

OPINION

by Arch. Stela Borisova Tasheva, Ph.D an Associate Professor
in the Professional Field 5.7 Architecture, Construction and Geodesy,
University of Forestry, Sofia

About:

The materials presented to the Scientific Jury for participation in procedure in University of Structural Engineering & Architecture (USEA) "Lyuben Karavelov" in a competition for the academic position "Professor" in the professional field 8.1. Theory of Arts, and scientific specialty "Art History and Fine Arts (Fine Arts and Synthesis with Architecture)".

One participant is applying in the publicly announced competition for a Professor position (see State Gazette N: 37 / 07.05.2021). This is Blagovesta Ivanova Ivanova, Assoc.Prof., DSc., University of Structural Engineering & Architecture (USEA) "Lyuben Karavelov".

1. Brief biographical data.

Blagovesta Ivanova Ivanova was born in Sofia. In the period 1979-1983 she graduated from Moscow State University "M. V. Lomonosov" (Faculty of History). She defended her dissertation in 1996 in the specialty 05.08.04 "Art History and Fine Arts" at the Institute of Art History, BAS. In 2007 she won a competition for an associate professor with a certificate from the Higher Attestation Commission on "History of Art and Fine Arts", Bulgaria. In 2020 she defended the title "Doctor of Science" in the professional field 8.1. Theory of Arts and the scientific specialty Art History and Visual Research, New Bulgarian University. In the period 1983-2015 she was a depositary at the National Art Gallery, Sofia. She has curated over 70 exhibitions.

Blagovesta Ivanova Ivanova, Assoc.Prof., DSc., has been a lecturer at the Department of Urban Planning, Theory and History of Architecture, Faculty of Architecture, VFU "Lyuben Karavelov" since 2005. Among her disciplines are *History of Art, History of Architecture of Antiquity and Antiquity, History of Medieval Architecture, Historical context of architecture in the Bulgarian lands, Artistic components of the architectural heritage, History of design*, as well as the electives: *Buildings for culture and education, The museum - return from the future, Artistic elements of the immovable cultural heritage, Bulgarian art in the context of European art*.

In addition, she is the second scientific supervisor of doctoral students in the scientific specialty 5.7 "Architecture, Construction and Geodesy". These are Elislava Penkova, with the topic of the dissertation "Interactions of new architecture and existing original in the preservation of monastery complexes / monuments of immovable cultural heritage / in Bulgaria" and Sofia Lostova with the topic of the dissertation - "Construction and visual aspects in the new architectural image of Bulgarian cities in the period 1945 - 1961."

Assoc. Prof. Assoc. Blagovesta Ivanova Ivanova was a member of the teams of 4 national research projects, and in turn led 3 national and 1 international. Her expert activity includes registration under Art. 96 of the LCA and work as an expert in the Sofia City Court.

2. General description of the presented materials.

The full scientific work of Assoc. Prof. Assoc. Blagovesta Ivanova Ivanova includes ten books (individually and in co-authorship, including catalogs with processed unknown or little-known empirical material), two textbooks, a helpbook and about 120 publications. They are fully developed and reveal convincing scientific contributions.

The elements of her production, which do not repeat the publications submitted for acquisition of "PhD" and "[DSc" titles, and the academic position "Associate Professor", include:

- Monographs - 2 single-authored and 1 co-authored;
- Scientific publications - 37 issues (6 longer studies, 31 articles). The studies and 27 of the articles are published in specialized issues in the field of arts, and 4 papers are in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world databases with scientific information.

The monograph "Monastery and town temples in the Sofia diocese. Observation, conditions, analyzes, accessibility 2015 - 2017 " (2018, published by USEA "L. Karavelov") is the main habilitation work under the announced competition. The study offers a complex analysis and derives trends and classifications of Orthodox churches in the region of the Bulgarian capital. The research was developed as a result of a field study supported by the Ministry of Education and Science. Declarations from the participants in the project are presented, fully supporting the sole authorship of the monograph. The 64 temples that were included in the text are examined in the perspectives of architectural typologies and their later changes. Church buildings built in the socialist period and at the beginning of the XXI century, which have hardly been studied so far, are investigated. Conclusions are made about the typical types of Christian buildings in the region and their changes. The specifics of the architectural images, the types of depicted buildings and their stylistics in the frescoes are also traced. The analysis is also based on comparative research with the use of examples of verbal descriptions of spaces and buildings in "erminia". Assoc. Prof. Blagovesta Ivanova Ivanova DSc. came to an interesting conclusion about the application of an individual creative approach in the painting of buildings and to assumptions about the use of European models by some of the local painters. The book also covers modern approaches and problems in the preservation of cultural heritage - in terms of icon painting and murals, as well as in architectural interventions. Important examples of incorrect restoration of murals and buildings are also described.

The monograph "Trapko Vassilev and the Permanent Art Gallery. 110 years since the creation" is focused on a significant and somewhat unique phenomenon in the history of Bulgarian art - the creation and operation of the Trapkov Gallery, as a result of the ideas and personality of the director, and in parallel outlining the circle of artists exhibiting there. In addition, the site of this first metropolitan gallery is considered in urban aspect within the forms of the developing capital. Spatial reconstructions of the building have been made and the aspects of the changes to the adaptation in a larger exhibition hall have been sought.

The monograph "Thessaloniki-Sofia. A Comparative Study of Architectural Monuments from Antiquity and the Middle Ages "(2015) was co-authored by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Valentina Varbanova. There, Assoc. Prof. Blagovesta Ivanova is the author of one chapter, and her authorship is protected by a relevant document from Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Valentina Varbanova. Through historical and culturological approach to architecture and using

comparative analysis between the two cities, the book traces an important historical period and the architectural production created.

Thematically, the publications of Assoc. Prof. Blagovesta Ivanova Ivanova, DSc. are oriented in the fields of fine arts, as well as the synthesis between architecture, fine arts, heritage protection and urban planning.

3. Reflections of the candidate's scientific publications in the literature (known citations). The studies of Assoc. Blagovesta Ivanova Ivanova are well known and widely used in public space. 55 known citations of scientific texts are presented for the competition. 6 of these are citations or reviews in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world databases with scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes; 29 of these are cited in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review; and 22 of these are citations or reviews in journals with scientific review. There are also 2 reviews of realized author's products or creative performances in specialized journals in the field of arts.

4. General characteristics of the candidate's activity:

4.1. Educational and pedagogical activity.

There is data on lecture courses of three disciplines in the curriculum of the specialty "Architecture" full-time education, as well as for two lecture courses in the master's degree in architectural heritage protection, and for one in the master's degree in design. Assoc. Prof. Blagovesta Ivanova Ivanova, DSc., also teaches four elective courses for students from USEA "Lyuben Karavelov". To help students, the textbooks "History of Art for students of architecture", v. 1 (2015) and v. 2 (2017), as well as the helpbook "Historical context of architecture in the Bulgarian lands. History, society, cultural models." (2018) were prepared by the candidate. The works of Assoc. Prof. Blagovesta Ivanova aimed on the education of students are characterized by high relevance, in-depth analysis, but also with accessible, clear and correct content.

I find the proposed historical reading of aspects in architecture and arts as extremely useful in forming a broad cognitive framework not only of future architects, graduates of USEA "Lyuben Karavelov", but also for students from other specialties and educational institutions.

4.2. Scientific and scientific-applied activity.

The above-described monographs and publications, a list of citations, as well as the necessary other evidence are presented for the competition. The studies of Assoc. Prof. Blagovesta Ivanova Ivanova DSc., impress with the register of the affected topics, the clear and original classifications, the current, comprehensively presented information.

The quality of the research and the huge range of the demonstrated knowledge and skills are also confirmed with the editorial work of the candidate and with her membership in scientific and expert organizations.

4.3. Participation in collective products in the field of arts.

The participation of Assoc. Prof. Blagovesta Ivanova in three significant collective products in the field of arts is presented for the competition. These are: selection of works for

the national exhibition "Symbols of the Bulgarian statehood" (2008); selection of works for an international exhibition on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the Munich Academy of Arts (2008) and selection of works for participation in the exhibition "43 art critics - 43 works, exhibition at the Sofia City Art Gallery, May 28 - August 28, 2011", with curator Maria Vasileva (2011).

4.4. Contributions.

For me, the scientific specialty for which the competition was announced - namely, "Art History and Fine Arts (Fine Arts and Synthesis with Architecture)", fully harmonizes with the presented by Assoc. Blagovesta Ivanova Ivanova scientific, scientific-applied and educational activity.

The offered selection and the performed analysis of the included objects and sites in the main habilitation work "Monastery and settlement temples in the Sofia diocese. Observation, conditions, analysis, accessibility 2015 - 2017" clearly shows the specific focus of the author towards the synthesis between architecture and the arts. In addition, the study reveals new scientific perspectives on the samples in question and allows the use of the data in a variety of future research and areas. The summaries, the classifications and the derived trends are innovative and especially relevant today, given the rapid changes in the urban structure and forms of heritage protection.

In turn, the monograph "Trapko Vassilev and the Permanent Art Gallery. 110 years since the creation" reveals a whole unexplored layer of the development of fine arts and its synthesis with architecture and culture from the beginning of the 20th century. Both the figure of Trapko Vassilev and many of the not well-known characteristics of the epoch acquire full density in the text.

The selection and updating of a huge amount of historical and cultural material in the already mentioned helpbook "Historical context of architecture in the Bulgarian lands. History, society, cultural models. "(2018) are great contributions to the systems and programs for training of students and specialists in the field of cultural heritage protection.

I give high evaluation on the contributions of the monographs and the publications in the competition.

5. Assessment of the candidate's personal contribution.

I was impressed in overall by the careful and strict attitude to the text, the attention to details and the use of a clear and meaningful statements in the works of Assoc. Prof. Blagovesta Ivanova Ivanova DSc.

Two monographs, all studies and 24 of the papers are entirely single author's production. One of the monographs and three of the publications are co-authored. The proportions of authorship and co-authorship in this case reveals the high productivity of the candidate, as well as the thoughtful, appropriate involvement in team activities in relation to topics concerning the synthesis of architecture. I find the personal contribution of the candidate convincing and sufficient.

5. Critical notes

The scientific, expert, creative and educational activity presented for the competition definitely exceeds the minimum requirements for holding the academic position of "professor" in professional 8.1. Theory of Arts, in the scientific specialty "Art History and Fine Arts (Fine Arts and Synthesis with Architecture)".

My recommendation for the monographs is their full publication in English or another language, which will increase their opportunities for promotion and citations.

6. Personal notes.

Assoc. Prof. Blagovesta Ivanova Ivanova DSc., is distinguished by the in-depth knowledge of the history and theory of art and architecture, as well as of many border areas of knowledge (philosophy and culturology, heritage preservation, etc.). Her publishing, expert and teaching activities can be described as intensive and of a high quality, and her qualifications are confirmed by numerous citations and reviews. For the work "The Bulgarian Architectural Complex of the Golden Horn", she was awarded a Diploma in the Competition for High Scientific Achievements of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria 2019'.

7. Conclusion:

Given the above, with full confidence I suggest Blagovesta Ivanova, Assoc.Prof., DSc., to be awarded a "professor" in a professional field 8.1. Theory of Arts, and scientific specialty "Art History and Fine Arts (Fine Arts and Synthesis with Architecture)" .



August 18, 2021. Sofia

Member of the Scientific Jury:
Assoc. Prof. arch. Stela Tasheva, PhD