Journal of Social Sciences *Vol. IX, no. 2 (2026), pp. 130 - 138*
Fascicle *Social Science* *ISSN 2587-3490*
Topic *Achievements and anniversaries* *eISSN 2587-3504*

CZU 72:378.096(478)(091)

THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE ON THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS ACTIVITY WITHIN THE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF MOLDOVA

Angela Munteanu *, ORCID: 0000-0003-4671-022X,
Tatiana Filipski, ORCID: 0000-0002-6071-5513

Technical University of Moldova, Ștefan cel Mare blvd, MD-2004, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova
** Corresponding author: Munteanu Angela, angela.munteanu@arh.utm.md*

Received: 02.18.2026
Accepted: 04.23.2026

Abstract. The present paper reflects a study on the evolution and impact of the educational activities carried out by the Department of Architecture (DA), Faculty of Urbanism and Architecture (FUA), Technical University of Moldova (TUM), over a period of 60 years. It includes a set of scientific research methods such as documentation, analysis of scientific sources, photo documentation, case studies, comparison, and interpretation of results. The article analyzes and briefly presents key aspects regarding the initial training process of architecture students from the perspective of promoting creativity and developing professional competencies through the use of emerging technologies in architecture. It highlights modern methods for the graphic and digital representation of projects, emphasizes the importance of studying risk factors in design, and describes the role of manually crafted volumetric models as tools for synthesis and conceptual expression. Furthermore, the paper addresses the relevance of sustainable architecture in the context of social, cultural, and economic challenges, which justify the need to integrate the principles of sustainable architecture into the university curriculum. It also showcases teaching activities carried out within DA, FUA, TUM, which demonstrate the institutional commitment to quality education in shaping and cultivating the aesthetic sensitivity of architecture students. In conclusion, the DA has distinguished itself through an exceptional historical path, marked by remarkable achievements and successes that have significantly influenced the progress of contemporary architecture both nationally and internationally.

Keywords: *initial training, university, department, quality education, architecture student.*

Rezumat. Articolul reflectă un studiu privind evoluția și impactul activității educaționale a Departamentului Arhitectură (DA), Facultatea Urbanism și Arhitectură (FUA), Universitatea Tehnică a Moldovei (UTM), pe parcursul a 60 de ani și include un ansamblu de metode de cercetare științifică precum: *documentarea, analiza surselor științifice, fotofixări, studii de caz, compararea și interpretarea rezultatelor etc.* În articol sunt analizate și expuse succint aspecte importante, privind procesul de formare inițială a studenților-arhitecți din perspectiva promovării creativității și a dezvoltării competențelor profesionale prin utilizarea tehnologiilor emergente în arhitectură; sunt valorificate metodele moderne de reprezentare

grafică și digitală a lucrărilor; este descrisă importanța cercetării factorilor de risc în proiectare și a realizării manuale a machetelor volumetrice drept instrumente de sinteză și expresie conceptuală. De asemenea, este abordată relevanța arhitecturii durabile în contextul provocărilor sociale, culturale și economice ce justifică necesitatea integrării principiilor arhitecturii sustenabile în curricula universitară. Totodată, sunt prezentate activități didactice desfășurate în cadrul DA, FUA, UTM, care demonstrează angajamentul instituțional pentru *educația de calitate* în formarea și cultivarea sensibilității estetice a studenților-arhitecți. Concluzionând, DA s-a remarcat printr-un parcurs istoric excepțional, însoțit de succese și realizări frumoase, ce au influențat semnificativ progresul arhitecturii contemporane atât la nivel național, cât și internațional.

Concepte-cheie: *formare inițială, universitate, departament, educație de calitate, student-arhitect.*

In postmodern society, universities, in addition to their formative and cultural role, assume the responsibility of providing high-quality educational and scientific services, significantly contributing to the enhancement of the intellectual, professional, and sustainable capital of society. Thus, in the context of the development of the European educational area, the Bologna Process [1] represents an important strategic initiative aimed at ensuring the convergence of higher education systems in Europe by identifying and mutually recognizing qualifications, developing a culture of quality, initiating and implementing academic mobility, etc. Moreover, the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG), developed by ENQA (European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education) [2], provide a set of principles and quality assurance standards designed to guide the effective implementation of educational activities in higher education institutions within the European area.

Our country adheres to these principles, which stipulate the confirmation and recognition of academic excellence through the issuance of national policies for the development and assurance of quality in higher education [3], based on the European Higher Education System. Likewise, student-centered learning represents a fundamental prerogative of universities that support the creation of a flexible educational environment adapted to the individual needs of the learner, fostering their active, reflective, and autonomous participation alongside academic staff in the process of progressive knowledge acquisition, the development of cognitive competencies, practical and research skills, as well as axiological and behavioral abilities.

Therefore, the Technical University of Moldova (TUM) aligns itself with all European and national legislative requirements and undertakes to implement quality standards [4] in higher education, to promote educational policies oriented toward continuous learning/lifelong education [5], ensuring the transparency of educational processes and strengthening the connections between the university and various fields of professional practice.

The analysis of theoretical and praxeological benchmarks, as well as discussions with teachers who have worked and continue to work at the Department of Architecture, with architects, students, etc., allowed us to establish that the School of Architecture (currently the Department of Architecture) in our country, having reached its 60th anniversary, has built an image of an academic environment of excellence, a promoter of architectural education based on tradition, yet open to innovation and contemporary international cultural

influences. In this context, extensive research has been carried out, including a set of scientific research methods such as documentation, analysis of scientific sources, photo documentation, case studies, comparison and interpretation of results, all aimed at achieving the predefined objectives.

It is important to mention that currently, within the Technical University of Moldova (TUM), one of the largest and most prestigious departments of the institution operates – the Department of Architecture, formerly the Chair of Architecture, the only School of Architecture (SA) in the Republic of Moldova, with a valuable academic tradition reflected in its educational, scientific, and cultural activities, carried out by its faculty members, students, and alumni. The SA was founded in 1964, along with the establishment of the Serghei Lazo Polytechnic Institute in Chișinău (now the Technical University of Moldova), under the name of the Chair of Architecture and Engineering Constructions, which operated within the Faculty of Engineering and Construction. However, the first cohort of students admitted to the Architecture specialization dates back to 1965, marking the official beginning of the initial training of architectural specialists in the Republic of Moldova [6, 7].

Over the course of six decades of activity, the Department of Architecture has become a benchmark in training future architects, benefiting from the contribution of a multidisciplinary academic team composed of architects, engineers, urban planners, researchers, and visual artists, who have significantly supported the implementation of a high-quality educational process focused on integrating artistic, cultural, and technological values into architectural practice. In this context, the analysis of the educational and research activities of the Department of Architecture within the Technical University of Moldova offers an eloquent example of balance between academic tradition and openness to innovation.

Over time, the leadership of the Chair of Architecture, and later the Department of Architecture, has been ensured by highly experienced university professors, among whom the following stand out: Smirnov Victor, Voițehovschi Valentin, Morgun Broneslav, Bognibov Eughenii, Ianovici Adriana, Zolotuhin Alexandr, Șargorodschi Mihail, Head of CSPAC, Ph.D. in Technical Sciences, Gaidaș Vladimir, Oleinic Svetlana, Lupașcu Valeriu, Carpov Aurelia, and Munteanu Angela (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Managers of the Department of Architecture (DA) [8].

In addition to academic management, a significant number of full-time and adjunct professors have contributed to promoting the image and prestige of the Department of

Architecture (DA) through their teaching and scientific activities, including: Lebedev Serghei, Borozan Sergiu, Grițenco Ivan, Bognibov Anatolii, Luchianov Nicolae, Nesterov Tamara, PhD, associate professor, Taras Iaroslav, PhD in architecture, Cerednicova Olga, Strijacov Vitalii, Ischimji Nicolae, Chiosa Victor, Borovschii Vasilii, PhD in architecture, Iamșcicova Nina, Kozlovschi Ivan, PhD in architecture, Kuzi Anatolii, PhD, associate professor, Bosenco Grigorii, Smolin Evghenii, Iațiuc Vitalie, Andrusceac Constantin, Cerbari Aliona, Diomina Elena, Naval Teodor, Ciocanu Sergius, PhD, associate professor, Severin Sergiu, Rejep Veceslav, Grișco Valerii, Garconița Serghei, Bulat Gheorghe, Cojocaru Gheorghii, Sorochina Ala, Nicorici Asea, Apostol Silvia, Suvorova (Iotova) Violeta, Gulipa Serghei, Besciotnîi Ivan, PhD, associate professor, Samborschi Nicolai, Verstiuc Veceslav, Tiutiun Tatiana, Romanciuc Tatiana, Cojocaru Victor, Traci Mihai, Zasavițchii Iurii, Benderskaia Valentina, PhD in architecture; Garconița Rita, Storojenco Alexandru, Buimistru Tatiana, PhD, associate professor; Prodan Alexandru, Zestrea Elena, Iachimov Natalia, Șargorodscaia Tatiana, Trofimov Silvia, Șestacovschi Andrei, Șestacovschi Anastasia, Rusu Alexandru, Șveț Liliana, Grozavu Nistor, PhD, associate professor; Andronovici Diana, Tronciu Sergiu, PhD, associate professor, Carcea Ala, Grati Sorina-Nicoleta, Aricova Elena, Gavriliuc Evghenii, Melnic Loredana, Grinceac Elena, Harea Olga, PhD, associate professor; Bulat Maria, Ivanov Valeriu, Ivanov Ludmila, Andronic Radu, Negruţa Igor, Niță Ion, Niță Viorica, Tofan Alexandru, Studzinski Irina, Kaţel Evghenii, Rusu Ana, Arapu Veronica, Bernic Lia, Radevici Irina, Maistru Dragomir, Rabei Andrei, Olari Alexandru, Raețchi Iana, Ciobanu Adriana, Mîrza Anatol, Valicov Ion, and others (Figure 2).

Figure 2. The teaching staff of the Architecture Department, 1975–1977–1993 [9].

At the same time, the development of the educational process (artistic and aesthetic) was ensured by numerous renowned visual artists, among whom are: Alexandr Petricenco, Head of the Department of Drawing and Special Training (CDPS), Ion Jumati, Robert Derbențev, Ion Chitoroagă, Valerii Malearenco, Nicolae Nedealcov, Constantin Musteață, Veaceslav Torpan, Nicolai Țemenco, Valentin Nejivov, Elena Frunze, Victor Drebot, Master of Arts, Mariana Hadji-Bandalac and Svetlana Melnic, Angela Munteanu, PhD in arts, Natalia Podlesnaia, PhD in arts, Tatiana Filipski, PhD in educational sciences, etc. [10, 11].

Also, international collaborations, particularly with the academic environment in Romania, have expanded through the involvement of Romanian professors in the educational process, recognized for their scientific and professional activity in the fields of architecture, urban planning, and art education. Among them, we can mention: Augustin Ioan, PhD arch., professor, Tiberiu Florescu, PhD arch., professor, Andrei Mitrea, PhD arch., Emil Ivănescu, PhD arch., Sergiu Nistor, professor, PhD arch., Alexandru-Ionuț Petrișor, Professor, PhD in urban planning, Mihai-Corneliu Drișcu, professor, PhD arch., Emil-Dragoș Ciolacu-Miron, PhD, associate professor, Ștefania-Raluca Bădescu, PhD, associate professor, Mihai Danciu, PhD in urban planning, Adrian Ghencea, PhD eng., ALLBIM NET SRL, Bucharest, Romania, etc.

The process of evaluating and completing architectural studies has benefited, over the years, from Chairpersons of the Integrated Studies Bachelor's Examination Committee (CEL) with a high level of expertise and professional authority, such as: Kurți Robert, Kolotovkin Anatolii, Mednek Valentin, Șoihet Semyon, Apostolov Igor, Modîrcă Vlad, Eremciuc Vasile, Kalujac Maxim, Ivănescu Emil, PhD arch., Povar Iurie, President of the Union of Architects of the Republic of Moldova, etc.

Starting from the concept of a proactive institution, by promoting a pro-quality and pro-innovation educational culture, the major objective of the DA integrated studies and its teaching staff, TUM, is shaped along two essential dimensions: education and architecture [12, 13].

In this context, it is necessary to emphasize that the DA within TUM follows a well-defined path regarding the education and professionalization of students, through the continuous updating of the curricula [14], in line with the requirements of contemporary sustainable architecture. The educational process is oriented towards an inter-, pluri-, and transdisciplinary approach, which involves the efficient combination of specialized theory with practical applicability, with emphasis placed on the development of students' technical and creative skills.

Thus, architecture students acquire knowledge, skills, competencies, values, and attitudes specific not only to architecture but also to related fields, which are essential for the development of functional and aesthetically coherent projects based on modern and sustainable construction methods, techniques, and technologies. Furthermore, the graphic or coloristic representation of students' creations, or architectural concepts, can only be realized from an inter-, pluri-, and transdisciplinary perspective, which involves the interaction of formal, non-formal, and informal education, constituting a new paradigm in education [15, pp. 62-66, apud 12, p. 294].

In the context of the 60th anniversary of the School of Architecture, we conducted an analysis of the academic performance of the 2,487 graduates of the Architecture program, who have contributed to shaping contemporary architecture in the Republic of Moldova and abroad, as reflected in Figures 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7.

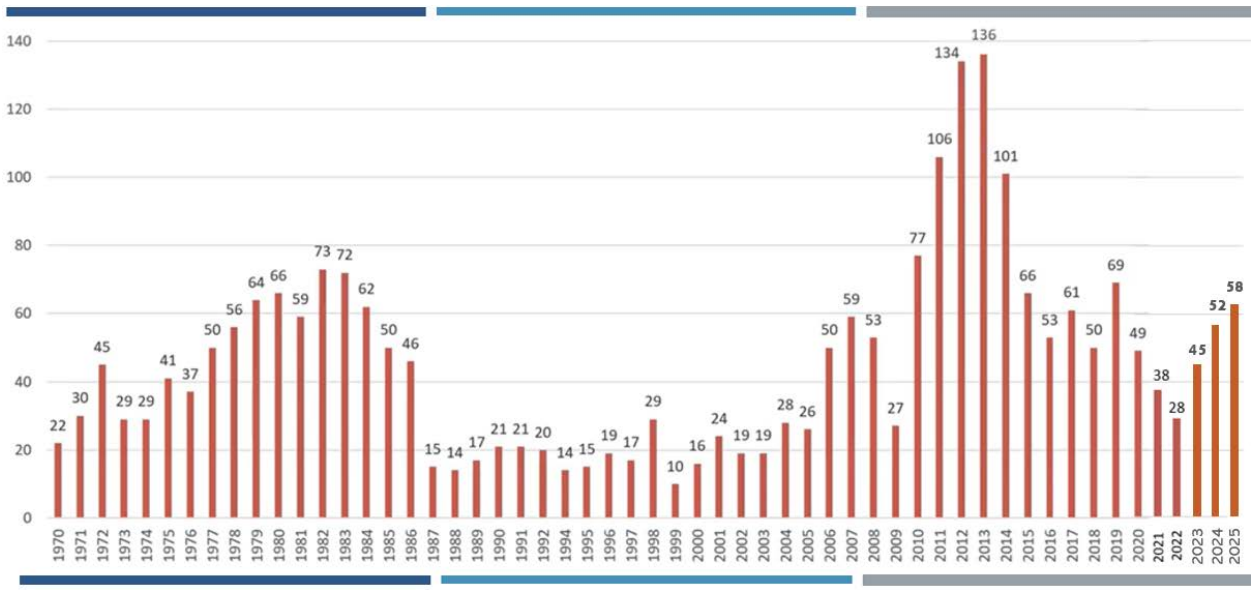

Figure 3. Academic Performance of the School of Architecture, Graduates from 1970–2025.
(author Angela Munteanu).

Figures 4, 5, 6, 7. Graduates of the Integrated Study Program 0731.1 Architecture, class of 2022 [16].

Given that the development and implementation of a modern architectural project require the active involvement of students in building their own knowledge across multiple dimensions, the Department of Architecture (DA) at TUM organizes and conducts a wide range of educational, research, and creative activities carried out in a blended format (both in-person and online).

Figures 8, 9, 10. Curricular and extracurricular educational activities carried at the Department of Architecture [16].

These activities are aimed at professional development and the interdisciplinary training of students and faculty, such as: scientific-practical conferences on the design of eco-friendly buildings and the use of intelligent energy efficiency systems, which ensure the construction of sustainable public buildings oriented towards improving quality of life, etc. (Figures 8, 9, 10). At the same time, methodological seminars are supported by invited specialists from higher education institutions in Romania, Kazakhstan, Italy, Malta, Turkey, China, etc. (Figures 11, 12), focusing on facilitating the exchange of experience through best educational and scientific practices.

Figures 11, 12. Methodological seminars with invited specialists from various fields at the Department of Architecture [17, 18, 19].

Additionally, students, guided by professors, are encouraged to participate with artistic works, architectural and urban planning projects, conceptual models, visual installations, etc., in national and international competitions or exhibitions (Figure 13).

Moreover, the Department of Architecture (DA) organizes and participates in meetings with prominent figures—architects, researchers, engineers, urban planners, and visual artists—which significantly foster the motivation and strengthen the professional aspirations of architecture students, providing optimal conditions for interdisciplinary collaboration, opportunities for interaction with authentic values, accumulation of experience, and personal and professional development.

Figure 13. Architectural projects and creative works of architecture students and graduates [16].

The exchange of academic experience for architecture students through active participation in academic mobility programs and internships alongside international students contributes both to enhancing educational prospects for acquiring knowledge, skills, and practical abilities, and to developing intercultural competencies. Equally important is the involvement of faculty members in international study and research programs conducted on institutional platforms such as Erasmus+ or Horizon (Figure 14), which promote the transfer of best pedagogical practices, the updating of curricular content, and alignment with global architectural trends, aiming at the development of a relevant and competitive educational discourse.

Figure 14. Erasmus+ program experience of faculty members and architecture students [20, 21].

Figure 15. Faculty staff of the Department of Architecture [22].

Professional internships, included in the curriculum of the Department of Architecture (DA) and carried out within the framework of bilateral collaboration agreements between universities, cultural institutions, economic sectors, etc., play an important role in the training of future architects. These internships focus on the practical application of knowledge and aim at developing technical, professional, and transversal competencies. This form of learning is decisive in shaping the value-oriented profile of future specialists capable of meeting the specific academic requirements of the architectural field.

To complement the educational process, a series of scientific and pedagogical works have been developed by the faculty members of the department (Figure 15), and published in specialized scientific journals, national and international conference volumes, or UTM collections. These works include theoretical and methodological references regarding current research directions and innovative trends in architecture and urban planning, as applied in postmodern architecture. Thus, students have access to relevant and up-to-date sources that contribute to the development of intellectual capacities, the broadening of professional horizons, and the deepening of knowledge in various interdisciplinary fields. Additionally, participation in writing activities, collaboration on articles, or attending scientific conferences stimulates investigative thinking, reinforcing autonomy, responsibility, and social interaction—essential factors in the design process.

Conclusions

In conclusion, it should be noted that the Department of Architecture of the Faculty of Urbanism and Architecture FUA, TUM, over its six decades of activity, has promoted an educational culture oriented towards quality and innovation. Its activity has been marked by continuous academic advancement, reflected in the achievements of future architects, who have accumulated a remarkable record of diplomas and distinctions at various national and international competitions, as well as by the steady increase in the number of architecture students, demonstrating the department's capacity to adapt to contemporary social, cultural, and technological transformations.

Conflicts of Interest: The author declares no conflict of interest

References

1. European Commission (n.d) The Bologna Process and the European Higher Education Area. Available online: https://education.ec.europa.eu/ro/education-levels/higher-education/inclusive-and-connected-higher-education/bologna-process (accessed on 17.08.2025)
2. European Higher Education Area (n.d) Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area. Available online: https://ehea.info/page-standards-and-guidelines-for-quality-assurance (accessed on 17.08.2025)
3. European Higher Education Area (2005) Achieving the Goals. Communiqué of the Conference of European Ministers Responsible for Higher Education (Bergen, 19–20 May 2005). Available online: https://mecc.gov.md/sites/default/files/bergen_communique_may_2005.pdf (accessed on 17.08.2025)
4. Technical University of Moldova (2022) Regulation on the Organization and Functioning of the Directorate for Academic Management and Quality Assurance. Chișinău: TUM. Available online: https://utm.md/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Regulament-DMAAC-2022.pdf (accessed on 17.08.2025)
5. Parliament of the Republic of Moldova (n.d) Education Code of the Republic of Moldova. Available online: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=143290&lang=ro (accessed on 20.08.2025)
6. Technical University of Moldova (2024) UTM: 60 Years of Excellence in Education and Innovation. Chișinău: TUM. Available online: https://utm.md/blog/2024/09/11/utm-60-de-ani-de-excelenta-in-educatie-si-inovatie/ (accessed on 19.12.2024)

7. Munteanu, A. (2016) Architects, visual artists – professors at the Department of Architecture of TUM. In: Identities of Chișinău, 3rd ed.; Arc: Chișinău, pp. 265–273
8. Carpov, A. (2016) A half-century of creativity (1965–2015) – architects trained at the Technical University of Moldova. In: Identities of Chișinău, 3rd ed.; Arc: Chișinău, pp. 255–261
9. Department of Architecture, Technical University of Moldova (n.d) Official Facebook Page. https://www.facebook.com/d.arhitectura/?locale=ro_RO (accessed on 27.01.2025)
10. Munteanu, A. (2016) Portrait Sketches: Architects, Visual Artists, Professors at the Department of Architecture. Chișinău: TUM
11. Munteanu, A. (2021) Landscape, coloured passion in the creation of architect Eugen Bognibov. Journal of Social Sciences, 4(4), 36–43
12. Filipski, T., Munteanu, A. (2024) Valorization of pedagogical strategies for promoting architectural heritage. In: Science and Education: New Approaches and Perspectives, UPSC, pp. 21–22
13. Crișan, N. (2023) Curricular Strategies in Higher Education. Iași: European Institute
14. Technical University of Moldova (2021) Curriculum for Integrated Higher Education Studies (Level 7 according to ISCED). Chișinău: TUM. Available online: https://utm.md/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/ARH.pdf (accessed on 09.01.2025)
15. Munteanu, A., Filipski, T., Rudic, O. (2024) A cognitive-constructivist approach in architectural education. In: Current Issues in Urbanism and Architecture, 12th ed., Tehnica-TUM, pp. 62–66
16. Department of Architecture, Technical University of Moldova (n.d) Official Facebook Page. https://www.facebook.com/d.arhitectura/?locale=ro_RO (accessed on 09.01.2025)
17. Facebook post (n.d) https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1035306694952335&set=pb.100054190427333.-2207520000&type=3&locale=ro_RO (accessed on 21.09.2025)
18. Facebook post (n.d) https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1030533238763014&set=pb.100054190427333.-2207520000&type=3&locale=ro_RO (accessed on 21.09.2025)
19. Facebook post (n.d) https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1308360650980270&set=pb.100054190427333.-2207520000&type=3 (accessed on 21.09.2025)
20. Facebook post (n.d) https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=744672611260380&set=pcb.744672657927042&locale=ro_RO (accessed on 21.09.2025)
21. Technical University of Cluj-Napoca (n.d) Erasmus+ Mobilities at UTCN: Academic Visit from the Republic of Moldova to Cluj-Napoca. Available online: https://bri.utcluj.ro/docbri.php (accessed on 09.01.2025)
22. Faculty of Urbanism and Architecture, Technical University of Moldova (n.d) Department of Architecture. Available online: https://fua.utm.md/departamente/arhitectura/ (accessed on 04.01.2025)

Citation: Munteanu, A., Filipski, T. (2026). The department of architecture on the 60th anniversary of its activity within the Technical University of Moldova. *Journal of Social Sciences*, 9 (2), pp. 130-138. https://doi.org/10.52326/jss.utm.2026.9(1).01.

Publisher's Note: JSS stays neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

Copyright:© 2026 by the authors. Submitted for possible open access publication under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).