

## 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”, announced by the University of Forestry, Sofia in State Gazette No. 26/21.3.2023, procedure code WWI-P-0223-103.

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

**Reviewer: Arch. Orlin Slavchev Davchev, PhD, Professor, Professional field 5.7. Architecture, Construction and Geodesy, University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy, Sofia**

### **1. Brief biographical data for the candidate**

Assoc. Prof. Arch. Stela Borisova Tasheva was born in 1978 in Sofia. He obtained the grade Master Architect in 2001 in the Department of "Residential Buildings" at the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy, Sofia. She practiced architecture, town planning and interior design in various architectural offices in the period between 2003 and 2009. In 2012, she was awarded PhD degree from the Institute of Art Studies at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS) for her doctoral thesis, entitled "Semiotics of architectural graphics".

In the period 2009 - 2021, he held the academic position of “Chief assistant professor” (2012) and "Associate professor" (2015), in the field of "Theory and History of Architecture" at the Institute of Art Studies, BAS. From 2012 until now, she has also been a teacher at the University of Forestry, Sofia.

Assoc. Prof. Tasheva is a member of several professional and scientific organizations in whose activities she participates: CAB (Chamber of Architects in Bulgaria) - Full design legal capacity, UAB (Union of Architects in Bulgaria), USB (Union of Scientists in Bulgaria), Balkan History Association, Docomomo.

### **2. Correspondence of the submitted documents and materials according to the rules of the development of academic staff at the University of Forestry, Sofia.**

After inspecting the documentation provided to me as part of the competition, I found that it was complete, detailed and comprehensive, meticulously exhaustive and neatly arranged. It meets all the regulatory requirements for participation in the announced competition for "professor" in this form. All the minimum required points of groups of indicators for the academic position of "professor", specified in the scientometric requirements of the Regulations for the development of the academic staff in the University - field of higher education 5 "Technical sciences", professional field 5.13. "General engineering", are significantly exceeded by the number of points that the candidate has gathered.

### **3. Assessment of the candidate's educational and pedagogical activities**

Prof. Stela Tasheva participates in the competition with a horary of all types of educational activities, which significantly exceeds the minimum requirements for a university teacher and in particular for holding the academic position of "professor". She conducts lectures and exercises on "Theory of composition", "Morphogenesis" (bachelor's); "Presentation of design projects", "Introduction to the design of the urban environment", and "Design of lighting fixtures" (master's). There are three successfully defended doctoral students under her tutorship.

In summary, Assoc. Prof. Tasheva's educational and teaching activity can be given a positive assessment without hesitation. It is expressed mainly in demonstrated high professional competence, fully acquired skills for working with students, graduates and doctoral students, with a proven desire for self-improvement. These and many other positive qualities of hers fully meet the requirements of the competition for the academic position of "professor".

### **4. Assessment of the candidate's scientific, scientific-applied and publishing activities**

Prof. Tasheva's scientific interests are centered in the topics: modern architecture and urban planning, semiotics, design and planning, 20<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, architectural graphics, CAD, BIM. It should be emphasized that the candidate's diligent participation in these scientific fields helped the development of a very active research and publication activity.

#### **4.1. Participation in scientific, scientific-applied and educational research**

Assoc. Prof. Arch. Stela Tasheva participated in the national scientific project "The Bulgarian Twentieth Century in Arts and Culture" - CFNI-KO2/9, 2014-2018. The research aimed to present a general historical view of the course and existence of the arts in Bulgaria in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Specific, but also common, parallel intellectual and artistic processes observed in the field of literature, theater, music, cinema, visual arts and architecture were highlighted in the texts.

#### **4.2. Characterization of published scientific results**

It is evident from the presented materials that a considerable volume of scientific research of very good quality and high scientific value has been carried out. In summary, it can be stated that the problems posed in the publications are significant for modern architecture and design, and the texts themselves are written in a strictly scientific manner and graphically well-prepared.

The candidate Assoc. Doctor of Arch. Stela Tasheva participated in the competition with a scientific production (after acquiring the degree "Associate Professor"):

**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.**

#### **4.3. Reflection of candidate's scientific publications in literature (known citations)**

According to the materials submitted for the competition, the known citations of the candidate's publications can be distributed as follows:

- Citations or reviews in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes – 10
- Citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review – 2
- Citations or reviews in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals – 10
- Reviews of realized author's products in specialized publications in the field of architecture or design – 3

These citations show that, through her scientific and publishing activities, Assoc. Prof. Tasheva has already gained fame not only in our country but also among scientific circles abroad. This shows that the scientific activity of the candidate is recognizable in the world scientific community. On the other hand, it is a testimony to the fact that the problems she had researched are now significant not only for our country but also on a global scale. So, her scientific production generates influence and reflection in the specialized literature.

#### **4.4. Contributions to the candidate's work (scientific, scientific-applied, applied)**

**4.4.1. Contributions of the monograph "Digital Tools and Design: Theory of Composition". Sofia (PolisPublishers, 2022) - main habilitation thesis.**

##### **4.4.1.1. Scientific contributions**

- The clarification of the complex present content of the term "project graphics", defined in a specific intermediate field between engineering and computer graphics;
- The creation of a short history of the introduction of digital tools in Bulgaria and the proof that, despite the early direct borrowings from the principles and logic of manual design, drafting production and presentation, there is now a gradual detachment from them;
- The derivation of basic compositional trends today, a consequence of the use of digital means, namely manipulation in the perception of scale; using gestalt principles, and presentation and outlining (the sense of) movement.

#### **4.4.1.1.2. Scientific-applied contributions**

- the timely description of work practices, authors, forms of training and techniques in the field under consideration;
- the assessment of the state of the main found compositional tendencies and assessment of their future development.

#### **4.4.1.1.3. Applied contributions**

- Clear classification and presentation of key compositional terms and solutions.

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

40 scientific publications have been declared for the competition. Regarding the areas of research and the contributions in them, the publications can be grouped in the following directions:

- Theoretical studies in the field of contemporary architecture and design (6 papers)
- Studies of historical and contemporary forms and modifications of architectural graphics and their reflections in artifacts and realizations (5 papers)
- Tracing architectural motifs and images in objects and products of art and design (11 papers)
- Analyzes of significant phenomena and authors (18 papers).

#### **4.4.2.1. Scientific contributions**

- Revealing the continuity and outlining of the evolutionary distinctions of architectural graphics in Bulgaria. The tracing of the interrelationships in the development of graphic languages and the parallels (both in the analog forms and in the technologies of the future) support studies on the development, modification and adaptation of architectural graphics;

- Development and testing of a methodology for the analysis of architectural motifs and images in products and artifacts of art and design. The depicted symbiosis of architectural forms and objects of art and design reveals various forms of the product evolution and synthesis;
- Disclosure of theoretical connections and classifications of the material considered in the articles. Such analytical results support the development of design theory and architecture.

#### **4.4.2.2. Scientific-applied contributions**

- Collection and systematization of data on a number of significant phenomena and authors. The studies do not have an exhaustive (encyclopedic) character, but the selection of the chosen authors and topics is based on their significance and contribution to the evolution of architecture, design and the urban environment. The research data presented on the studied cases is complete and well-systematized. The studies also take into account the context of the era under consideration and the peculiarities of technological performances.

#### **4.4.2.3. Applied contributions**

- Popularization of terms and theoretical approaches that enrich not only narrow profiles of professionals and experts;
- Ensuring support on teaching of the composition theory, through the presentation of special meaningful examples.

### **5. Assessment of the applicant's personal contribution**

A separation protocol of authorship between Assoc. Prof. Sasha Lozanova, DSc, and Assoc. Prof. Arch. Stela Tasheva, PhD, is submitted in the documentation for the competition. It declares full and equal authorship of their production. The protocol also takes into account the symmetry of the specializations of the authors – an art historian, art critic and ethnologist on the one hand and an architect - on the other, which are the basis of the interdisciplinary, research method in the co-authored texts.

The candidate's personal involvement and personal contribution are best seen in the qualities of her 11 independent publications and the major monograph. Evaluated comprehensively, they are in no way inferior to all the other collective works in the competition list. The absence of such differences is a sufficient reason to assume that the personal contribution of Prof. Tasheva is obvious, concurrent, and at an appropriately high level. I consider the candidate's contributions to be individual work, completely sufficient and meeting the requirements of the competition. The achieved scientific results are of high scientific and scientific - applied value.

## 6. Critical remarks

I have no critical remarks or recommendations regarding the content of the publications and all other materials included in the current competition, their quality, way of organizing and visual presentation.

## 7. Personal impressions

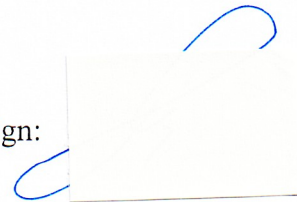
Assoc. Prof. Arch. Stela Tasheva is a recognizable scientist and teacher in the academic community with a clear profile and directions of research activity. My impressions of her are as a very active and with well-developed research skills, able to pose and solve contemporary problems of architecture and design. She has outstanding organizational and communication skills that help her work in a team and to be in multicultural environments. She has excellent presentation and mentoring skills related to her work with students.

All this shows that currently Associate Professor Tasheva is convincingly outlined as an established university teacher, an erudite scientific specialist, recognized not only in our country but also abroad. I am convinced that these are all qualities that fully correspond to the requirements for being awarded the academic position of "professor".

## 8. Conclusion

Due to the above reasons, I propose Assoc. Dr. Arch. Stela Tasheva to be elected to occupy the academic position "Professor", in the field of higher education 5. "Technical Sciences", professional field 5.13. "General Engineering", scientific specialty "Ergonomics and Industrial Design", for the discipline "Theory of Composition".

Reviewer's sign:



Review submitted on: 01.08.2023r.