



R E V I E W

of the materials submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position of "Professor" in the field of higher education 5. *Technical sciences*, Professional field 5.13. *General engineering*, scientific specialty *Ergonomics and industrial design*, in the discipline *Theory of Composition*, for the needs of the Department of Interior and Design for Furniture of the Faculty of Forest Industry, announced by the University of Forestry, Sofia, procedure code WWI-P-0223-103, and in State Gazette no. 26/21.3.2023.

Candidate participating in the competition: Assoc. Prof. Arch. Stela Tasheva, PhD

Reviewer: Arch. Atanas Kovachev, DSc, Corresponding Member of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Professor, field of higher education 5. *Technical sciences*, Professional field 5.7. *Architecture, Construction and Geodesy*, scientific specialty *Territorial and landscape organization and urban planning*.

The review is submitted in my capacity as:

- member of the Scientific Jury, appointed by Order N: ЗПЦ-238/ 19.05.2023 of the Rector of the Forestry University, Sofia based on a decision of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Forest Industry (FFI), (Protocol N 41/16.05.2023), according to a report with a proposal of the Department of "Interior and Furniture Design" (IFD) and Art. 4 (1), (2), (3), (4), and Art. 4e (3) of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at LTU on the terms and conditions for occupying the academic position "professor";
- reviewer for the competition, appointed with the decision of the Scientific Jury on the first meeting, held on 01.06.2023.

1. BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL DATA FOR THE CANDIDATE

Assoc. Professor Arch. Stela Tasheva, PhD, graduated in the "Architecture" specialty at the University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy (UACEG), Sofia in 2001. In the period 2001 - 2009, she worked as a designer in various architectural studios.

In 2009, she was enrolled as a part-time doctoral student at the Institute of Art Studies at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS) and began working as an architect-specialist at the same institute. In 2012, she defended her dissertation on the topic: "**Semiotics of architectural graphics**" and received the educational and scientific degree "**Doctor**". After a competition, she was appointed as "**Chief Assistant**" in the specialty *Theory and History of Architecture* at the Institute of Art Studies at the BAS. In 2015, she qualified as an "Associate Professor" in the same specialty and institute. She is the author of the monograph "Bulgarian Architectural Graphics of the 20th Century – Problems and Tendencies", with which she participated in the competition of "Associate Professor". Since 2012, Arch. Stela Tasheva teaches at the University of Forestry, Sofia, as a part-time lecturer. From 2017, she is on a regular contract – half time, and from 2021, she is on a full, main employment contract at the University.

2. CORRESPONDENCE OF THE SUBMITTED DOCUMENTS AND MATERIALS OF THE APPLICANT ACCORDING TO THE RULES OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF ACADEMIC STAFF AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FORESTRY, SOFIA.

Assoc. Prof. Arch. Stela Tasheva, PhD presents scientific production and publication activity in the competition for the academic position "PROFESSOR", which is dated after receiving the academic position of "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR" in 2015.

The research activity of Assoc. Prof. Arch. Stela Tasheva, PhD, offered in the competition documents gives the following picture of the minimum requirements and the points achieved by the candidate by a group of indicators for the academic position "Professor" in the indicated scientific and professional fields direction:

Indicator A: A PhD dissertation (defended) – **50 points (needed – 50 points);**

Indicator B: Habilitation thesis - Monograph – **100 points (needed – 100 points);**

Indicator Г: A published monograph that is not submitted as a major habilitation thesis – **15 points;** Published book based on a defended PhD dissertation - **30 points;** Scientific publications in volumes that are referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information - **160 points;** Scientific publications in non-referenced peer-reviewed journals or in edited collective volumes – **383,33 points;** Published chapters of collective monographs – **25 points, and all sums as – 613,33 points (needed– 200 points).**

Indicator Д: Citations or reviews in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases; Citations in peer-reviewed monographs and collective volumes; Citations in non-referenced peer-reviewed journals; Reviews of realized author's products in specialized publications in the field of architecture and design – **156 points (needed – 100 points).**

Indicator E: Guidance of successfully defended PhD students – **120 points;** Participation in a national scientific or educational project– **10 points;** A recognized application for a utility model, patent or copyright – **40 points, and all sums as – 170 points (needed – 150 points)**

The total number of points obtained with the presented production, which the reviewer accepts, is 1089.33 points out of the required 600 points, which fulfills 100% and exceeds by 81.55% the minimum national requirements for scientific research, educational and expert activity of the candidate - Assoc. Prof. Arch. Stela Tasheva. PhD for occupying the academic position of "PROFESSOR" in the field of higher education 5. Technical sciences, professional field 5.13. General Engineering, scientific specialty Ergonomics and Industrial Design.

3. ASSESSMENT OF THE CANDIDATE'S EDUCATIONAL AND PEDAGOGICAL ACTIVITIES

Arch. Stela Tasheva has been teaching classes in "Theory of Composition" and "Morphogenesis" since 2012 for the specialty of "Interior Design" ("ID"), educational qualification degree (OQD) "Bachelor", department "IFD" at the FFI of the University of Forestry, Sofia. She leads the lectures on the same disciplines from the academic year 2015-2016 - up to the present moment, and updates their curricula.

She had led "Introduction to Urban Design" - lectures and exercises for the OQD "Master", specialty "ID" in different years, during her work at the Forestry University. She also led lectures and exercises on the discipline "Anthropogenic Resources - 2", for the specialty "Alternative Tourism" at the Faculty of Business Administration (FBA) at the University of

Forestry.

From the academic year 2021-2022, Associate Professor Stela Tasheva leads also lectures and classes on "Presentation of design projects" for the "ID" specialty, in OQD "Master", at FFI. She also reviews diploma theses. 5 graduates have successfully defended their diplomas under her mentorship.

Assoc. Prof. Arch. Stela Tasheva, PhD, was certified in staff quality attestation, at the Forestry University, in December 2021.

When evaluating the educational and teaching activity of the candidate for the academic activity "Professor", the work with PhD students is also important. Since now, according to the Law, the "Doctor" degree is educational and scientific, this activity can be accounted for in two sections - educational or scientific-research activity. The reviewer reports it in the section on teaching and learning activities. Assoc. Prof. Stela Tasheva is the supervisor of three successfully defended doctoral students in two institutions.

There are two Doctoral students educated in the Institute of Art Studies at BAS:

- Arch. Veselina Mireva, PhD, with a dissertation on the topic: "Paper in Architecture. Tendencies and Innovations" (NACID, Diploma No/date: 001229/09.03.2020);
- Arch. Nona Tsekova, PhD, with a dissertation on the topic: "Innovative methods of bionics and biomimetics and their transformations in contemporary architecture " (NACID, Diploma No/date: 001418/02.12.2021).

The third doctoral student (at the IDF department at the Forestry University) is:

- Eng. Ralitsa Stavreva – Pancheva, PhD, with a dissertation on the topic: "Design and problems of a small urban dwelling for one resident" (NACID, Diploma No/date: LTU-ONS-2022-161/27.10.2022).

I highly appreciate Assoc. Prof. Tasheva's activity related to the supervision of doctoral students. I believe that she has a serious scientific capacity and successful experience to continue the work in this direction.

4. ASSESSMENT OF THE CANDIDATE'S SCIENTIFIC, SCIENTIFIC-APPLIED AND PUBLISHING ACTIVITIES

4.1. Participation in scientific and scientific-applied research

The analysis of the presented by Assoc. Prof. Arch. Stela Tasheva scientific production, - publication and activity declared in the competition (and after acquiring the academic position "Associate Professor") gives the following picture:

Total number of works – 42. Of which:

Habilitation work - monograph – **1 (stand-alone work);**

A co-authored monograph – **1;**

Articles in scientific volumes: **40:**

Her studies and articles can be classified as follows:

- publications in journals with an impact factor - no;
- publications in referenced and indexed in Web of Science and/or SCOPUS – **6;**
- publications in non-referenced peer-reviewed journals – **23;**
- publications in edited collective volumes – **8;**
- publications in collective monographs – **3;**

Place of publication – 40:

- In Bulgaria – **27;**
- In foreign countries – **13;**

Publishing language: – 40:

- in Bulgarian – **20;**
- in Russian – **2;**

- in English – 18;

Number of co-authors– all 12

- Stand-alone – 11;
- With one co-author – 25;
- With two co-authors – 2;
- With six co-authors – 1.

The reviewer analyzes all the scientific publications presented in the competition, except for two, co-authored with him, publications (N 25 and N 34 from the list). I declare that our participation in their development, reporting and publication is equal (50% - 50%).

The analysis of the candidate's publications declared in the competition shows intensive and permanent scientific research work and a serious amount of publication activity. It also shows a very wide palette of scientific fields and topics, which I also highly appreciate.

4.2. Participation in scientific, scientific-applied and educational projects

Assoc. Prof. Stela Tasheva participated in a team in the development of the project "Bulgarian 20th century in arts and culture" - through the National Science Fund, Bulgaria in the period 2014-2018.

4.3. Characterization of published scientific results

There are 40 scientific publications declared for the competition. Their full scientometric classification is given in the attached list of abstracts. The complete bibliographic description is also submitted in the reference – the self-assessment documentation for the contest.

The 40 declared publications can be grouped in the following directions, regarding the research areas and the contributions:

- Theoretical studies of contemporary architecture and design (**6 articles**);
- Studies of historical and contemporary forms and modifications of architectural graphics and their reflections in artifacts and project realizations (**5 articles**);
- Tracing architectural motifs and images in art samples and design products. (**11 articles**);
- Analysis of significant phenomena and authors (**18 articles**).

The three publications in collective monographs are in the fourth direction:

- **Tasheva, S.**, Davcheva, M.. The Local Development of Brutalism in Bulgaria/ Die lokale Entwicklung des Brutalismus in Bulgarien. - In: Stefka Georgieva 1923-2004,
- **Ташева, С.** Сградата на БАН - история на архитектурата и строителството. - В: Пеневска, В., Попова, Д., Ташева, С.. Сградата на БАН символ на знание и духовност.
- Bratoeva-Darakchieva, Ingeborg; Genova, Irina; Levi, Claire; Spassova-Dikova, Joanna; Stoilova-Doncheva, Teodora; **Tasheva, Stela**; Traykova, Elka. Bulgarian 20th Century in Arts and Culture. Institute of Art Studies, 2019.

SUMMARY:

The **scientific publications** presented in the competition by Assoc. Prof. Stela Tasheva **correspond to the profile** of scientific and research and are related to the theory of architecture. They **have been published** in scientific volumes in our country and abroad (some of them in

referenced and indexed editions), and in Proceedings of scientific forums; thanks to which they have become available to the scientific community and all who are related to the themes and problems under consideration, i.e. obtained publicity after being approved. The developed works present the candidate as a researcher and are evidence of her knowledge of theory and practice in the researched field. There, Assoc. Prof. Arch. Stela Tasheva shows the ability to analyze problems, and make generalizations and conclusions with scientific and scientific-applied contributions.

4.4. Reflection of Candidate's Scientific Publications in Literature (known citations).

A detailed list of noted citations (citing publication and the author's work cited) is attached. 16 of the candidate's works, presented in the competition, are cited. **There are 22 citations of these works, both in Bulgarian and foreign publications.** This shows that the scientific research of Assoc. Prof. Stela Tasheva has become worthy of the scientific community in Bulgaria and abroad (as they have been cited in Bulgarian and foreign language publications).

It is important to note that Assoc. Prof. Stela Tasheva has registered a utility model (created in a team) on the topic: "System of sensors for analysis and assessment of interior space, zoning and furnishing". (Request: 5093 of 26.08.2020, Reg. N: 3895 U1) Patents are not typical for an architect, which is why I appreciate the activity of Assoc. Prof. Tasheva in this field of development.

4.5. Contributions to the candidate's work (scientific, scientific-applied, applied), which do not repeat the works from the last competition for occupying an academic position and from the last defended dissertation work.

The monograph "Digital Tools and Design: Theory of Composition". Sofia (PolisPublishers, 2022) - main habilitation thesis is of scholar interest. This is a personal contribution of the candidate and is relevant to the study of current problems as part of the theory of composition.

Contributions could be classified as:

Scientific contributions:

- Clarification of the content of the term "project graphics", defined there in a specific field between engineering and computer graphics.
- Creating a brief history of the introduction of digital tools in Bulgaria and proving that despite the direct borrowings from the principles of manual design and presentation, in modern graphics there is a gradual detachment from them.
- Deducing the main compositional trends today, a consequence of the use of digital means.

Scientific and applied contributions:

- timely documentation of work practices, authors, forms of training and techniques in the field under consideration;
- the assessment of the state of main compositional trends and forecast aspects of their future development; the delineation of two fields of their development:
 - o Illusory – achieved with lights or complete light coverage;
 - o Material – achieved by fully integrating a digitally obtained or controlled element;
- Bringing emerging trends, possibly in an attempt to escape the aesthetics of the machine in modern composition: Emotional design (conveying feelings to the user); Narrative design

(telling a story about the product); Club design (representing a certain view of owners - cultural affiliation, etc.); Intuitive design (betting/following the "intuition" of the user).

Applied Contributions:

- well-systematized presentation of key compositional terms and solutions.

Contributions of publications in referenced and non-referenced, peer-reviewed journals, as well as those in edited collective volumes and collective monographs.

Apart from the individual contributions of each developments and topics, the overall contributions of the publications listed so far can be summarized as:

Scientific contributions:

- Deducing the continuity and revealing the evolutionary specificity of architectural graphics in Bulgaria. Tracing the interrelationships in the development of the graphic language and its parallels (in the analog forms and also in the technologies of the future) supports inquiries regarding its development and modification and adaptation.

- Development and testing of a methodology for the analysis of architectural motifs and images in objects and products of art and design. The depiction (and symbiosis) of architecture in objects of art and design and/or in other forms reveals various forms of evolution and synthesis.

- The disclosure of theoretical interrelationships and classifications of the subjects considered in the articles. Such analytical results support the development of design theory and architecture.

Scientific-applied contributions:

- Archiving and systematizing data on a number of significant phenomena and authors. The presented works do not have an exhaustive (encyclopedic) character, but the selection of the studied authors and phenomena is based on their significance and contribution to the evolution of architecture, design and the urban environment. The information offered in texts on the chosen case studies is complete and well systematized. The author also takes into account the context of the era under consideration and the peculiarities of the technological performances.

Applied Contributions:

- Popularization of terms and theoretical approaches that enrich not only very specialized professionals and experts

- Support on the teaching of composition theory, through the development of meaningful examples.

SUMMARY:

The nature of the candidate's scientific contributions may refer to:

- enrichment of existing knowledge by obtaining new facts, as well as obtaining and proving with new means existing facts and problems;

- application of scientific achievements by implementing the results in real educational practice - in lectures and exercises.

5. ASSESSMENT OF THE APPLICANT'S PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION

The candidate's personal contribution to the competition - Assoc. Prof. Arch. Stela Tasheva is essential. A separation protocol has been applied for a substantial part of the publications. A large

part of them were developed in co-authorship by two authors and the candidate in the competition is the first or second author.

6. CRITICAL REMARKS

I have no critical remarks on the research, teaching and expert activities of Assoc. Prof. Arch. Stela Tasheva, PhD.

7. PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS

I know architect Stela Tasheva as a scholar and a teacher, who passed for more than a decade through all the steps of the necessary hierarchy at the Institute of Art Studies at the BAS (doctoral student, chief assistant and associate professor) and then – an associate professor at the "IDF" department at the FFI of the University of Forestry, Sofia. In 2012, she defended her dissertation work and received the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" at the Institute of Art Studies (BAS), and in 2015 she received her first habilitation and took the academic position of "Associate Professor" at the same institute. I was a member of the scientific jury and a reviewer of the materials of arch. Stela Tasheva in the contest for "Associate Professor", where I highly appreciated her scientific production, gave my positive vote "YES" in the Scientific Jury, and convincingly recommended the election of an "Associate Professor" by the Scientific Council of the Institute of Art Studies at BAS. I have been following her scientific development with interest from then until now. I believe that she is a built scientist with positions on the scientific front of the history and theory of architecture and design, and works successfully at the border of several scientific fields and professional directions (architecture, art, design) with strong and defensible positions.

Assoc. Prof. Stela Tasheva is the supervisor of three successfully defended doctoral students - two of them - Arch. Vesela Mireva (defended in 2019) and arch. Nona Tsekova (defended in 2021) were at the Institute of Art Studies (BAS), and one – Eng. Ralitsa Stavreva - Pancheva (defended in 2022) was at the University of Forestry. I had the rare chance to be a reviewer for all three PhD students of Assoc. Prof. Stela Tasheva, who developed and defended original dissertations on current issues of architecture and design. Although dissertation works are personal developments of the doctoral students, the scientific supervisor - Assoc. Prof. Arch. Stela Tasheva undoubtedly supported their successful finals with her scientific expertise. It is very important for a professor to continue this noble and necessary activity - the training of doctoral students, and thus to create a "school" in the chosen scientific specialty.

I have carried out scientific research together with Assoc. Prof. Arch. Stela Tasheva - we developed and co-published two articles. One was published abroad in the organ of the Russian Academy of Architecture and Construction Sciences – the journal "ACADEMY. Construction and Architecture" (2019), the second was reported at the International Scientific Conference of the Varna Free University "Chernorizets Hrabar", and subsequently published in the Collection of Scientific Works of the International Forum (2021). These articles, for obvious reasons, I did not review in the current competition, but I note that they were received with high appreciation by the scientific community, especially abroad.

Our scientific and creative paths with Prof. Stela Tasheva met many times over the years and in the work in the Scientific Juries of the Law of DASRB in competitions for scientific degrees ("Doctor" and "Doctor of Sciences") and academic positions ("Associate Professor" and "Professor") in the Institute of Art Studies at BAS; the UACEG, Sofia; the Varna Free University "Chernorizets Hrabar"; the Lyuben Karavelov Higher School of Civil Engineering, Sofia.

Her Reviews and Opinions are developed professionally and critically, but well-intentioned, with knowledge of the broad limits of the architectural field, and with a clearly stated and defended position of a scientist-researcher.

By virtue of my administrative duties in various national institutions, I know Assoc. Prof. Arch. Stela Tashena also from her participation as a leader or member of Expert Groups at the National Assessment and Accreditation Agency (NAAA) at the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria for accreditation of specialties from the regulated professions of Architecture and various doctoral programs related to architecture. The works and assessments which she developed are analytical, comprehensive and argumentative; the recommendations are correct, and the evaluations are objective. She has not even marked her status as an NAAA expert.

When communicating with Assoc. Prof. Arch. Stela Tasheva, you find a person with a high general and professional culture. Attentive and well-intentioned to students, and ethical to her colleagues, she is an example of a teacher - a pedagogue who enjoys the attention and respect of students and doctoral students, as well as specialists of various specialties and generations.

I believe, she is a highly prepared and erudite scholar with a presence in the scientific life of the country as an author of significant publications (including a defended PhD Thesis with original contributions).

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

I have two recommendations for Assoc. Prof. Arch. Stela Tasheva:

First recommendation: To continue her future work on the development and publication of scientific articles and studies at home and abroad in referenced and indexed scientific publications, especially in those included in "**world-renowned databases of scientific information**" and in **journals with Impact Factor**, as well and in "peer-reviewed monographs and collective volumes". She already has a positive personal experience in this area and can continue the activity.

- *Regarding the first recommendation: The increase in the scientific outputs of Assoc. Prof. Arch. Stela Tasheva in quantitative terms and the next publication of studies in renowned scientific volumes will allow achieving greater citations in the Bulgarian and foreign scientific literature, which will bring her recognition as a scientist with high positions in the professional direction and the specialty in which she works. I think she has potential for this activity.*

Second recommendation: To develop and defend a thesis for obtaining the second scientific degree "**Doctor of Sciences**", which I believe, she has real capabilities. This recommendation is not directly related to the current competition, but the reviewer takes the liberty of offering it in this Review because he is convinced that the candidate can fulfill it - as another pinnacle of professional development, continuous improvement and creative satisfaction (if even only proving to herself that the effort is worth it).

- *Regarding the second recommendation: The field in which arch. Stela Tasheva works, still inheres "unploughed domains" where she has now the rare chance to make her own new "furrows" with original and defensible scientific-theoretical and scientific-practical contributions! Most importantly - architect Tasheva has the potential to develop and defend the thesis to obtain the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences".*

9. CONCLUSIONS

The analysis of architect Stela Tasheva's activities, based on Appendix No. 1 of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (DASRB) and the regulations of the Forestry University, Sofia, could be recapped in **the following picture**: the defended points significantly **exceed the minimum required to obtain the academic position "PROFESSOR"**. It should be also noted that Assoc. Prof. Arch. Stela Tasheva has activities in all Indicators (Indicator B is not mandatory for the academic position "Professor").

Summarizing the overall works of Assoc. Prof. Arch. Stela Tasheva, it can be concluded that she is engaged in creative activities in various fields:

- research and publication (published monographs, books, studies and articles);
- teaching and learning work (developed and approved lecture courses and training programs);
- expert activity (participation in expert groups at the NAAA under the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria, participation in Scientific juries under the Law of DASRB, etc.).

The presented scientific production in the competition for the academic position "Professor" shows the convincing activity, professional experience, creative potential and high culture in the overall shaping and presentation of the various works of Assoc. Prof. Arch. Stela Tasheva.

Considering all the mentioned above, with full conviction I vote "YES" in the Scientific Jury and propose to the researchers of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Forest Industry of the University of Forestry, Sofia, that Assoc. Prof. Arch. STELA TASHEVA to be elected as "Professor" in professional field 5.13. *General engineering, scientific specialty Ergonomics and industrial design.*

Reviewer:

(Arch. Atanas Kovachev, DSc, Corresponding Member of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Professor, Foreign member of the Russian Academy of Architecture and Construction Sciences)

Sofia,
01.07.2023 г.

Review submitted to: ... 26.07.2023