

REVIEW

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NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ARTS,

SCIENTIFIC FIELD ARTS AND FINE ARTS (MURALS) CODE 05.08.04

ON THE SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS AND ARTISTIC PRODUCTION FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE COMPETITION FOR THE ACADEMIC POSITION OF ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, IN PROFESSIONAL FIELD 8.2 FINE ART (INTERIOR AND PRODUCT DESIGN), ANNOUNCED IN SG - No. 87/17.10.2023

WITH CANDIDATE

CH. ASSIST. PROF. SVETOSLAV TODOROV ANEV, Ph.D.

Only one candidate participated in the competition - Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Svetoslav Anev from NBU.

At the first meeting of the Scientific Jury for the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" in connection with the implementation of the provisions of article 4, paragraph 8, point 2 of the ZRASRB, the submitted application and materials were examined. Pursuant to article 26, paragraph 2 of the ZRASRB and the requirements of the New Bulgarian University, the Scientific Jury allowed the candidate to participate in the competition.

It was found that with the necessary minimum requirements for the scientific, teaching and artistic-creative activity of the candidates for the corresponding academic position (in accordance with the PPZRASRB and the requirements of the New Bulgarian University) in the amount of the minimum 570 points, ch. assistant professor Dr. Svetoslav Anev presented an activity in the mandatory groups of indicators in the amount of 1190 points, i.e. – almost twice as much. This fact proves that the presented habilitation thesis meets the legal requirements.

When familiarizing with the materials provided for the candidate's competition, it makes an impression that he has and strongly adheres to his original concept of creating a unique design that is not only marginally consistent with the function and purpose of his object, i.e. to be the purpose of only aesthetic thought, subordinated to rationality and utilitarianism, but also to have an emotional impact, the product of intuition and freed creative energy, the original driving force of the visual arts. In this sense, Svetoslav Anev develops and defends his position not only as an adept, but also as a creator of author's design, an up-to-date position, as a natural reaction against rationalism and pragmatism, which led to depersonalization and anonymity in the production and distribution of mass and increasingly mass products, dictated by the globalization of the world economy, the industrialization of production and the advancement of the technical revolution. The docent candidate defends this understanding in the presented works in the field of product, furniture and interior design, namely: - Design and implementation of a multifunctional furniture group, intended for a work area in a residential interior; - Design and implementation of the

lighting series: - "Sound in Light"; - "Balance"; - "Chaos". In his Extended Summary outlining the theoretical framework of the thesis, Ch. Assistant Professor Anev describes in detail and accurately the object, the purpose and tasks of the development, the motivations and the sequence of the emergence of the idea and the research process surrounding its clarification, purification and conceptualization, the phases in the creation of the artistic project and the accompanying drawings, model, prototype, as well as also its testing and presentation, which fully clarify not only the way of working, but also the author's way of thinking.

An important development is his first work from his habilitation thesis is dedicated to this part of the home, in which there is a dedicated work area, called "*home office*" for short, and which for many professions around the world played a decisive role during the pandemic. The author takes into account a number of essential requirements for the good functioning of the furniture group designed by him, representing at the same time a beautiful aesthetic component in the overall interior layout. It has harmonious proportions and an exquisite visual structure, covers a number of ergonomic requirements and all other standards for product design. The implementation is mainly made of laminated MDF and wood, the movable parts have convenient opening elements, ensuring comfort during operation and meeting current trends in modern design.

The next work from the habilitation work is dedicated to a series of lighting fixtures, the most characteristic of which is that they are made of wood - a material with an atypical application for similar types of artificial light sources in the interior. The work is a personal author's development, consisting of two standing and one hanging lighting fixtures, the purpose of which is to create an emotional accent in the interior architectural space. Despite the highly refined geometric minimalist means of expression, the impact of this type of design is emphasized and spectacular. It is applied the idea that frugality is not an obstacle to cognition especially when it comes to using light as the main means of expression with its instantaneous, almost magical, bewitching and mysterious effect on man. At first glance, this power of impact seems to be sufficient in itself to create an emotional accent in the interior. But the candidate proves through his elegant design concept the importance of other significant elements of visuality, such as those of proportions, the movement and crossing of straight lines, the creation of spheres and curved lines from them, etc. The warmth and softness of the wood material, its immediate and natural expression, its connection with the ecological system of the planet, as well as all the other allusions and associations that this connection gives rise to complements in a convincing way the effects of the artificial LED lighting, compensating for its different sound compared to daylight. The detailed description of the stages in the realization of these lighting fixtures contribute to obtaining a complete and panoramic picture of the specialist reader regarding the conception and creation of these important parts of the habilitation work. I will dwell on each of them separately.

The light fixture "Sound in Light" represents an interesting combination of two different means of expression - the object of the most diverse creative searches and ideas of human society over the centuries and millennia. But unlike looking for similarities or direct associations between colors and sounds - like synesthesia, for example, Svetoslav Anev finds an analogy between the sound and the tonal (in light intensity) or luminance value of the light depending on the length of the tubes of the three lighting fixtures from which the work consists. The idea was inspired by the device of the pipe cathedral organ, where the pitch of the sound is directly related to the length of the pipe that reproduces it. The spatially plastic qualities of the work complement well this successful experiment.

The next work from the same series entitled "Balance" aptly develops the idea of balance as a condition for opposing the dynamics, drama and chaos of everyday life in the big modern city and the search for calmness and balance in the personal living space of each individual human being. Extending the lumen of the light source contributes not only to a better room light, but also to a particular vertical luminous line, which could also act as a means of concentrating the visual receptors and releasing them for inner spiritual migration or even extraction and sublimation, known as "meditation". Thus, with only the minimal means of the clean, minimalist design of a modest, standing light fixture, the viewer can achieve that unity of physiology, reason, and emotions, also known as the "moksha" state.

The opposite effect is laid out as a creative idea in the last work of the series called "Chaos". Unfortunately, the summary lacks a justification of the motives that led to the creation or genesis of her idea, unlike the descriptions of all the other works in the habilitation thesis. This, of course, only seems like a drawback. In fact, the author has left the subject as an object in the spiritual space, subject to free interpretation. I personally like the fact that Svetoslav Anev - in contrast to the sometimes too scattered attempts at visual-plastic depiction of entropy by many authors who worked on the same topic - proposed the more interesting formula - the sphere (a symbol of completeness, harmony and perfection) to be the geometric body expressing chaos. This is achieved solely through the jumbled web of cast shadows, which are essentially the negative of the emitted light. The contrast between the ideal form and the chaoticity projected by it offers a strange and surprising aesthetic and psychological dilemma between the on and off light fixture, the alternative of which is available to each user.

The three published papers presented ("Sustainability, Materials and Processes in Contemporary Product Design - Bamboo" (2014), "Sustainability Principles Preceding the Product Lifecycle in Furniture Design" (2015) and "Innovative Energy Systems in the Contemporary Home - Tesla- powerwall – virtual power plant" (2022)) complete the professional appearance of ch. assistant professor Dr. Anev in a clear and categorical way.

The attached additional works show the associate professor candidate as a free artist performing outside the relatively strict requirements of product, furniture and interior design. The series of drawings and especially the exhibition of author's photographs from Vienna affirms Svetoslav Anev not only as a lyrical artist, but also as a careful observer, analyst and chronicler of a student practice on the occasion of the design week "Vienna Design Week", its full realization and multifaceted aspects.

It is clear from the attached documents that in the period 2014-2022, 6 pcs. citations of publications of ch. assistant professor Dr. Anev from other authors are made, which meets the requirements of the law.

He led the workshop "Drawing in a design environment", in 2021, the seminar and workshop "Presentation of the Bachelor's program Interior Design, in 2019, the project "Interdepartmental traveling workshop in 2018, "Parliament building - architecture and interior" in 2017, the workshop "Creative practices in modern bathroom design", 2016, in which he proves himself also as a good organizer of scientific meetings and events, research and creative projects with application and achieved results in practice.

As a lecturer with a sufficiently long and proven career, the candidate presents developed nine (9) courses of teaching materials in the NBU Moodle electronic system for the bachelor's degree (INTB110 Design Fundamentals in Interior Design – Part I, INTB111 Design Fundamentals in Interior Design Part II, INTB030 Furniture Design - Part I,

INTB032 Furniture Design - Part II, INTB036 Plastic Modeling in a Digital Environment, INTB610 Pictorial Drawing Techniques in Design, ARPM207 Design for People with Disabilities, ARPM003 Design Methodology), also participated in the creation of one course in the Master's program ("Interior Product Design", launched in the 2017/18 academic year).

He regularly and actively involved in the updating of the Interior Design program by creating and leading five (5) specialized courses (INTB110 Design Fundamentals in Interior Design - Part I, INTB111 Design Fundamentals in Interior Design - Part II, INTB030 Design of Furniture - Part I, INTB032 Furniture Design - Part II, INTB036 Plastic Modeling in a Digital Environment) and four (4) general courses (INTB610 Pictorial Drawing Techniques in Design, ARPM207 Design for People with Disabilities, ARPM003 Design Methodology).

Svetoslav Anev is also an active participant in the work on the European educational exchange academic program "Erasmus+" as the coordinator of the NBU for a period of two (2) years (13.05.2020 - 30.09.2022) for the "Design" department. The traveling seminars organized and carried out under his leadership in Eindhoven (Netherlands, 2019), Vienna (Austria, 2016 and 2017) and Prague (Czech Republic, 2018) make an excellent impression, which I find extremely useful not only for the students of the Department of Design ", but also for the implementation of the international integration and exchange policy for the entire educational system of the NBU and its relationship with the outside world.

From the provided documentation it is clear that the average score from the surveys on student satisfaction with the work of ch. assistant professor Dr. Anev with them is 4.34 (at max. 5.00), which shows his good connection and relationships with the other main party in the educational process - the young graduates of the NBU.

With regard to the administrative and collective management bodies, the candidate for associate professor presents his activity as a Program Consultant of the Design Department for the bachelor's program "Interior Design" and the master's program "Spatial Design" for the period 01.03.2022 - 31.09.2022. His regular participation in the committees and meetings of the NBU Library Council as a member of the council and representative of the "Design" department from 12.01.2021 until now is requested.

Provided by Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Anev regular participation of students in performances outside NBU, such as national and international competitions, Olympiads, national and international scientific forums, as well as in creative expositions (e.g. the exhibition "Design for Interior" in the 1st Secondary School Pencho Slaveikov, Sofia 01.02.-20.02.2016 - together with the head assistant Dr. Sofroni Varbev, the presentation of the bachelor's program "Interior Design" and the master's program "Spatial Design" to students in the same school in connection with the candidate campaign at NBU) are proof that the applicant is doing what is necessary to attract students to the Department of Design.

In conclusion, I can mention my extremely good impression of what was written by Dr. Blagovest Varbakov, who from the position of a narrow specialist, closely acquainted, in practice and over a long period of time, with the activity, knowledge, professional and creative qualities of Svetoslav Anev defines him in his conclusion as an "artist and designer with indisputable talent", whose "academic growth will be of significant benefit for the effective development and image growth of this university major".

Considering everything described above, my assessment of the candidate's habilitation work and academic activity is positive. I believe that they meet the requirements of the ZRASRB, the Regulations for the Implementation of the ZRASRB, ZVO and the

Ordinance to the Regulations for the Implementation of the ZRASRB of the NBU.

The listed results give me the reason to propose to the honorable Academic Council to award the educational and scientific degree "Associate professor" to Ch. assistant professor Dr. Svetoslav Anev in the field of higher education: 8. Arts, professional direction: 8.2 Fine art (interior and product design).

20.02.2024

Signature

Sofia