

## OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Christina Georgieva Savova, Ph.D.

Full-time lecturer in the Department of Design, New Bulgarian University, 8.2 Fine Arts

Based on the materials submitted for the acquisition of the scientific degree "**Doctor of Sciences**" at the New Bulgarian University, Sofia  
in the field of higher education 8. Arts  
professional field 8.2 Fine arts

According to Order **Z-RK-138/06.03.2023** of Prof. Plamen Doinov, Ph.D. - Rector of the NBU with a candidate Ch. Assistant Prof. **Bilyana Kaloyanova**, Ph.D., New Bulgarian University.

### I. Research (creative) activity and results

Ch. Assistant Professor **Bilyana Kaloyanova**, Ph.D., a full-time lecturer at NBU, Department of Design, has primary research and teaching interests in conceptual, eco, and sustainable design. She successfully defended her doctoral dissertation on "Conceptual design. New trends and practices" and acquired a scientific and educational degree "doctor" in professional direction 8.2. Art. Between 2013 and 2022, she participated in eight national and international projects, with twelve selected creative performances at home and abroad.

For the acquisition of the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" ch. Assistant Professor **Bilyana Kaloyanova**, Ph.D., presents a dissertation titled "Basic Creative and conceptual approaches in the System of interior design in the 20th and 21st Centuries" with a volume of 200 pages, consisting of an **introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, and a glossary**. The bibliographic reference contains 41 sources - 13 in Bulgarian and 28 in English. The appendices include visual material of 111 images integral to the theoretical study. Part of the dissertation was published as an independent scientific study: Kaloyanova, Bilyana. Structural approach in interior design in the 20th century. Sofia, ed. author 2022, 96 pp. (ISBN - 978-619-188-800-9).

Interior design is presented as a complex system of intersections of theories, concepts, practices, and activities of great importance for forming the cultural layer from the 20th century to the present day. The author's leading research is focused on the genesis, development, visual characteristics, and theoretical concepts of the main approaches in the interior design system, as well as their evolution from the beginning of the 20th century to the present day. According to the author, each of the presented design approaches - structural, decorative, and sustainable has its reserved place in modern interior design. Still, here too, there is an intertwining of some of the aspects of the different approaches. In this specific case, it consists not so much in blurring the boundaries between them but rather in learning particular practices.

The dissertation introduces the concept of "design approach" into the theory of design as a conceptual foundation and a practical tool. In this way, the study becomes valuable for design theorists, researchers, and interior design practitioners.

Together with the dissertation, Ch. Assist. Prof. **Bilyana Kaloyanova**, Ph.D., also presents numerous participations in exhibitions related to various subjects of interior design. She is the author of two monographs and five publications dedicated to interior design.

The list of presented research and creative performances of the candidate comprehensively covers her creative activity, participation in seminars, round tables, conferences, and lectures, and organizing and involvement in projects. The list is presented in a neat and logical sequence.

Those presented by Ch. Assistant Professor **Bilyana Kaloyanova**, Ph.D. materials for the competition, as well as her scientific research, creative and academic-learning activity, meet the mandatory and specific conditions and scientometric criteria for acquiring the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" of the New Bulgarian University, according to requirements of Law on the evaluation of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

## **II. Teaching and learning activities**

Ch. Assistant Professor **Bilyana Kaloyanova** is active in her teaching activities, involving the students from the design programs at the Design Department in numerous projects and encouraging their participation in various creative performances (open airs, seminars, and creative workshops) and projects. She successfully participated in such national and international projects.

### III. Administrative and public activity

The organizational commitment of ch. Assistant Professor **Bilyana Kaloyanova** is participating as a member of the departmental council and updating bachelor's and master's programs at the "Design" department.

The public activity of the candidate should include her assistance and participation in promoting interior, conceptual, eco, and sustainable design in Bulgaria. Her involvement in exhibitions dedicated to this theme speaks for this.

### IV. Personal impressions of the candidate

I can express my positive impressions of Ch. assistant professor **Bilyana Kaloyanova** as a colleague, teacher, and designer with a recognizable author's character: creator and a teacher with a positive attitude towards his teaching activity and students.

### V. Opinions, recommendations, and notes on the activity and achievements of the candidate

I have no critical remarks about the candidate's overall performance. I recommend that she continue teaching and creative activities with the same professional spirit and inspiring enthusiasm.

### CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I express my **positive** opinion about the contributions to creativity and scientific research activity of Ch. assistant professor **Bilyana Kaloyanova**, Ph.D., and her teaching activities, which correspond to the field and professional direction. I recommend to the respected members of the scientific jury to unanimously support and vote positively for acquiring the scientific degree "**Doctor of Sciences**" of the New Bulgarian University for Ch: Assistant Professor **Bilyana Kaloyanova**, Ph.D. professional direction **8.2. Fine Arts**.

02.06.2023 г.

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/Assoc. Prof. Christina Savova, Ph.D./