

REVIEW

of

Prof. Dr. Arch. ASEN PISARSKI

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

This REVIEW was developed in my capacity as a member of the Scientific Panel, determined by Order № 551 of 16.09.2021 issued by the Rector of VSU “L. Karavelov”, and upon a decision made by the Scientific Jury at their first meeting - minutes №1/04.10.2021.

The only candidate who has applied for the very contest appears to be Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Dimitar Vlasarev, Lecturer at the Department of Urban Planning, Theory and History of Architecture, Faculty of Architecture, VSU Karavelov ”.

1. BIODATA

The vocational education of Dimitar Vlasarev's began in 1969 at "Hristo Botev" High School of Construction, Architecture, and Geodesy in Sofia and continued at VIAS (now UACEG), wherefrom he graduated as a "master architect" in 1980. Over the next two years, he specialized in VIAS at the Department of Industrial and Agricultural Buildings in the sphere of Industrial Territories and Environmental Protection of Food Industry Buildings and Complexes. Thence, a period followed when he continued exercising the profession in its various aspects: firstly, as a Designer at KIPP “Agropromproekt”, where he worked from 1980 to 1991; as a Head of the Department of "Industrial Construction - Universalstroy" State Fund, Sofia (1991-1993); as a freelancer (1993-1996), then he was successively appointed a Head Architect at the Municipality of Krumovgrad (1997-1999) and later for Kostinbrod Municipality (1999-2008).

The long acquired multifaceted experience, as well as the personal interests of Arch. Vlasarev in studying various applied-science matters related to the profession of the architect, give some good basis for his further achievements as a lecturer and a research scientist.

From 2008 till now, arch. Vlasarev has performed his duty as a lecturer at VSU "Lyuben Karavelov" in the Department of Urban Planning, Theory and History of Architecture, firstly, as an "assistant" (2008), then as a "chief assistant" (2010); later, upon defending a doctoral dissertation (2014) he was habilitated as "Associate Professor", in 2015.

Arch. Vlasarev participates in the artistic and creative life of fellow architects - he is a member of the Union of Architects and the Chamber of Architects in Bulgaria (2005).

2. SCIENTIFIC AND APPLIED-SCIENCE ACTIVITY

The bundle of scientific and research work presented for reviewing, by Assoc. prof. Vlasarev, include 2 monographs, published reports in non-referred journals in edited collective volumes - 34 copies. (sole author in 17, and 17 co-authored); realized (i.e. built) author's architectural projects - 3 pcs.; teaching aids - lecture courses on Industrial Buildings and Spatial Planning of Industrial Territories - 2 pcs. (co-authored); textbooks - 3 pcs.; manuals/ guidebooks - 4 pcs.

The main habilitation work of the candidate – the monograph *“Developmental Conversion of former agricultural yards for modern-industry manufacturing, modern farming practices, land development, and green system. Following the example of agricultural clusters of small and medium enterprises”*, is thematically related to the clearly defined areas in the scientific research, closely linked to teaching and the designer's work of Assoc. prof. Vlasarev, namely territorial and spatial planning, agro-industrial territories, and enterprises.

The topic is relevant for Bulgaria in the context of the changes undertaken in the state system, mainly, as regards the transition of the national economy from centralized management to a market-oriented, the restoration of private property, and the process of privatization taking place. Upon the liquidation of the agro-industrial and industrial-agrarian complexes right after developing a new common cadastral plan of the land of the respective settlements, the former farmsteads have acquired the status of zones of new economic initiative. The new development plans for these territories are a good opportunity for new production facilities to be created. What has been proposed is not only to improve the development structure of the agro-economic production territories through the general development plans (GDP) and the detailed development plans (DDP) of the settlements but also the allocation of cluster-type agricultural complexes for

production and storage of plant and animal products, while based on sanitary and hygienic requirements.

A great deal of emphasis falls on the place itself (within the particular region), but still, the main stress falls on the importance of the agro-production territories and the new economic yards in the territorial and spatial planning as an instrument in the policy of the sustainable spatial development - the above-stated elements are well-substantiated in the monograph, as these are amongst the main contributions discussed in the monograph.

Alternative solutions for utilizing former farmsteads but of their inherent infrastructure for the purpose of their entirely new transformation into production enterprises have been proposed while taking into account the specific conditions in both municipalities and settlements, and yet contributing to their sustainable development by providing opportunities for reviving the local employment via new job openings for the local population.

The proposed examples in the candidate's work, as well as the research done, may be widely used by owners of farmsteads for a rational organization of the economic activity, yet holding the idea of creating a continuous circular process of a closed production cycle.

In the monograph *"Current problems and development measures in the development of the small town in Bulgaria on the example of the cities of Kyustendil, Samokov, Kostinbrod, Dolna Banya, etc."*, the object of study is the **central urban parts of the small town**, where the main subject matter treated addresses basic issues and development measures in the development of the small town. It has been found out that in terms of structure, the central parts of the small town possess vast public spaces having been formed out at different stages of social development, sometimes of unrelated scale or lacking the right infrastructure communication when considering, urban design, green system, and local-area development. The work must have aimed at creating a methodical approach for research and design of the public spaces in the central urban parts of medium and small towns. A theoretical model has been created in terms of development for the integration of the green system, the public services, and not the least, the local cultural and historical heritage.

3. ACADEMIC TEACHING ACTIVITY

The academic teaching activity of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Dimitar Vlasarev takes place with students majoring in "Architecture" and "Construction and Architecture of

Buildings and Facilities" (CABF) at VSU "L. Karavelov". It includes delivering a wide range of lectures and organizing practical training classes based on the curriculum of the Department of Urban Planning, Theory and History of Architecture:

– **In the field of Urban Planning and Landscape Architecture –**

Urban Planning I - Theory and Practice of Urban Planning. Fundamentals;

Architectural design - design of a small residential group on its own land/private lot (or project of a village);

Urban planning II – Current problems of modern Urban Planning;

Architectural design - urban planning solution for renovation of the existing settlement structure or the central area of a medium-sized town;

Urban Planning and Landscape Architecture "Park";

Territorial planning, settlements development, and urban planning I (CABF – III);

Territorial planning, settlements development, and urban planning II (CABF – IV);

Landscape Architecture and Planting Design (CABF– III);

– **In the field of Architecture of buildings:**

Industrial Buildings II - Theory and Practice of IB. Fundamentals.

Architectural design - Industrial Buildings design;

Agricultural buildings

Industrial and Agricultural buildings (CABF-IV).

Assoc. prof. Vlasarev is the **author** and **co-author** of a significant number of textbooks, teaching aids, and guidebooks that may appear helpful to students in comprehending lecture courses and rather useful in their study projects.

Textbooks

– “Structural and technological structures for the Food Industry. Following the example of small and medium-sized enterprises”;

– “Spatial-development design for buildings and complexes of the Food Industry and Agriculture”

– “The Green System of small production areas and microregions of agriculture and food industry”

Teaching aids and guidebooks:

– “Short lecture course on Industrial Buildings - module 1 (co-authored with late prof. L. Sivrev)”;

- “Short lecture course on Spatial Planning of Industrial Territories - module 2” (co-authored with late prof. L. Sivrev);
- Guidebook for practical training in Urban Planning "Case-studying urban complexes" (on the example of the central part of Samokov and Kyustendil);
- Guidelines and sample study-cases for preparing a course project, and internship guidance for students – Urban Planning subject;
- Guidebook for a Course Project on "Industrial buildings I;
- Guidebook for a Course Project on "Industrial buildings II (territories)".

Such an impressive in quantity and scope aiding educational literature testifies to the author's innate desire to ever stimulate the efficient internalizing of the knowledge delivered, yet by all students.

4. ARTISTIC-CREATIVE ACTIVITY

Assoc. Prof. Vlasarev is the author of projects in Spatial Planning, and in Architectural Design of Buildings, as well. For partaking in the competition he has indicated three projects, but the enclosed list of projects and tangible realizations (built buildings or facilities) over the 2014 - 2018 period contains 17 objects, some of which are included as illustrations in the main monographic work. It should be taken into account that the projects from that period are in turn a successful continuation of the creative professional activity of Arch. Vlasarev invariably supported from the very beginning of his creative path. And his professional qualities as a designer and an architect are evidenced by the received State Award (Golden Order of Labor) for building a Mill Plant in Sofia, a plant built at the beginning of his professional career.

5. IMPACT FACTOR of CANDIDATE'S SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS in LITERATURE (well-known ones)

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Dimitar Vlasarev has presented a reference to the citations of his scientific publications (cited by other authors), including 3 citations in scientific journals referenced and indexed in world-famous databases of scientific information. Alongside the citations in non-refereed publications with scientific peer-review, and in collective volumes and monographs, the author meets the minimum state requirements for holding the academic position of "Professor" under RIDASRBA.

6. CONTRIBUTIONS

The essential scientific and applied-science contributions of the main habilitation work are the following:

- The place and the importance of the agro-production territories and the farmyards in the spatial planning as an instrument in the policy of sustainable spatial development has been well outlined and substantiated;
- The proposed examples, the research done, and the conclusions of his work can be well used and applied in the development of regulations when it comes to the territorial development and spatial planning of agricultural areas. The developed models can facilitate the work process of the local administrative bodies in drafting development plans and in solving territorial problems across the local municipality territories.
- Application and good use of the scientific research results in the educational process, i.e. in the lecture classes and practical exercises of the disciplines taught in the field of Spatial Planning and Design of Industrial and Agricultural buildings.

Scientific contributions in the second monographic work:

- A methodical approach has been created in the studying, as well as in the designing of public spaces of the central urban parts of medium and small towns, as a developmental-and-structural theoretical model has been developed and proposed.
- A theoretical proposal concerning the infrastructure-development aspect for the integration of a green system, public services, and cultural and historical heritage has been created.

Scientific and applied-science contributions:

- Some new views and conceptual solutions based on case-studying of some central urban parts of the considered small and medium-sized cities are proposed in the study concerning the design practice.

7. EVALUATION of the PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION of the CANDIDATE

The main scientific and research work of Assoc. Prof. Vlasarev –the monograph *“Developmental Conversion of former agricultural yards for modern-industry*

manufacturing, modern farming practices, land development, and green system. Following the example of agricultural clusters of small and medium enterprises” is the outcome of many years of purposeful research and practical design work. It represents a significant personal contribution of the candidate in investigating the problems concerning the organization of agro-industrial territories in the context of the transition to a market economy and private ownership of land.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

I would certainly recommend that arch. Vlasarev might continue publishing his insightful research work for being so substantial, as it also spreads the know-how of the research accumulated, the knowledge of architectural design, and the teaching experience accrued over the years while following the path of an architect and a scholar.

9. CONCLUSION

The bundle of the submitted by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Dimitar Vlasarev materials unfolding his research work, teaching methods, and practical design activities meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for the implementation of DASRBA, and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of VSU "L. Karavelov". **I confidently propose that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Dimitar Vlasarev might take the academic position "Professor" in the professional field 5.7. Architecture, Construction, and Geodesy.**

07/11/2021

Reviewer:

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Prof. Dr. Arch. Asen Pisarski