**Book Review**

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Shabalina N.M. Book Review: Sasha Lozanova, Stela Tasheva. *Arkhitektura v izkustvoto – izkustvo v arkhitekturata* [*Architecture in Art – Art in Architecture]* Polis Publishers Sofia, 2020, 172 p. ISBN 978-954-796-082-4 (in Bulgarian, Summary in English).

*Abstract:*

The book discusses eleven themes in the field of architecture and art, divided into two parts: "Architecture in Art" and "Art in Architecture". A new approach used in the research is the full merging of two authors' perspectives – of an architect and of an art historian. The architecture discussed in the text is not only part of the realm of art, but also a (relatively) independent sphere of the material culture. The synchronous interweaving, interaction and development of architecture and art were at the focus of the authors' interest. Both realms (of arts and architecture) are examined here in a wide range of: time period, region, style (styles), artistic material, samples of creativity. This also applies to the scope of ethno-confessional communities, as well as to the personalities (creators) associated with them. As a result the scientific standpoints and the conceptual apparatus were enriched, based on the interaction of the two disciplines. New possibilities in reading and interpreting artifacts and the cultural context in which they exist were also identified.

*Key words:* architecture; art; morphology; symbolism, artistic image; design.

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A key position in modern theoretical and methodological practice of art history is occupied by issues related to the study of the correlation processes between architectonic and visual elements, which in turn have an impact on the formation of stylistic features of works of art. In this context, the presented research "S. Lozanova, S. Tasheva. Arkhitektura v izkustvoto – izkustvo v arkhitekturata (2020)" seems to be an urgent scientific task (ил.1).

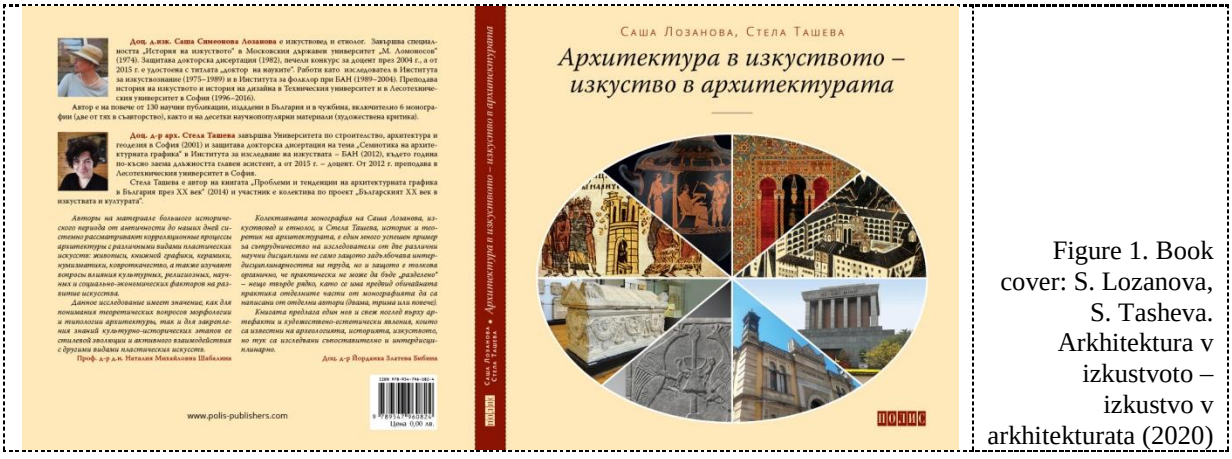



Figure 1. Book cover: S. Lozanova, S. Tasheva. Arkhitektura v izkustvoto – izkustvo v arkhitekturata (2020)

The inquiry of the first part of the monograph is based on the analysis of monuments of architectural and fine arts of the world heritage and on the examination of foreign concepts of historiographic data of the beginning of the XXI century. Based on samples from a large historical period (since antiquity to the present day), the authors systematically examine the interaction and the correspondence of architectural objects with various types of plastic arts: painting, book illustrations, ceramics, numismatics, carpet weaving, and also, they study the issues of the influence of cultural, religious, scientific and socio-economic factors on the development of art. At morphology level, the authors traced the multifaceted connections of compositional-spatial, technological, artistic-plastic, and coloristic creation of antique ceramic and architectural artefacts [1–10]. Relying on the iconographic approach, the researchers identified typological and regional features of the objects of the Balkan culture

in comparison with similar samples of the Roman Empire and other adjacent territories. Researchers consider architecture not only as a pictorial motive, but also as an important form-building element with its specific structural-compositional and technological properties that influence the tectonic and plastic artistic-figurative solution of the works of arts in their diversity.

The second section of the book, called "Art in Architecture" reveals issues related to individual pictorial motifs of Christian symbolism (peacock), also to elements of traditional religious objects in mosaics, stone reliefs, and even of inscriptions placed on the facades of architectural objects - in extensive survey covering monuments of the archaic period before the Roman Hellenistic culture and the Middle Ages. Due to the wide geographical and temporal boundaries of the research field, the authors were allowed to analyse and compare a large array of architectural heritage of Western and Eastern, national and confessional, secular, professional traditions. Thus the showed their symbiosis, identify the multifaceted range of art from symbolic meaning to decorative stylization and the manifestation of signs and kitsch in the mass culture and architecture of modern times. The authors of the monograph convincingly proved the enduring importance of architecture as an intrinsically valuable form of art, and also as an art that has absorbed the versatile expressive possibilities of other, adjacent types of plastic arts.

This study is important both for understanding the theoretical issues of morphology and typology of architecture, and for consolidating knowledge of the cultural and historical stages of its stylistic evolution and the active interaction with other types of plastic arts.

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