

About the Institute - History

The Institute of Architecture and Urban & Spatial Planning of Serbia (IAUS) was founded on December 7, 1954, based on a decision by Belgrade City Assembly: "This Decision authorizes the Faculty of Architecture at Belgrade University to establish an institute for architecture and urban and spatial planning as an independently funded institution called: *The Institute of Architecture and Urban & Spatial Planning within the Faculty of Architecture, University of Belgrade*". The institute operated under this name with this status until 1961, when as a result of a ruling by the Executive Council of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, it became independent, and later, in 1965, it was given the full name of The Institute of Architecture and Urban & Spatial Planning of Serbia.

It should be emphasized that over the last sixty-five years, the institute has developed primarily as a scientific research institution, which is the most important field of its activity. Parallel with its scientific work, the institute has also been involved with practical work, not only on urban and architectural projects, urban and spatial plans, studies and the provision of expertise, but also in the field of education and the popularization of scientific practice. Most of its work has been published in its own publications and presented at scientific symposiums it has organized, as well as at a large number of symposiums, congresses, seminars and round tables in Serbia and elsewhere in the world, and in national and international journals.

Based on the work of its employees and external associates, IAUS has received a respectable number of awards and recognitions from professional associations in its areas of work.

IAUS also plays its part by giving awards for the best master's papers and doctoral dissertations in the fields of architecture and urban and spatial planning. The annual *Milorad Macura* award is given for papers in the field of architecture and urban planning and the *Dimitrije Perišić* award, also annual, is given for the best papers in the field of spatial planning.

The institute greatly supports the education of young people by engaging PhD students and young researchers with scholarships from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia in its projects. In this way, it creates a skilled professional base of researchers and experts from its own ranks.

The institute has gone through various stages of development, depending on the social circumstances and state of the economy, factors which also affect planning and construction. The number of employees has varied, from an initial 5-6 experts to over 70, settling at 35-40 employees over the last decade or so. Regardless of which jobs have been current at a given time, the institute has never moved away from its core activities and has always developed, keeping pace with current trends in the fields it is engaged in and for which it was established.

So far, the institute has employed a total of about 250 workers. Considering the multidisciplinary approach typical for its activities, the institute collaborates with other related institutions: faculties, institutes, architectural and engineering companies, and professional associations, as well as with individual experts in specific fields. In particular, multidisciplinary teams have worked on scientific projects, spatial plans and major urban and architectural projects. Such practices have provided a flow of knowledge and ideas and enabled IAUS to be recognized by a broad professional and scientific public. For this reason, many of our employed researchers are involved in teaching at related faculties, and are mentors and members of different boards for acquiring scientific and professorial titles, as well as being on various city and republic committees and bodies related to the institute's work.

A number of extraordinary creators have worked at the institute or for its purposes, some of whom have later become academics at SANU (Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts): Aleksandar Deroko, Nikola Dobrović, Branislav Kojić, Ivan Antić, Djordje Zloković and Milan Lojanica. Special mention should be given to architect Milorad Macura, who was the first director of the independent institute and who, in addition to having a brilliant design career, initiated and laid the foundations for the integrated study of space as a new field in itself – spaciology. Furthermore, it is also important to mention the permanent external associate Dimitrija Perišić, who has for a long time been president of the IAUS Scientific Council, and is one of the founders of the Department of Spatial Planning at Belgrade University, at the Faculty of Geography.

The connection with the Faculty of Architecture in Belgrade stems from common areas of research that the institute and the faculty are engaged in, and well-known professors who have collaborated with IAUS have

also been its directors: academic Branislav Kojić, Uroš Martinović, Božidar Petrović, Dr. Ranko Trbojević, Vojislav Damnjanović, Dr. Djordje Simonović and others. Later, directors did not come from the ranks of the faculty: Dr. Mihailo Čanak, Dr. Nedeljko Borovnica, Dr. Nenad Spasić, who was the director of the institute for twenty years (1989-2010), and then Dr. Igor Marić, and Dr. Saša Milijić, director of the institute since 2015. The institute has a Board of Management, appointed by the Government of the Republic of Serbia.

All those who have worked in the Institute of Architecture and Urban & Spatial Planning of Serbia are credited with the fact that today it is still fulfilling the mission for which it was founded, and that its experts are known to the professional and even the general public because of its work in the profession and engagement in professional associations.

The question is often raised as to whether scientific work affects actual practice, and to what extent. This question is not difficult to answer considering facts that have been confirmed through the practice of the institute. We will mention two examples: scientific studies conceived by the idea of an integrated consideration of space and the interaction of all of the spatial factors with economics, engineering, humanities and architecture have resulted in the practice of spatial planning. Quite on the other hand, by exploring the possibility of applying a completely new prefabricated NS-71 structural system, representative residential complexes have been created in Novi Sad, and innovations in the IMS structural system have been applied in the Cerak Vineyards neighbourhood of Belgrade.

In practice, research has been carried out, the results of which have initiated advanced solutions in all aspects of IAUS's activities in spatial management, urban planning doctrine, the application of new planning methods and bioclimatic principles in architecture, as well as in general in the field of energy efficiency and environmental protection at all levels, from designing to planning.

Cooperation between the institute and industry is both permanent and necessary. The development and implementation of the Geographic Information System (GIS) in the field of spatial and urban planning is a key aspect of excellence that IAUS is recognized for.

One of the institute's important tasks is to study the national cultural and historical heritage and to engage in its affirmation and conservation in the field through expert, library and archival work.

IAUS publishes the most significant scientific and professional results in its two journals: *Spatium* and *Architecture and Urbanism*, which have become synonymous with durability and quality for researchers from Serbia and abroad. Results are also published in individual and group monograph publications by the institute, as well as in many foreign journals and at scientific conferences. The institute regularly organizes international scientific meetings that promote scientific results in the fields of planning, urban planning, architecture and civil engineering.

Some of the most important projects that have been fully or partially completed by IAUS should be highlighted:

Scientific research projects: there are about 120 domestic and foreign research projects related to the fields of technological development, basic research and integrated and interdisciplinary research. These include: "Mobile housing"; "The spatial development of rural areas and settlements in Serbia"; "Planning and spatial development in zones of major structural change. The case study of REIK Kolubara"; "The sustainable development of Serbian mountain areas"; The approach and concept for drafting Serbia's Spatial Development Strategy"; "Spatial, environmental, energy and social aspects of the development of settlements and climate change" and others.

Spatial plans: These include the Spatial plan of the Republic of Serbia (SPRS) from 1996, the SPRS from 2010; and the start of the work on the new SPRS, 2019. In addition to these are spatial plans for regions, protected natural resources, mining and energy complexes, mountainous areas, accumulation basins, infrastructure corridors and others.

General, detailed and regulatory urban plans for many cities and settlements: Valjevo, Knjaževac, Vršac, Požarevac, Topola, Prizren, Vrnjačka Banja, Bor, Budva, Bar, as well as tourist centres (Kopaonik, Stara planina, Divčibare), and others.

Urban and architectural projects: settlements in Novi Sad, Valjevo, Kikinda, Osijek, Cerak Vineyards neighbourhood and the centre of Belgrade's Palilula municipality, the Sunny Valley settlement in Mali Zvečan

and a large number of individual facilities for housing, industry, education and other purposes in numerous Serbian cities.

Major architectural projects: National Library, the Faculty of Philosophy and the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Engineering in Belgrade, Metals Bank in Novi Sad and others.

Science and art cannot develop without great commitment to and love for the work we do. What the institute accomplishes and provides through its scientific and professional work, in most cases, returns to it as recognition and reference to previous achievements, while today it serves as a pledge for the future.

Institute Director

Dr. Saša Milijić, Scientific Advisor