

REVIEW

(on a professorship)

by

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Borislava Mancheva - Velkova, Department of Urban Planning,
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of

the materials submitted for partaking in a contest for acquiring the academic position of a
"Professor" in a professional field 5.7. Architecture, Construction, and Geodesy, in the
scientific specialty "Territorial and Landscape Planning, and Urban Planning",
promulgated in SG, issue 60 of July 20, 2021.

In the contest announced in State Gazette (issue 60 of 20.07.2021), and on the website
of VSU "Lyuben Karavelov" for acquiring professorship, only one candidate has applied for
the position, and thus takes part, namely Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Dimitar Vlasarev.

The current REVIEW is prepared by observing order №551/16.09.2021 issued by the
Rector of VSU "Lyuben Karavelov" and upon a decision made by the Scientific Panel convened
for the purpose of the contest (Minutes №1 / 04.10.2021).

1. SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Associate Professor Dimitar Vlasarev was born in 1954, in Sofia. In 1969-1973, he went
to study at "Hristo Botev" High School of Construction, Architecture, and Geodesy in Sofia,
having graduated as a construction technician. In 1980 he took his master's degree in
Architecture from VIAS (UACEG - University of Architecture, Civil Engineering, and
Geodesy), Sofia - serial №АЯ№ 009902 of 05.08.1980, registry №18092. Then he specialized
in Industrial Buildings and Complexes, as he would broadly explore the subject-matter of
Architectural and Urban Planning problems, and Design Measures for Environmental
Protection in Buildings and Complexes of the Food Industry at the Department of "Industrial
and Agricultural Buildings" of VIAS (UACEG), Sofia - certificate №0015/1983, Reg. №118.
In 2012 - 2014 he wrote, thence defended a dissertation on Development of Territories for
Building Facilities for Plant and Animal Storage products, at VSU "Chernorizets Hrabar" in
Varna. In 2014, he attained his doctorate from VFU "Chernorizets Hrabar" in Varna, in the
scientific specialty "Territorial and Landscape Planning, and Urban Planning" - diploma №HC-
440 of 2.07.2014. In 2015, he was habilitated and bestowed upon the academic title "Associate
Professor", and was presented a certificate №015/17.07.2015, under Order №778/17.07.2015
issued by the Chancellor of VSU "Lyuben Karavelov".

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Dimitar Vlasarev embarked on his professional carrier in 1980
when he began to work as a Designer and a Control specialist at Agropromproekt-Sofia, until
1991. His duties would involve the sole supervision of buildings, facilities, and other
construction objects. During 1991-1993 he worked as a Head of the Department of "Industrial
Construction - Universalstroy" State Fund of Sofia. He also worked for the municipal
administration as a Chief Architect of Krumovgrad Municipality (1997 - 1999) and a Chief
Architect of Kostinbrod Municipality (1999 - 2008), as he had been successively elected to hold
the position. Since 2008 he has been working as a full-time lecturer at the Department of Urban

Planning, Theory and History of Architecture, for the Faculty of Architecture at VSU "Lyuben Karavelov" in Sofia. In 2010 - 2015 he was assigned the position of Chief Assistant in the same department. In 2015 he was acknowledged as an Associate Professor at VSU "Lyuben Karavelov", Sofia. With some intermissions, Assoc. Prof. Vlasarev has been working as a part-time lecturer at the Department of Industrial and Agricultural Buildings at UACEG since 1984 until today.

He is a member of the Chamber of Architects in Bulgaria and the Union of Architects in Bulgaria (UAB). Not to be underestimated is the fact that he is fluent in French and Russian.

For his work (by merits) he was decorated the "GOLDEN" Order of Labor, following the 2977 State Council decree of 04.08.86 for "Mill Plant 750 t / 24h" in Sofia. In Dec 2014, he was issued a certificate by UAB and bestowed upon a "SILVER BADGE".

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE MATERIALS PRESENTED

For the purpose of the contest, the candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Dimitar Vlasarev participates with the following materials subject to analysis and review:

- Monographs – 2 pieces;
- Scientific publications in edited collections of scholars - 34 papers;
- Published university textbooks - 3 books;
- Published university textbook guides - 2 lecture courses and 4 academic course guides.

The content and nature of the publications perfectly correspond to the specialty and academic disciplines that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Dimitar Vlasarev teaches. Most of the academic papers are included in the proceedings issued as a follow-up of International Scientific Conferences, organized either by VSU "Lyuben Karavelov" in Sofia, or VFU "Chernorizets Hrabar" in Varna. Other papers are published in the selected volumes of X Jubilee International Scientific Conferences on "Design and Construction of Buildings and Facilities", held in Varna, as Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Dimitar Vlasarev has also his research papers published in the multiauthor volume of the International Scientific Conference on Preservation of Immovable Cultural Heritage BANI (two papers published in English) and in the proceedings of the Annual University Scientific Conference, Veliko Tarnovo. Thus, all the publications are made available to the scientific community, students, doctoral students, and other readership.

Of a total of 34 publications in edited collective volumes, 17 are independent, 10 are in co-authorship, 7 are with two other co-authors. In all the presented publications, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Dimitar Vlasarev is the **leading author**. From the abovementioned publications in edited collective volumes, as based on indicator („Д“)/"E", the candidate accumulates 499.55 points, which makes a significantly higher number than the required minimum of 200 points defined in the Regulations on the implementation of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA).

The materials presented are undeniable proof that the candidate possesses broad knowledge, for he is well-aware of the theory in the particular field of study and research. The candidate certainly bears skills that show his ability to analyze various problems, to find solutions to tackle and overcome those, and yet to draw mindful conclusions of scientific and applied-science value.

2. IMPACT FACTOR CITATIONS

Observing indicator („Д“)E" under DASRBA, of the Scientometric Indicators, here below are the citations provided:

- In scientific publications – 3 citations;
- In monographs – 4 citations;
- In collective volumes with scientific review - 5 citations.

The reference document presented bears three citations in English in a scientific publication, namely the *Bulgarian Journal of Agricultural Science* which is indexed in a most popular world database. Four citations are discussed in monographs published by Prof. D.Sc. Dr. Arch. Borislav Borisov. The rest of the citations have been made in collective volumes of scientific review (reports presented in scientific conferences). For the purpose of the contest, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Dimitar Vlasarev has submitted a bundle of cited research and scholarly works that account for 120 points, which is a lot higher than the required minimum of 100 points stipulated for acquiring professorship under an indicator („Д“)E".

3. OVERVIEW of CANDIDATE'S ACTIVITY – work experience

3.1. EDUCATIONAL - PEDAGOGICAL work; (work with students and doctoral students)

Over the years, Associate Professor Dimitar Vlasarev has unfolded rather active teaching and learning process. His overall employment duties as a lecturer vary from 600 to 700 academic hours workload annually, which is well above the stipulated 400 teaching hours for an associate professor at VSU. The workload and the academic duties require teaching undergraduate students in the specialties of Architecture (educational qualification degree "Master"), CABF (educational qualification degree "Bachelor"), and a master's program in Urbanism.

The disciplines taught to the students majoring in Architecture and CABF [CACC in Bulgarian] are the following: AD 7 - Agricultural buildings; AD 8. Urban Planning I - Fundamentals of the Theory and Practice of Urban Planning; Architectural Design - designing a small residential group (cluster residential area) on private land (or a project of a village); AD 9. Architectural Design – designing an industrial building; AD 10. Architectural Design - urban planning solution for renovation of existing settlement structure or a central area of a medium-sized city, AD11; Industrial Buildings(IB) II - Fundamentals of Theory and Practice of IB, AD 13. Urban Planning and Landscape Architecture "Park", CABF-III; Territorial, settlement(communitiy), and urban planning I, CABF-III; Landscape Architecture and Planting design, CABF-IV; Territorial, settlement, and urban planning II, CABF- IV; Industrial and Agricultural Buildings. While Assoc. prof. Vlasarev is being in charge of, he also manages the field practice in Urban Planning. He, and not the least, gives lectures in the following courses - Industrial Buildings II, and Urban Planning II. For the master's program in Urbanism, he teaches AD2-Communication Transport Scheme and Engineering-and-technical Infrastructure, Cultural and Historical Heritage, AD3 - Detailed Development Plan, and AD6 - Master Development Plan (MDP).

Over the years, Arch. Vlasarev would supervise students' diploma projects, as he would also write the reviews when necessary. He would usually be selected a member of the State Examination Commission on the graduation of students completing a Master's degree in Architecture when defending their projects.

Back then, assoc. prof. Vlasarev was a supervisor of our doctoral student arch. Nasko Petkov who unfortunately failed to complete his endeavor.

Nowadays, assoc. prof. Vlasarev also works as a part-time lecturer at the Department of Industrial and Agricultural Buildings at UACEG giving lectures on Industrial and Agricultural Buildings for the undergraduates of Architectural Design and giving masterclasses on Agricultural Buildings to the students majoring in Architecture.

3.2. SCIENTIFIC work, and APPLIED-SCIENCE achievements

The work of assoc. prof. D. Vlasarev is broadly represented in the textbooks he has written, in the reports he has presented at scientific conferences, and last but not least, in developing scientific and research projects.

The candidate appears a rather pro-active scholar. Being a leader of three research projects, arch. Vlasarev invites to and involves on the team outstanding students. Topical is the academic themes that assoc. prof. D. Vlasarev is currently working on, e.g. *Structural Conversion (or valorization) of former farms into new agricultural complexes* (2017 - 2018). Another topic of interest is the *Functional and Aesthetic role of the Green System in the Industrial Territories* (2018), as well as, *Current problems and Spatial-planning and Developmental Measures in the Development of the Small Town in Bulgaria, following the example of the towns of Kyustendil, Samokov, Kostinbrod, Dolna Banya, etc.* (2019).

The results of his finalized projects are published as teaching aids. The overall evaluation of assoc. prof. D. Vlasarev's research projects have shown a true acknowledgment by the reviewers, as it was recommended that for the entire scientific and research work he should deservedly receive high marks. As for me, being the Head of the Research Projects, I truly recognize and highly appreciate the work of Associate Professor Dimitar Vlasarev both as a colleague and a scholar of broad academic experience.

3.3. ARTISTIC and CREATIVE WORK. PROJECTS

(author's projects brought to fruition in the field of architecture)

All provided or shared materials reveal the personal creative achievements of Associate Professor Dimitar Vlasarev as an architect-designer. Moreover, some bigger projects fully realized by the candidate are listed below:

- Trade warehouse base with fruit storage, in Veliko Tarnovo – 1200 m² total area, (undertaking of major transformation and reconstruction) – Gen-plan, Production-line building, Fruit storage 5000 t., Administrative building with a canteen (1980-1981);
- Flour Mill Plant, Sofia, 750 t / 24 hours - newly designed site with a total area of about 12,300 m² – Gen-Plan (Masterplan), Main Production Building, Mill block with preparative cells and a silo to store flour, Administrative and residential building with a laboratory; Garage&Service, Architectural project for

the design, structure, and the execution of facade walls, as well as elements of the main body of the building (1982-1985);

- Mill Plant in Dobrich - 250t/24h, total area 7800 m², following the Gen-plan; Main production building, Mill block facility with preparatory cells and flour storage silo, Administrative and residential building with a laboratory; Machine repair and maintenance facility (1985-1987);
- Experimental station for tobacco research in Gotse Delchev, total area 2100 m² - Solar and fire tobacco dryer, Vegetation buildings, etc. (1986-1987);
- Refrigerated warehouses with an area of up to 5000 m² in "G. Kirkov"- Pleven and "Dunaviya"- Ruse cadastral plans – major reconstructions (1986-1987);
- Factory with a production line for semi-manufactured and canned vegetables; quarter 163 in the town of Parvomay, total area - 1700 m² (2009 - 2011);
- Detailed Development Plan - Development Plan /DDP - DP/ for property № 622038, identical to 022038, in the land of the village of Shiyakovtsi, Sredorek, of low-rise residential construction in a recreational environment (2009 - 2011);
- Amendment of DDP – RCP (Regulation and Construction Plan) - Kostinbrod, quarter 61 – RPL (Regulated plot of land) XX-4122, RPL XXI-4122, RPL XXII-4122, RPL XXIII-4122, and RPL XXIV-4122, done for Pavel Krumov Vetsev as the assignor (2009 - 2011);
- Retail shops for industrial and food products, and offices in RPLand III-1757 "Trading function" in qtr. 88 of the cadastral plan of Kostinbrod (2009 - 2011);
- Two-story residential building with a floor in the attic space – a total living area of about 360 m², in Regulated Land IV-497, living qtr. 65 in Boyana district - Sofia (2009 - 2011);
- Two playgrounds and an outdoor basketball court, Sofia, Large City Center Zone B-17, qtr. 9, RPL II (2016);
- High-rise residential building with an underground garage, Sofia, Zone - B 19, Vazrazhdane district - Sofia, district 278 B, Regulated Land IV-18 (2018);
- Project for a Building and Silhouette Development Plan (working development plan), Sofia, M. " Large City Center Zone B-17", qtr. 24A, RPL VII-9 (2018).

3.4. SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

In the long course of scholarly activities, assoc. prof. Dimitar Vlasarev has not only achieved various results of a scientific character and being scientifically applied but also others of real-life practical implementation.

In his main habilitation work *"Structural Conversion of former agricultural yards for new industrial and agricultural produce, development, amelioration and green system"*, the author draws the following conclusions, quoted below:

- Clustering, as a model, appears to be a new concept at a national and regional level for the development of small and medium enterprises.

- Planning and developing agro-economic and industrial clusters in terms of spatial and territorial planning creates a new form of territorial organization, based on common economic

interests, while optimally observing the environmental, sanitary-hygienic, and the veterinary-technical requirements in structuring individual buildings and complexes but in the farmyards outside these buildings.

- The planning of the territories for agro-economic clusters when following the intended function in the Master Plan and the Detailed Urban Plan, should be duly indicated observing the introduction of new development regimes, indicators and parameters of building and construction, and proposals (Ordinance 7 of the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works), as it may give an independent status to these territories, in terms of their spatial planning concerning housing and other production structures. "(p. 38)

At the end of this very monograph, Associate Professor Dimitar Vlasarev draws a conclusion related to the following: "Human production activity that takes place via the production and storage of products from plant and animal origin, eventually leads to anthropogenic disturbances on the environment. Such impact necessitates the development of spatial and territorial plans for shaping and landscaping of the economic territories, as an element of the General and Detailed Development Plans in compliance with the circular economy action plan, and on adopting cluster structures." The author lists "The criteria for sustainable development of the green system of the small production areas and micro-regions of agriculture and industry, being the following:

- Contribution and added value via new ways to lower energy consumption.
- Lessening the need to use motor transport vehicles.
- Diminishing and also instigating protection measures against harmful emissions in the industry environment.
- Using ecological construction materials.
- Irrigation system of green areas." (P. 104)

The scientific contributions outlined by the author in this monograph are the following:

„1. Main proposition is that the development structure within the framework of the General and Detailed Plans of the settlements be improved, concerning the production territories for agricultural purpose. The place and the role of the farmyards for buildings and complexes for storage and production of plant and animal products, as defined in the general framework of the development plan, has been clarified.

2. A localization of farmyards from agricultural clusters for storage and production of plant and animal products, while observing sanitary and hygienic requirements, has been introduced, which to a significant extent scientifically justifies the outlining of the General and Detailed Development plans as regards the development regimes and the design of sanitary protection areas in the plan, as well as the ecology matter within their scope." (p. 97)

The scientific and applied science contributions in the monograph are first of all the introduction of a methodology on the issues of sustainable development of farmyards and agro-industrial territories in terms of their place "in the development plan (Master Plan and Detailed Urban Plan) to include land plots falling within sanitary protection zones, when referred to as "for landscaping" or "for other functions" but compatible with the functions of the complexes of the food industry and agriculture."(p.104)

In his second monograph *"Current Problems and Developmental Measures in the Development of the Small town in Bulgaria. Following the example of the towns of Kyustendil,*

Samokov, Kostinbrod, Dolna Banya, etc.", which is not intended as the main habilitation work, the author notes the following scientific contributions:

„1. A methodical approach in the exploration and the design of public spaces being part of the central urban areas of medium and small towns has been created, while a developmental structural theoretical model is introduced and discussed in the study.

2. In the spatial planning aspect, a theoretical proposal for the integration of a green system, public services, and cultural and historical heritage has been outlined. "

The scientific and applied science contributions in this study are stated as "New views and conceptual solutions to certain central urban areas of the considered small and medium-sized cities are offered in the investigation of the designer's practice." (P. 91)

4. EVALUATION OF THE PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE CANDIDATE

The predominant number of publications are written independently as a single author (of sole authorship) and the citations are correctly described. Most are independent publications of a single author, as in other publishings the candidate appears the leading author. All these observations give me a good reason to accentuate the very fact that all the analyses made and the conclusions drawn are entirely personal, i.e. deduced solely by Associate Professor Dimitar Vlasarev.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

Only one following recommendation can be made on the future work of associate professor Dimitar Vlasarev, i.e. the units of measurement in the text have not been following the International System (SI), for example, m and m², instead of М and М².

6. PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS

I have known Associate Professor Dimitar Vlasarev for almost 15 years since he has been working in his current position as a lecturer at the Department of Urban Planning, Theory and History of Architecture at VSU "Lyuben Karavelov" in Sofia. I may certainly say that he is a rather highly respected educator by the students. He is an educator who usually demonstrates precision and perseverance in his work with students.

It is important to note that his published materials are not only numerous, but the papers represent a modern research approach, as they also have good qualitative results.

The research projects completed by him were submitted on time. What is evident is that they carry significant scholarly results.

7. CONCLUSION

The contest took place and was held in compliance with the requirements on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA). The materials, submitted by the candidate represent the scientific activity of assoc. prof. Dimitar Vlasarev, correspond to the requirements of the Regulations for implementation of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, and abide by the Regulations for the development of the academic staff at VSU "Lyuben Karavelov".

From the presented reference of scientometric indicators for acquiring the title of "Professor" of professional field 5.7. Architecture, Construction, and Geodesy, Associate Professor Dimitar Vlasarev has accrued 1119 points in total. It is a lot higher an overall score than the minimum requirements for acquiring the academic position of "professor", specified in the Regulations for the implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

Upon having examined the provided for the contest materials and scholarly works containing scientific and applied science contributions, while also being well aware of the highly appreciated teaching role alongside the architectural-design work of Associate Professor Dimitar Vlasarev, I may certainly give my **positive** assessment and thence I truly recommend the members Scientific Panel to approve of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Dimitar Vlasarev to acquire the academic position of "Professor" in professional field 5.7. Architecture, Construction, and Geodesy, in the scientific specialty "Territorial and Landscape Planning, and Urban Planning".

September-November 2021, Sofia

Reviewer: 
(Assoc. Prof. Dr. Architect B. Mancheva)