



OPINION

on the materials submitted for participation in a competition for „Professor“ in the field 5. Technical Sciences, Professional field 5.13. General Engineering, scientific specialty Ergonomics and Industrial Design in the discipline Theory of Composition, in the competition for “Professor”, published in the State Gazette 26/21.03.2023 and on the site of the University of 02.03.2023 with the code WWI-P-0223-103 for the needs of the Department of Interior and Furniture Design at the Faculty of Forest Industry, University of Forestry – Sofia.

Candidat for participation in the contest is:

1. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Stela Borisova Tasheva

Prepared the opinion: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Desislava Ivanova Angelova, University of Forestry, field of higher education 5. Technical Sciences, professional field 5.13. General Engineering, scientific specialty Ergonomics and Industrial Design.

1. Brief biographical data for the candidate

The only candidate competing for the academic position "Professor" Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Stela Borisova Tasheva was born on 11.10.1978 in the city of Sofia. In 2001, she graduated as a master architect majoring in "Architecture" at the University of Architecture Civil Engineering and Geodesy, Sofia. In the period from March 2003 to September 2009, she worked in the following architectural bureaus: Avangard +, Botevgrad; ERA OOD, Sofia; Kali OOD, Sofia; Sashetso OOD, Sofia; Stefan Dobrev: Architecture and Design, Sofia. Since October 2009, Stela Tasheva has been enrolled as a doctoral student, specialist-architect at the Institute of Art Studies, BAS, where in 2012 she defended her dissertation on the topic: Semiotics of Architectural Graphics. From 15.10.2009 to 01.03.2021, she successively held the positions of Architect, Chief Assistant (2012) and Associate Professor (2015) in the field of Theory and History of Architecture at the Institute of Art Studies, BAS on a full-time basis. Arch. Stela Tasheva has more than five years of work experience at the academic position of Associate Professor at the University of Forestry, Faculty of Forest Industry, Department of Interior and Furniture Design, for three years (13.03.2018 - 01.03.2021) part-time, and after 01.03.2021 - full-time. She is a member of several professional and scientific organizations: Chamber of Architects in Bulgaria; Union of Architects in Bulgaria, Union of Scientists in Bulgaria, Balkan History Association, Docomomo.

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.

The documents submitted by the applicant correspond to those required according to the Regulations of the Academic Staff Development at the University of Forestry. The submitted reference of fulfillment of the minimum National Requirements for holding the academic position "Professor" reflects the main scientific achievements (published monographs, chapters of monographs, books, articles and reports from conferences, and citations of scientific publications) of the candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Stela Borisova Tasheva. It is clear from the reference that the applicant has fulfilled all the minimum Requirements, including:

- The candidate has an acquired ONS "doctor" with Diploma No. 000165/24.7.2012, [A1] - 50 points;

- The candidate has published a monograph on the topic: *Digital Tools and Design: Theory of Composition*, published in 2022 by POLIS publishing house, Sofia, ISBN 978-954-796-102-9, p. 126, with reviewers: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Desislava Angelova and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Maria Davcheva [B3]. It is accepted as correctly reflected and taken into account in the opinion - **100 points**;
- The candidate participates with a monograph that is not presented as the main habilitation thesis on the topic: *Architecture in Art – Art in Architecture*, published in 2020 by POLIS publishing house, Sofia, ISBN 978-954-796-082-4, p. 172, with reviewers: Prof. Dr. D.Sc. Natalia Shabalina and Assoc. Prof. Yordanka Bibina [D5.1]. According to the attached separation protocol, the authorship distribution is equal, with a ratio of 50% and 50%, which leads to the conclusion that the work presented in this way does not comply with item 10 of the Additional provisions to the Law on Academic Staff Development in the Republic of Bulgaria, the comments to the minimum National Requirements and item 5 of the Regulations of the Academic Staff Development at the University of Forestry, **and is not considered in the opinion**;
- The candidate participates with a published book based on a protected dissertation work for awarding an educational and scientific degree "Doctor" on the topic: *Semiotics of architectural graphics*, BAS, 2013, ISBN 978-954-322-665-8 [D6.1]. It is accepted as correctly reflected and taken into account in the opinion - **30 points**;
- The candidate participates with 6 scientific publications in editions that are referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information [G7.1; G7.2; G7.3; G7.4; G7.5; G7.6] – **160 points**, and 31 scientific publications in non-refereed editions with scientific review and edited collective works [G8.1 ÷ G8.31] Accepted as correctly reflected and reported in the opinion – **383.33 points**;
- The candidate reports three chapters of collective monographs [G9.1, G9.2 and G9.3]. They are accepted as correctly reflected and are reported in the opinion - **25 points**;
- The candidate has specified 10 citations in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes [D12.1÷D12.10]; 2 citations in monographs and collective works with scientific review [D13.1÷D13.2]; 10 citations in a non-refereed journal with scientific review [D14.1÷D14.10] and 3 reviews for realized author's products in specialized publications in the field of architecture [D15.1÷D15.3]. Accepted as correctly reflected and reported in the opinion - **156 points**;
- The candidate is the scientific supervisor of 3 successfully defended doctoral students [E 7.1÷E17.3]; participates in a national scientific project on the topic: *Bulgarian 20th Century in Arts and Culture* - DFNI-KO2/9, 2014-2018 [E 18.1] and has a registered utility model co-authored with Pavlina Vodenova and Desislava Angelova [E 26.1]. Accepted as correctly reflected and reported in the opinion - **170 points**.

All materials presented in the competition are described and presented with evidentiary proof. The total number of points from the scientific production that I accept in this opinion are 1074.33 points, with the minimum required 600 points. Candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Stela Tasheva fulfills the following indicators from the minimum National Requirements for occupying the academic position "Professor" in the field of higher education 5. Technical sciences: indicator "D" - fulfilled with 413.33 points (out of the required 200 points); indicator "D" with 56 points (out of the required 100 points) and indicator "E" with 20 points (out of the required 150 points).

3. Assessment of the candidate's educational and pedagogical activities (work with students and PhD students)

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Stela Borisova Tasheva has been teaching at the University of Forestry

since the end of 2012, initially as a part-time teacher, and since 2018 full-time on an employment contract. For the academic year 2022/2023, she leads lectures and seminars on the disciplines "Theory of Composition" and "Form-Forming" for the students of the Engineering Design Bachelor Program and the disciplines "Presentation of Design Projects", "Introduction to Urban Design" and "Lighting Product Design" for the students of the Engineering Design Master Program. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Stela Tasheva was certified at the University of Forestry in December 2021 with a grade of "very good". She was the scientific supervisor of three full-time doctoral students - two in the scientific specialty "Theory and History of Architecture", professional direction 5.7 Architecture, Construction and Geodesy at the Institute of Art Studies, BAS, and one in the scientific specialty "Ergonomics and Industrial Design", professional direction 5.13. General Engineering at University of Forestry. The successful defense of these doctoral students is a worthy certificate for the professional level of her scientific work.

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

4.1 Participation in scientific, scientific-applied and educational projects

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Stela Tasheva was part of the team working on the project: *Bulgarian 20th Century in Arts and Culture*, financed by the Scientific Research Fund with number DFNI-KO2/9 in the period 2014-2018.

4.2 Characterization of published scientific results

Published by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Stela Tasheva scientific results after acquiring the academic position "Docent" can be analyzed as follows:

Total number of publications – 41. Of them:

Habilitation thesis - monograph - 1 issue (independent);

Publications (articles and studies) in scientific publications: 40 issues:

Studies and articles can be classified as follows:

- publications in journals with an Impact Factor – no;
- referenced in Web of Science and/or in SCOPUS – 6;
- in non-refereed scientific journals – 23;
- in edited collective volumes – 8;
- in collective monographs – 3;

Place of publication – of 40 issues:

- in Bulgaria – 27;
- abroad – 13;

Language in which they were published - 41 issues:

- in Bulgarian – 21;
- in Russian – 2;
- in English – 18;

Number of co-authors – a total of 12:

- independent – 11;
- with one co-author – 25;
- with two co-authors – 2;
- with six co-authors – 1.

The presented research activity of the candidate is mainly in the field of Architectural Theory. The subject of research are the following topics:

- Digital means in the form of software capabilities applied in compositional solutions in design and architecture in Bulgaria (1 monograph);
- Contemporary architecture and design (6 articles);
- Architectural graphics and their reflections in artifacts and implementations. (5 articles);

- Architectural motifs and images in objects and products of art and design. (11 articles);
- Analyzes of significant phenomena and authors. (18 articles).

4.3 Reflection of the Candidate's Scientific Publications in Literature (known citations)

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Stela Tasheva participated **with 22 citations**, of which: **10 citations** in foreign and Bulgarian scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes; **2 citations** in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review of authors from Bulgaria, and **10 citations** in foreign and Bulgarian non-refereed journals with scientific review. The realized author's products are widely reflected in various specialized publications and media in the field of architecture in Bulgaria.

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

The Opinion does not comment on the contributions of the publication submitted in the competition under number D8.12 and registered utility model [E 26.1], in which we are co-authors. I declare that our participation in their development and publication is equal. The main contributions related to the competition discipline are brought out in the monograph *Digital Tools and Design: Theory of Composition*, which is a personal contribution of the candidate and can be summarized as follows:

Scientific contributions:

- Discovery and determination of new compositional trends as a result of the use of digital means;
- Creation of a brief history of the introduction of digital means in Bulgaria, including a study of author's concepts, professional characteristics and work traditions in design and architecture at the end of the 20th and the beginning of the 21st century, in which the various forms of application of digital means in the professional, primarily compositional, space.

Scientific and applied contributions:

- Update and presentation of basic professional terms in the context of design and architecture;
- Documenting work practices, authors, forms of learning and techniques in design, architecture and construction in the late 20th and early 21st centuries;
- Systematization of concepts and points of view in the field of digital technologies, through which the scope of the application of the digital both in practice and in compositional searches has been traced.

Applied Contributions:

- An accessible, systematic presentation of key compositional terms and solutions that are a valuable resource for a wide range of contemporary professionals and learners.

Summarizing the content of the rest of the presented scientific production in the form of publications in journals, collective volumes and collective monographs, the following groups of contributions can be summarized:

Scientific contributions:

- The disclosure of theoretical interrelationships and classifications in the development of graphic language and its parallels in both analog forms and technologies of the future;
- Development and testing of a methodology for the analysis of architectural motifs and images in objects and products of art and design, which reveals different evolutionary forms and synthesis.

Scientific and applied contributions:

- Archiving and systematization of data on a number of significant phenomena and authors with a contribution to the evolution of architecture, design and the urban environment.

Applied Contributions:

- Enrichment of existing knowledge by popularizing terms and theoretical approaches that enrich both narrowly specialized professionals and experts, as well as a wide range of readers;
- Supporting learning by applying the results in teaching practice.

5. Assessment of the applicant's personal candidate

From the submitted materials for the "Professor" competition, the monograph and 11 scientific publications are entirely personal work of the candidate. In the publications co-authored by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Stela Tasheva, she is the lead author in 20 issues. A separation protocol for the publications co-authored with Assoc. Prof. Sasha Lozanova is presented, where it is stated that the authorship distribution is equal, in a ratio of 50% and 50%.

The candidate's research contributions in the field of architectural and design theory support and reinforce academic development, and logically lead to growth in a subsequent academic position.

6. Critical remarks

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

I although have two recommendations for the candidate:

One recommendation concerns the popularization of scientific results. I would recommend Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Stela Tasheva to work towards the distribution of her scientific works in scientific journal with an Impact Factor.

My other recommendation concerns leadership and participation in scientific and scientific-applied projects, where I believe the candidate has the potential to expand and strengthen her scientific contributions.

7. Personal impressions

I have known Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Stela Tasheva ever since she started working at the Interior and Furniture Design department as a part-time teacher. My impressions regarding her teaching and research work are very good. She has rich culture and a constant urge to develop her creative skills and potential. She is dedicated to her work with students and PhD students. In her scientific activity, she is responsible and enthusiastically responding to every challenge. As a colleague, she is attentive, loyal and responsive.

8. Conclusion

The above-mentioned facts and the attached evidentiary material show that the candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Stela Tasheva has established herself as a teacher and scientist in the field of Architectural Theory. The scientific production presented in the contest fulfills the criteria of the Scientometric Requirements for occupying the academic position "Professor" at University of Forestry.

In connection with the above, I propose that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Stela Borisova Tasheva be elected as a „Professor“ in the discipline „Theory of Composition“ in the Professional field 5.13. General Engineering, scientific specialty „Ergonomics and Industrial Design“.

Prepared the opinion: