

Curriculum Vitae



Name **Dana Vais**

e-mail dana.vais@arch.utcluj.ro

nationality Romanian

date and place of birth March 6, 1965, Cluj

Academic credentials

- Date • 2013 **Habilitation** in architecture
- title Romanian Ministry of Education/Technical University of Cluj-Napoca
- institution Topic: "Marginal space"
- 1995-2000 **PhD degree** in architecture
- Ion Mincu University of Architecture and Urbanism, Bucharest
- Topic: "Expressionist features in contemporary architecture"
- 1983-1989 **Architect diploma**
- Institute of Architecture "Ion Mincu", Bucharest
- Specialization: Architecture and Systematization
- 1979-1983 **High school diploma / Baccalaureate**
- "Nicolae Bălcescu" High School, Cluj-Napoca
- Profile: Mathematics-physics

Professional experience

Current employer Higher education and research
TUCN - Technical University of Cluj-Napoca,
Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism
Str. Observatorului nr. 34-36, 400489 Cluj-Napoca, Romania

academic position *since 2014*: professor
2004 - 2014 : reader (associate professor)
2000 - 2004 : lecturer
1992 - 2000 : assistant

administrative task *since 2014*: Coordinator of doctoral programs in Architecture, Doctoral School of TUCN

other employments • June 1990 - January 1992
architect, Office for Heritage, History Museum of Transylvania, Cluj-Napoca
• October 1989 - June 1990
architect at the General Construction Enterprise Mureş, Tg. Mureş

Courses taught • **History of Modern and Contemporary Architecture (a.k.a. 20th Century Architecture)**, 3rd year (*since 1997*)
• **Theory of Architecture / Habitation**, 2nd year (*1995-2004; again since 2018*);
handbook: Dana Vais, *Locuire*, Universitatea Tehnică din Cluj-Napoca, 1997
• **Research in Architecture**, 5th year (*since 2014*);
handbook: Dana Vais, *Cercetare în arhitectură. O introducere*, UT Press, Cluj, 2015;
Dana Vais, *Etica cercetării în arhitectură*, UT Press, Cluj, 2018
• **Theory of Architecture / Local and Global in Contemporary Architecture**, 2nd year (*2004 - 2015*);
handbook: Dana Vais, *Global și Local în arhitectura contemporană*, UT Press, Cluj, 2011
• **Architecture Studio**, 3rd year (*1993 - 2018; studio coordinator 2004-2018*)

PhD supervision

since 2014

successful PhD dissertations:

- Dana Pop, *Arhitectură, percepție și fobii. Experimentând relația dintre spațiul arhitectural și fobiile spațiale majore / Architecture, perception and phobias. Experiencing the relationship between architectural space and the major space phobias*, June 2014
- Silvan Valentin Moldovan, *Premise pentru realizarea clădirilor înalte pe teritoriul României / Premises for the development of tall buildings in Romania*, June 2015
- Anca Simona Horvath, *Arhitectură, computație și natură. Modele din Natura organică și anorganică în arhitectura computațională / Architecture, computation and nature. Living and non-living natural models in computational architecture*, June 2015
- Silviu Medeșan, *Forma urmează situației. Orașul contemporan anticipat de situaționiști / Form Follows Situation. The Contemporary City Anticipated by the Situationists*, September 2017
- Cornelia Victoria Popescu (Costin), *Procese de generare formală a suprafețelor în arhitectura computațională / Processes of formal generation for surfaces in computational architecture*, October 2017
- Alexandru Nicolae Fleșeriu, *Arhitectura peisajului productiv în Cluj-Napoca. Producția alimentară în mediul urban românesc / Productive landscape architecture in Cluj-Napoca. Food production in Romanian urban environment*, February 2019
- Răzvan Potîng, *Cinematograful în România. O evoluție arhitecturală și socială / Cinemas in Romania. An architectural and social evolution*, July 2020
- Alexandru Sabău, *Arhitectură pe Hârtie. Forme alternative de creație de arhitectură în România anilor '80 / Paper Architecture. Alternative forms of architectural creation in the 1980s Romania*, September 2020
- Ramona Costea, *Cultura Memoriei. Metodă pentru o introspecție arhitecturală / Memory culture. A method for architectural introspection*, December 2020
- Eugen-Cristian Rus, *Arhitectura ca reprezentare a statului în Transilvania Interbelică / Architecture as state representation in interwar Transylvania*, September 2021
- Miruna Moldovan, *Locuirea de urgență în România: dimensiunea socială și legislativă a locuinței de necesitate / Emergency housing in Romania: The social and legislative dimension of the necessity home*, July 2022
- Katalin Tanczos, *In-Between Material Permanence and Digital Evanescence: Augmented Spaces in the Case of Festivals of Cluj-Napoca / Între permanență materială și efemeritate digitală: spații augmentate în cazul festivalurilor din Cluj-Napoca*, September 2022
- Bahijah Natsheh, *Assessing the Quality of Life in Public Affordable Housing Projects in Amman, the Capital of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan / Evaluarea calității vieții în proiectele publice de locuințe accesibile din Amman, capitala Regatului Hașemit al Iordaniei*, July 2024
- Romeo Emanuel Cuc, *Intenționalitate și excepționalitate în intervențiile de locuire colectivă socialiste din Târgu Mureș. Interpretarea conceptului de regenerare urbană*, septembrie 2024

Visiting appointments

• February-March 2022

Politecnico di **Milano**, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (DASU), lectures on Socialist Housing in Romania (master and PhD course level)

• March, October 2022

Politecnico di **Torino**, lectures on Socialist architecture in Romania (Doctoral Program)

• September 2019 - March 2020

research fellow in residence at the Israel Institute of Advanced Studies, the Hebrew University of **Jerusalem**

• June 2013, June 2010, June 2008

University of **Novi Sad** (Serbia), Department of Architecture and Urbanism

PhD program, course: Theories of Contemporary Architecture

• November 2009, November 2002

University of Technology and Economics, **Budapest** (Hungary), Faculty of Architecture, PhD program (2009), master program (2002), lectures on Contemporary Architecture in Romania

• May 2008, June 2006, May 2005, September 2002, April 1999, March-May 1996

Institut Supérieur d'Architecture Saint-Luc de Wallonie, **Liège** (Belgium)

postgraduate program on Preservation and Restoration (2002-2008), courses on 20th C. architecture; architecture undergraduate program, courses on Dwelling and architecture studio (1996, 1999)

• March 2007 - June 2007

University of **Cincinnati**, Ohio (USA), DAAP College, *School of Architecture*

Research Grants won by competition

architecture undergraduate program, vertical architecture studio, 2-4th year

- **October 1998 - January 2007**
University Babes-Bolyai **Cluj** (Romania) Faculty of History and Philosophy, Art History undergraduate program, one semester course on 20thC Architecture
- **March - June 1992**
École d'Architecture **Paris** - Belleville (France), undergraduate program, *stage pratique*: assistant, 4th year architecture studio.

Publications in English (selection)

- 2022 **Politecnico di Milano**, Visiting researcher (subject "Terms of Habitation")
 - 2019-2020 **IIAS Israel Institute of Advanced Studies**, Hebrew University, Jerusalem (member of the research group "Re-Theorizing Housing as Architecture")
 - 2007 **Fulbright Senior Research Grant**
University of **Cincinnati**, Ohio (USA), DAAP College, *School of Planning* (subject "Marginal Space")
 - 1996 **Tempus-Phare Fellowship**, Institut Supérieur d'Architecture Saint-Luc de Wallonie, **Liège** (Belgium), for documenting, research and editing of the university coursebook on Dwelling.
- articles**
- Dana Vais, "The Ideal Model of Socialist Modernism. Gheorgheni Housing Estate in Cluj", *docomomo Journal*, 68, 1/2023, pp.36-45
 - Dana Vais, "Systematization: A Key Term in 20th-Century Romanian Urbanism", *Urban Planning*, vol.7, no.1 (2022), pp.207-222 (**WoS** emerging/ **Scopus**)
 - Gaia Caramellino, Dana Vais, "Looking at the Circulation of Models and Ideas Beyond Political Barriers is of Crucial Importance", *sITA - Studies in History and Theory of Architecture*, 9/2021, pp.19-28, https://sita-uauim-ro.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/01_Caramellino_Vais.pdf
 - Dana Vais, "Housing Concepts: Addressing Habitation in Architecture's Terms", *sITA*, vol.9/2021 - *Ideas at Home. Housing Concepts in Architecture*, pp. 9-16, (**WoS / Arts and Humanities Citation Index, ERIH PLUS, Scopus, CEEOL**)
 - Dana Vais, "Type Projects as Tools: Housing Type Design in Communist Romania", *Architectural Histories*, 8, no.1 (2020):10, pp.1-17 (**WoS / Arts and Humanities Citation Index, Scopus**)
 - Dana Vais, "Exporting hard modernity: construction projects from Ceausescu's Romania in the 'Third World'", *The Journal of Architecture*, vol.17, no.3, 2012, pp.433-451, DOI:10.1080/13602365.2012.692611 (**WoS / Arts and Humanities Citation Index, Scopus**)
 - Dana Vais, "Comparing Perspectives. Writing about Communist Architecture and Urbanism at the Seaside", *HCM - International Journal for History, Culture and Modernity*, Vol. 4, no. 1/2016, pp. 13-28, Uopenjournals [Utrecht University]
DOI: <http://doi.org/10.18352/hcm.500> (**CrossRef, OAI-PMH**)
 - Dana Vais, "The Productive Role of Margins. Architectural Discourse in the Late 1960s Romania", *sITA*, vol.4/2016 - *Marginalia. Architectures of Uncertain Margins*, pp.202-215, (**WoS / Arts and Humanities Citation Index, ERIH PLUS, Scopus, CEEOL**)
 - Dana Vais, "From Escapism to Activism: Two Forms of Architectural Dissent in Romania", in: *Architecture and Culture* (Bloomsbury, London) vol.2 no.1, 2014, pp.26-43, DOI:10.2752/175145214X13796096691445 (**Scopus, Taylor & Francis**)
 - Vais, Dana. "Editing the Socialist Dwelling: Catalogues of Housing Type Projects in the 1960s and 1970s Romania", *Philobiblon. Transylvanian Journal of Multidisciplinary Research in Humanities* 23, no. 1 (2018): 121-145 (**ProQuest**)
 - Dana Vais, "Techniques of Happiness: Housing Prefabrication in Romania during the 1960s", in: *Centropa. A journal of Central European architecture and related arts* (New York), vol.13, nr.1, January 2013, pp. 18-35 (**Avery Periodicals Index**)
 - Dana Vais, "On the margins of urban Europe: housing policies in a secondary city (Cluj, Romania)", in: *Urban Research and Practice* (Routledge, UK), vol.2 nr.1, March 2009, pp.91-102, DOI:10.1080/17535060902727082 (**Scopus, Taylor & Francis**)
 - Dana Vais, "From house to residence. Peripheral growth in post-socialist Cluj", in: *Studia UBB Sociologia*, nr.1, 2009, pp. 57-78 (**CEEOL - Central and Eastern European Online Library**)

Book chapters

- Dana Vais, "The (in)Famous Anca Petrescu. Authorship and Authority in Romanian Communist Architecture 1977-1989", in: Mary Pepchinski, Mariann Simon (eds), *Ideological Equality. Women Architects in Socialist Europe*, Routledge, 2017, pp.139-154 (**Web of Science, Scopus**)
- Dana Vais, "'Social Efficiency' Versus 'Humanistic Specificity'. Double Discourse in Romanian Architecture in the 1960s", in: Ákos Moravánszky, Torsten Lange, Judith Hopfengärtner, Karl R. Kegler (eds), *East West Central: Re-Building Europe, 1950–1990*, 3 vols., Birkhäuser, Basel, 2017, vol.1., *Re-Humanizing Architecture. New Forms of Community, 1950-1970*, pp. 173-184
- Dana Vais, "National Assembly, Khartoum, Sudan - Cezar Lăzărescu"; "Civic Center, Satu Mare, Romania - Nicolae Porumbescu", in: Oliver Elser, Philip Kurz, Felix Torkar et. al. (eds.), *SOS Brutalism. A Global Survey*, Park Books, Zürich / **Deutsches Architekturmuseum**, Frankfurt/Main, 2017 pp.108-109, 396-399
- Dana Vais, "Secondary agency: learning from Boris Groys", in: Florian Kossak et al. (eds.), *Agency: Working with Uncertain Architectures*, Routledge, 2010, pp. 47-60 (**Scopus**)
- Dana Vais, "Diffuse transgression: making the city in the margins of the law", in: Louis Rice, David Littlefield (eds.), *Transgression. Towards an expanded field of architecture*, Routledge, 2015, pp. 102-112
- Dana Vais, "The degree zero of space: Romanian urban periphery interpreted through Andrea Branzi's theory", in: Ruth Morrow, Mohamed Gamal Abdelmonem (eds.), *Peripheries. Edge Conditions in Architecture*, Routledge, 2013, pp. 89-100
- Dana Vais, "In Quest of a New Modernity. An Insight into the Architectural Discourse in Romania", in: Levay-Kanyo Judit (ed.), *TRANSITIONS / Átmenetek*, Terc, Budapest, 2002, pp.69-93
- Dana Vais, "Identity, marginality and fiction. Architecture in Bucharest, Cluj and Timisoara", in: Levay-Kanyo Judit, Simon Mariann, Kerekgyarto Bela (eds.), *TRANSITIONS 2. On the Creation of Architectural Forms*, Terc, Budapest, 2006, pp. 53-91

Articles in the exhibition catalogues of the Romanian participations at the Venice Biennale

- Dana Vais, "Group picture with mechanism / Fotografie de grup cu mecanism", in: *Selfie Automaton*. Romanian Participation, **La Biennale di Venezia 2016**, 28 May - 27 November 2016, Exhibition guide, pp.25-42
- Dana Vais, "Modernization and Architecture in Romania 1914-2014", in: M. Sima et al. (eds.), *Site Under Construction*, Catalogue of the Romanian Pavilion at the 14th International Exhibition, **La Biennale di Venezia, 2014**, pp.81-84
- Dana Vais, "The Superb Suburbia. The Degree Zero of Urban Space", in: S. Aldea et al. (eds.), *Superbia, Romanian National Pavilion in the New Gallery of the Romanian Institute for Culture and Humanistic Research at the 12th International Architecture Biennale Venice*, Quaderni della Casa Romana di Venezia, VI/2010, pp. 23-25

in Romanian (selection)

- Dana Vais, *Ficțiunile arhitecturii*, Editura Paideia, București, 2008
- Dana Vais, *Arhi-texte / Arhi-texts*, Editura Fundației Arhitect, București, 2008
- Dana Vais, *Caractere expresioniste în arhitectura contemporană*, Presa Universitară Clujeană, Cluj, 2000
- translation into Romanian: Neil Leach, *Camuflaj*, Paideia, București, 2008
- 16 chapters in books – architecture and art (publishers: Paideia, Casa Cărții de Știință, Argonaut, Idea, Bybliotek, Ed. Fund. Arhitect, UT Press, Igloo)
- cca 80 articles in Romanian architecture, art and culture reviews : *Arhitect* (Bucharest), *Arhitectura* (The review of the Romanian Architects' Union, Bucharest), *de arhitectură* (Timisoara), *Idea* (Cluj), *Korunk* (Cluj).

Conference participations (selection)

- Dana Vais, "Optimistic and socially efficient. Large Housing Estates in 1960s Cluj, Romania" (**keynote** speaker), Conference "Optimistic Suburbia. Middle-Class Mass Housing Complexes", ISCTE Instituto Universitario de Lisboa, Lisbon 16-18 June 2021
- Dana Vais, "Prospect" (with the group "Re-Theorizing Housing as Architecture"): IIAS Workshop Words of Housing: Terms for an Architectural Manifesto, 27 November 2019, Technion, Haifa

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dana Vais, "Architects Displaced: Making Architecture at the Periphery in Communist Romania", <i>in extenso</i> in: Andres Kurg, Karin Vicente (eds), Proceedings of the Fifth International Conference of the EAHN - European Architectural History Network, Estonian Academy of Arts, 2018, Tallinn, ISBN 978-9949-594-64-1, pp.126-136 • Dana Vais, "The paradoxes of efficiency. Housing production in Romania in the late 1960s and early 1970s", <i>in extenso</i>, in: Kathleen James-Chakraborty (ed.), "Proceedings Of The Fourth International Conference Of The European Architectural History Network", EAHN, Dublin, Ireland, June 2-4 2016, UCD School of Art History and Cultural Policy, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin, pp.164-178, ISBN 978-1-5262-0376-2 • Dana Vais, "Defining Space and Spatial Metaphors. Architecture and Urban Space at the Margins", conference: "Defining Space", organized by AHRA, University College Dublin and Humanities Institute of Ireland, Dublin, October 11-13, 2007; abstract in: Hugh Campbell et. al. (eds.), <i>Defining Space</i>, UCD University College Dublin, 2007, pp. 85-86 • other participations at the annual AHRA (Architectural Humanities Research Association, UK) conferences: 2015 "This Thing Called Theory" (Leeds Beckett University, Leeds), 2013 "Transgression" (University of the West of England, Bristol), 2012 "The Paradoxes of Dissidence" (London Metropolitan University), 2011 "Peripheries" (Queen's University, Belfast), 2008 "Agency" (University of Sheffield) (see book chapters above) • Dana Vais, "Waterfronts and Backwaters. Urban Space and Architectural Developments in a Marginal Post-socialist City (Cluj, Romania)", <i>in extenso</i> in the <i>First Symposium on Waterfronts in the Danube Region - Book of Proceedings</i>, 3-6 March 2006, Novi Sad (Serbia), British Council / Department of Architecture and Urbanism, University of Novi Sad, pp. 26-46, ISBN 86-85211-74-3
Member in editorial boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Architecture and Culture</i> (UK, Taylor and Francis), ISSN: 2050-7828 (since 2019) • <i>sITA - Studii în Istoria și Teoria Arhitecturii</i> (Universitatea de Arhitectură și Urbanism Ion Mincu București), ISSN: 2457-1687 (online), 2344-6544 (print) (since 2013)
Peer review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>JoA - The Journal of Architecture</i> (RIBA, UK); <i>JUH - Journal of Urban History</i> (SAGE); <i>RTDSR - Traditional Dwellings and Settlements Review</i> (IASTE, Berkeley, USA); <i>sITA</i> (UAUIM, București)
Prizes and nominations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2017 Honorable Mention at the <i>Architecture Biennale of the Transylvania Order of Architects</i>, "for writing on architects and architecture" • 2009 The <i>Arhitext</i> review prize for architectural writing • 2007 The "<i>Professor Bologna Prize</i>" (awarded by the National Alliance of Student Organizations in Romania) • 2002 Nomination at the Architecture Biennale in Bucharest for the editing of the review <i>logiA - The Review of the Faculty of Architecture in Cluj</i> • 2007 and 2013 prizes awarded by the Technical University of Cluj (for research and teaching)
Languages	<p>Romanian (mother tongue)</p> <p>English and French.</p>

May 10, 2025