

OPINION



of
Prof. Dr. Arch. Valeri Ivanov
Department of Urban Planning, Faculty of Architecture, UACEG

on materials submitted for participating in a contest for acquiring the academic position of "**professor**" in a professional field **5.7. Architecture, Construction, and Geodesy**, in scientific specialty **Territorial and Landscape planning, and Urban planning.**

In an announced competition for acquiring the academic position "Professor" in the scientific specialty "Territorial and Landscape Planning and Urban Planning", published in the State Gazette no. 60 of 20.07.2021, and posted on the website of VSU "Lyuben Karavelov", Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Dimitar Vlasarev – visiting lecturer at the Department of Urban Planning, Theory and History of Architecture at VSU "Lyuben Karavelov" has appeared to be the only candidate.

This very OPINION has been prepared upon observing Order № 550 / 16.09.2021 issued by the Rector of VSU "Lyuben Karavelov" for a Scientific Panel to be convened, and also by following Order № 625/14.10.2021 of the Rector of VSU "Lyuben Karavelov" stipulating selection and appointment of **reviewers** under the procedure of the competition mentioned.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Dimitar Vlasarev graduated from the Department of Industrial and Agricultural Buildings at the Faculty of Architecture of HICE /now UACEG/ in 1980.

Having successfully defended his dissertation when a doctoral student of independent study at VFU "Chernorizets Hrabar" - Varna, arch. Dimitar Vlasarev obtained the educational scientific degree "Doctor" in the scientific specialty "Territorial and Landscape Planning and Urban Planning".

Arch. Dimitar Vlasarev works consecutively as a part-time lecturer at UACEG, designer at KIPP "Agropromproekt", head of a department at SF "Industrial Construction - Universalstroy", chief architect of Krumovgrad and Kostinbrod.

Since 2008 he has been a lecturer at the Department of ГТИА [UPITHA] - Faculty of Architecture at VSU "Lyuben Karavelov" - successively assistant, chief assistant, and since 2015 - Associate Professor.

For participation in this very contest Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. D. Vlasarev has presented the following materials:

- monographs - 2 pcs., one of which is presented as the main habilitation work;
- research and science papers in edited collective volumes – 34 copies;
- published university textbooks – 3 copies;
- published university textbooks – 4 copies;

References reflecting on the scientific publications in related literature / known citations / presented as follows:

- citations in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world database - 3 times;
- citations in collective volumes of scientific review – 31 times;

The author has also shared information on the following materials:

- research projects, of which he was the leader – 3 (three);
- realized author's investment projects – 3 (three).

The entire research work done, the educational-pedagogical and creative-design activities performed by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Dimitar Vlasarev is distinctive in thematic scope and by being multifaceted; they also bear theoretical depth, express high professional competence, and always have a streak of innovation and originality. His entire work unfolds diverse interests, covers broad-spectrum opportunities, and demonstrates creative achievements in various professional fields, as reflected below:

- up-to-date, thoroughly substantiated and modernly presented scientific research in the field of territorial conversion of former agricultural farms. Renewal of small and medium-sized towns and their centers, as well as the production structures of different functional applications, the green system and its role in the urban planning, and modern production clusters;

- diverse pedagogical practice that involves innovatively organized and conducted lectures and exercises in the various disciplines in the Department of ГТИА [Urban Planning, Theory, and History of Architecture] for the Faculty of Architecture at VSU "Lyuben Karavelov", e.g. Urban Theory and Practice, Architectural Design, Spatial and Urban Planning, Landscape Architecture, Agricultural Buildings, etc.;
- a small number of, but rather significant creative-design investment project realizations, as for the Mill Plant in Sofia the author was awarded the Golden Order of Labor state award.

The above-mentioned publications present the **main scientific-theoretical and scientifically-applied contributions** of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Dimitar Vlasarev, which can be summarized in the following areas:

- formulation of current problems; developing theoretical priorities; providing substantiation of reasonable or appropriate approaches; opportunities for advancement; principles for renovation; development and economic development perspective of small and medium-sized towns of Bulgarian and the public spaces in their central zones;
- clarification of the territorial, compositional/composing, functional, aesthetic significance of the green and recreational areas in the settlements, across the production zones, and the agro-economic clusters;
- development of structural, volume-planned, constructive solutions for design and construction of production structures different in function: wine cellars, fruit storages, warehouses for fruits and vegetables, confectionery enterprises;

- substantiation of development decisions(measures) for the planning of modern cluster territories - agricultural, agro-economic, industrial, etc.

Of the research and paperwork submitted, a prime one in its scientific, applied, educational and informational contributions is the **monographic work** of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Dimitar Vlasarev "Developmental Conversion of former agricultural yards for modern-industry manufacturing, modern farming practices, land development, and green system". Its main results can be summarized in several aspects:

- a methodical approach for research, planning, and design of farmyards and agro-production clusters has been developed. To set up prerequisites for their sustainable development, the need to expand their scope of use upon a regulated plot of land for green planting from the sanitary protected areas or for other activities compatible with the functions of food and agricultural production is well defined and justified;
- a typological structure of the complexes for food production and those of agricultural activities has been surmised, in two main aspects:
 - functional connections and interrelation in the context of their innate structural and planning characteristics;
 - structure-development requirements for optimization of their territorial localization;
- environmental factors and requirements are formulated and structured, which influence the planning and the designing of agricultural clusters and their inherent spatial-planning characteristics;
- a number of criteria have been substantiated as regards the sustainable development of the green system of the small production areas and micro-regions of agriculture and industry being related to:
 - reducing energy consumption, lessening the use of transport, and taking measures for protection against harmful emissions;
 - the use of environmentally friendly building materials, as well as harvesting surface rainwater for irrigation;
- new formulations for research and planning of the development structures and resources for the development of territories with agro-economic clusters are well-argued and reasonably defended.

In the materials provided, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Dimitar Vlasarev demonstrates convincing mastery of the professional subject in the field of renovation, improvement, and development of the central areas of the small and medium towns across Bulgarian, a cogent approach to the role of recreational areas, the rationale for the planning of modern cluster areas, productiveness in the structural conversion of former farms. The candidate skillfully, argumentatively, and consistently applies his theoretical achievements attained following the course of the creative and design activities. This affirms the view that **the formulated scientific, applied-science, educational, and creative contributions are undoubtedly his original and unique work.**

In addition to all analyzed scientific-theoretical, scientifically-applied, and educational achievements of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Dimitar Vlasarev, the following **recommendations** can be outlined:

- based on the conducted researches, analyzes, conclusions, and formulations, substantiated proposals for revising and improving the normative documents addressing issues and matters of such scope, (as having been considered and tackled by the author) should be developed;
- it would be practically useful to draft specific guidelines, requirements, criteria that may be duly structured, thence released in guidelines for the development of the pertinent components stipulated in the regulation documents on planning and development;
- the formulation and synthesis of the modern world tendencies in the subject matter explored could be effectively applied in the creative, research-and-development, as well as in the academic methods and pedagogical practice in the present conditions of Bulgaria.

As a result of my long-term contact with Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Dimitar Vlasarev, I can summarize the following personal impressions: the candidate is responsible, ambitious, a true intellectual, successfully-professionally realized a specialist, and he is ethical, dialogical, and accurate following the path of his creative activity and when interacting with others, an authentic colleague of significant research, managerial and pedagogical experience.

The teaching work, as well as the research and design activities of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Dimitar Vlasarev fulfills quantitatively the provisions on DASRBA and the Regulations on its implementation, while it fully observes the requirements of VSU "Lyuben Karavelov". The minimum national requirements for the scientific, pedagogical, and artistic-creative activity of the candidate are completely satisfied.

Based on the presented considerations, analyzes, conclusions, and assessments, I hereby propose with utter confidence Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Dimitar Vlasarev to be elected a "professor" in the professional field 5.7. "Architecture, Construction and Geodesy", scientific specialty "Territorial and Landscape Planning and Urban Planning" at the Faculty of Architecture of VFU "Lyuben Karavelov".

09/11/2021

Sofia

Member of the Scientific Jury
and author of the OPINION:

/ prof. Dr. Arch. Valeri Ivanov /