as well as a methodology for evaluating the architectural documents in its collection. The second part presents a system for digital architectural reconstruction of demolished historic houses from the archive based on preserved architectural surveys on paper. A system for evaluating the available data and a methodology for their virtual recreation in a digital environment is proposed. Five virtual digital models of houses are presented, in fully rendered form, made by the author herself.

The monograph is highly appreciated as an academic work, as the author makes serious contributions of scientific and applied nature:

- Defining as "cultural heritage" in the field of architecture the archive of architectural surveys itself and substantiating it as such to a significant extent.
- Establishing a methodology for assessing the significance of archival architectural collections, and specifically documents with architectural graphics. I appreciate the proposed possibility of making sense of the base on four main scales.
- Create a methodology for the digital reconstruction of ancient architecture that no longer exists, based on manual paper-based surveys.

In addition, I consider the promotion, or making available, of the archive of architectural surveys to the local and global academic communities to be of paramount importance. Although it does not belong to scientific contributions, bringing this scientific treasure out of oblivion can be considered a benefit for many sciences and arts.

## **2. Evaluation of contributions in the other attached publications and creative activities**

The following contributions are presented in the competition materials:

- 1 publication in journals that are refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information.
- 19 publications in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or edited collective volumes.
- 1 published chapter of a collective monograph.
- 4 realized authorial projects in the field of architecture or design.
- 1 independent creative performance in the field of architecture or design.

The presented scientific publications and creative performances correspond to the profile of Dimitrina Popova's academic research and correspond to the professional field and scientific specialty of the competition.

I highly appreciate the contributions she makes through her academic and creative activity. They are of scientific and applied nature and can be summarized as:

- Enrich existing knowledge and acquire new knowledge.
- Application of scientific achievements in real design practice and in educational activities.

### **3. Citing from other authors**

The following citations from other authors are noted in the submitted materials:

- 1 citation in scientific publications, refereed and indexed in world-known databases of scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes.
- 1 citation in peer-reviewed monographs and collective volumes.
- 1 citation and 2 reviews in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals.
- 8 peer-reviewed publications in the field of architecture or design. Two of the reviews have been published in non-scientific media and it is questionable whether they can be included here, but the candidate has nevertheless more points than required.

The citations listed above show an undeniable recognition and appreciation of Dimitrina Popova's scientific research by scientists and specialists in Bulgaria and around the world.

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

The materials of the competition describe:

- 3 participations in national scientific or educational projects.
- 1 participation in an international scientific or educational project.
- 1 leadership of a national scientific or educational project.
- 1 award in architecture or design competitions given by national professional forums and organizations.

I highly appreciate the results of the research and creative projects in which Dimitrina Popova actively and regularly participates. She successfully applies the results obtained in practice as an architect with her own design bureau and as a lecturer.

### **III. Teaching and lecturing**

Dimitrina Popova has been engaged in teaching activities as a Visiting Lecturer and Assistant Professor in the Architecture Program of the European Polytechnical University (EPU) and as a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Construction of Buildings and Facilities Program of the University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy (UACEG). At my invitation, she also gave a specialized lecture in the Architecture Program of New Bulgarian University.

#### **IV. Administrative and public activities**

Dimitrina Popova is a member of several professional and academic organizations. I appreciate the fact that she is also a member of the Chamber of Architects in Bulgaria as a Freelance Architect.

#### **V. Personal impressions of the candidate**

I have known the candidate personally for many years, as she and I were classmates in the Architecture program at UASEG. Since then, our friendly relationship has continued because I find her to be a positive and kind person. I was amazed at the time that she took an interest and turned to research very early on, and I am impressed with her growth as a researcher. I am convinced that Dimitrina Popova is a colleague with high potential in both scientific and academic circles.

#### **VI. Comments and recommendations on the activities and achievements of the applicant**

I believe that the activities and achievements presented by Dimitrina Popova have been developed independently and are her personal work. They are relevant to the study of current and significant issues in architectural science, practice and education.

In my opinion, the candidate's academic works need to contain a significantly greater number and size of illustrative materials. This comment is based on my belief that in the field of architecture, unlike other "pure" sciences, visual representation is as important and necessary as text.

I recommend that the work presented here should also be developed in the form of teaching materials suitable for study in both academic and professional courses.

#### **Conclusion**

The requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act and the Regulations for its implementation have been complied with. The submitted materials meet and exceed the minimum national requirements for the candidate's academic, teaching and artistic-creative activity.

**Based on the foregoing, I give the candidate a positive evaluation in the competition.**

**I propose the senior asst. Dr. Arch. Dimitrina Popova to be elected as Associate Professor in Theory and History of Architecture, professional field 5.7. Architecture, Civil Engineering**

and Geodesy, in the Fine Arts Department of the Institute of Art Studies at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

Sofia, 10 November 2024

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(Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Kliment Ivanov)