

Curriculum Vitae



Personal information

Dana Vais

Department of Architecture
Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning (FAU)
Technical University of Cluj-Napoca (TUCN)
room 6, 34-36 Observatorului str, 400489 Cluj
dana.vais@arch.utcluj.ro

Birth Date and Place
Nationality

March 6, 1965, Cluj
Romanian

Work experience

Higher Education and Research in Architecture

since Oct. 2014

Professor

Department of Architecture, FAU, TUCN
History of Modern and Contemporary Architecture - 20th Century - 3rd year (since 1997)
Architectural Theory - Habitation - 2nd year (1995-2004; since 2018)
Research in architecture - 5th year (since 2014)
Supervisor of diploma projects and dissertations - 6th year (since 2000)
Member of the 6th year graduation dissertation/diploma jury (since 2004)
Doctoral supervision (since Dec. 2013) - 12 successfully defended theses (2014-2022)

Coordinator of doctoral programs in architecture, TUCN Doctoral School (since Nov. 2014)
Member of the TUCN Ethics Commission (Oct. 2013 - Sept. 2019)
Member of the faculty board (since 2004)

Oct. 2004 - Oct. 2014

Associate Professor

Department of Architecture, FAU, TUCN
Architectural Theory - Global and Local in Contemporary Architecture - 2nd year (2004-2015)
Architectural Design Studio - 3rd year (1993-2018);
Coordinator of the 3rd year Architectural Studio (2004-2018)

Oct. 2000 - Oct. 2004

Lecturer

Department of Architecture, FAU, TUCN

Feb. 1992 - Oct. 2000

Assistant Professor

Department of Architecture, Faculty of Civil Engineering, TUCN

Jun.1990 - Jan. 1992

Architect

Office for Heritage, History Museum of Transylvania, Cluj-Napoca

Oct.1989 - Jun. 1990

Architect

General Enterprise Trust for Constructions-Assemblage Mureş, Tg. Mureş

Education / titles

2013

Habilitation in Architecture

Ministry of National Education / Technical University of Cluj-Napoca
Title of the habilitation thesis : "Marginal Spaces"

1995-2000

PhD in Architecture

University of Architecture and Urbanism "Ion Mincu", Bucharest
Architectural history, architectural theory
Title of the doctoral thesis: "Expressionist Features in Contemporary Architecture"
[in Romanian – "Caractere expresioniste în arhitectura contemporană"]
Supervisor: Prof. Aurelian Trișcu

1983-1989

Architect

Institute of Architecture "Ion Mincu", Bucharest
Diploma project grade - 10 (out of 10); *supervisor: Prof. Corneliu Ghenciu*

1979-1983

Baccalaureate

"Nicolae Bălcescu" High School, Cluj
Major Mathematics-Physics

Visiting Appointments

Feb-Mar 2022; Sept-Nov 2022

- **Politecnico di Milano**, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (DASTU) invited lectures in Housing History for the master and doctoral programs

Mar.2022, Oct.2022

- **Politecnico di Torino**

invited lectures on Housing History for the Doctoral Program

Sep.2019 - Mar.2020

- **Israel Institute of Advanced Studies**, the **Hebrew University of Jerusalem**
Research fellow in residence

June 2013, June 2010, June 2008

- **University of Novi Sad** (Serbia), Department of Architecture and Urbanism
PhD program, course: Theories of Contemporary Architecture

Nov.2009, Nov.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,

Sept. 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*
architecture undergraduate program,
teaching in the vertical architecture studio, 2-4th year

Oct. 1998 - Jan.2007

- **University Babeș-Bolyai Cluj** (Romania) Faculty of History and Philosophy,
Art History undergraduate program, semestrial course on 20thC Architecture

March - June 1992

- **École d'Architecture Paris - Belleville** (France), undergraduate program,
1 semester *stage pratique*: assistant professor, 4th year architecture studio.

Research Grants

2022

- **visiting researcher grant**

Politecnico di Milano, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (DASTU)
Topic: "Terms of Habitation" - 4 months residence

2019-2020

- **research group fellowship**

Israel Institute of Advanced Studies, the **Hebrew University of Jerusalem**

Member of the group "Re-theorizing the Architecture of Housing as Grounds for Research and Practice"; 10 months residence (reduced to 6 because of Covid19)

2007

- **Fulbright Senior Research Grant**

University of Cincinnati, Ohio (USA), DAAP College, *School of Planning*
(Topic: "Marginal Space") - 3 months residence

1996

- **Tempus-Phare Fellowship**

Institut Supérieur d'Architecture Saint-Luc de Wallonie, Liège (Belgium), for
documentation, research and editing of a university course on "Dwelling" - 3 months
residence

<p>Affiliations</p>	<p>Union of Romanian Architects (UAR) European Architectural History Network (EAHN) Architectural Humanities Research Association (AHRA) Documentation and Conservation of the Modern Movement, Romania (DOCOMOMO)</p>
<p>Prizes and Honourable mentions</p>	<p>2017 • BATRA - Transylvania Architecture Biennial honourable mention "for the best paper with and about architects"</p> <p>2009 • <i>The Arhitekt Journal Prize</i> for architectural writing</p> <p>2007 • "Professor Bologna" Prize (awarded by the National Alliance of Student Organisations in Romania)</p> <p>2002 • Bucharest Architecture Biennial honourable mention as editor of <i>logiA</i> - The Review of the Faculty of Architecture in Cluj</p> <p>2007, 2013 • prizes awarded by the TUCN (<i>The Ascanio Damian Prize</i>, for excellence in scientific research in architecture; <i>The Diploma of Excellence</i> and <i>TUCN Placheta Academica</i> for academic activity)</p>
<p>Editorial boards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>sITA - Studies in History and Theory of Architecture</i> (University of Architecture and Urbanism Ion Mincu, Bucharest), ISSN: 2457-1687 (online), 2344-6544 (print) (since 2013); guest editor of nr. 9/2021 (topic: Ideas at Home. Housing Concepts in Architecture) • <i>Architecture and Culture</i> (UK, Taylor and Francis), ISSN: 2050-7828 (since 2019)
<p>Peer-review</p>	<p><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>PERISTIL</i> (The Journal of the Croatian Society of Art Historians); Bloomsbury Publishing; Peter Lang Publishing.</p>
<p>Representative publications (in English)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dana Vais, "The Ideal Model of Socialist Modernism. Gheorgheni Housing Estate in Cluj", <i>docomomo Journal</i>, 68, 1/2023, pp.36-45 • Dana Vais, "Systematization: A Key Term in 20th-Century Romanian Urbanism", <i>Urban Planning</i>, vol.7, no.1 (2022), pp.207-222, DOI: https://doi.org/10.17645/up.v7i1.4791 • Gaia Caramellino, Dana Vais, "Looking at the Circulation of Models and Ideas Beyond Political Barriers is of Crucial Importance", <i>sITA - Studies in History and Theory of Architecture</i>, 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", <i>sITA - Studies in History and Theory of Architecture</i>, 9/2021, pp.9-16, https://sita-uauim-ro.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/00_Introduction_HousingConcepts.pdf • Dana Vais, "Type Projects as Tools: Housing Type Design in Communist Romania", <i>Architectural Histories</i>, 8, no.1 (2020):10, pp.1-17, DOI: http://doi.org/10.5334/ah.321 • Dana Vais, "The (in)Famous Anca Petrescu. Authorship and Authority in Romanian Communist Architecture 1977-1989", in: Mary Pepchinski, Mariann Simon (eds), <i>Ideological Equality. Women Architects in Socialist Europe 1945-1989</i>, Routledge, 2017, pp.139-154 • Dana Vais, "Social Efficiency" Versus "Humanistic Specificity". A Double Discourse in Romanian Architecture in the 1960s", in: Ákos Moravánszky, Torsten Lange, Judith Hopfengärtner, Karl R. Kegler (eds), <i>East West Central: Re-Building Europe, 1950–1990</i>, 3 vols., Birkhäuser – De Gruyter, 2016, pp. 101-112, vol.1 (volum post-conferința: "East West Central. Re-humanizing Architecture. New Forms of Community, 1950-70", ETH Zürich / GTA Institute for History and Theory of Architecture, May 16-17, 2014, Zürich) • Dana Vais, "Diffuse transgression: making the city in the margins of the law", in: Louis Rice, David Littlefield (eds.), <i>Transgression. Towards an expanded field of architecture</i>, Routledge, 2015, pp. 102-112 • Dana Vais, "From Escapism to Activism: Two Forms of Architectural Dissent in Romania", in: <i>Architecture and Culture</i> (Bloomsbury, London) vol.2 no.1, 2014, pp.26-43, DOI:10.2752/175145214X13796096691445 • Dana Vais, "Modernization and Architecture in Romania 1914-2014", in: M. Sima et al. (eds.), <i>Site Under Construction</i>, Catalogue of the Romanian Pavilion at the 14th International Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia, 2014, pp.81-84

- 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
- 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, "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 (**Routledge-RIBA**)
- Dana Vais, "Secondary agency: learning from Boris Groys", in: Florian Kossak et al. (eds.), *Agency: Working with Uncertain Architectures*, **Routledge, 2010**, pp. 47-60
- Dana Vais, "Comparing Perspectives. Writing about Communist Architecture and Urbanism at the Seaside", **HCM - International Journal for History, Culture and Modernity** 4, no.1 (**2016**): 13-28
- 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 Romena di Venezia**, VI/**2010**, pp. 23-25
- Dana Vais, "On the margins of urban Europe: housing policies in a secondary city (Cluj, Romania)", in: *Urban Research and Practice* (Taylor & Francis / **Routledge**, UK), vol.2 nr.1, March **2009**, pp.91-102, DOI:10.1080/17535060902727082
- Dana Vais, "The Productive Role of Margins. Architectural Discourse in the Late 1960s Romania", **sITA 4 - Marginalia. Architectures of Uncertain Margins (2016)**: 202-215
- Dana Vais, "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
- Dana Vais, "From house to residence. Peripheral growth in post-socialist Cluj", in: **Studia UBB Sociologia**, nr.1, **2009**, pp. 57-78
- 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
- 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

(in Romanian)

- Dana Vais, *Ficțiunile arhitecturii*, Editura Paideia, București, **2008**
- Dana Vais, *Caractere expresioniste în arhitectura contemporană*, Presa Universitară Clujeană, Cluj, **2000**
- The romanian translation of: Neil Leach, *Camuflaj*, Paideia, București, **2008**
- 14 book chapters
- cca 70 papers in Romanian architecture journals: *Arhitext* (Bucharest), *Arhitectura* (UA - Bucharest), *de arhitectură* (Timișoara); art and culture journals: *Idea* (Cluj), *Korunk* (Cluj).

Conference participation
(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"): IAS Workshop Words of Housing: Terms for an Architectural Manifesto, 27 November **2019**, **Technion, Haifa**
- Dana Vais, "Architects Displaced. Making Architecture at the Periphery in Communist Romania", in: Andres Kurg, Karin Vicente (eds), *Proceedings of the Fifth International Conference of the EAHN - European Architectural History Network*, **Estonian Academy of Arts, Tallinn, 2018**, pp.126-136
- Dana Vais, "The paradoxes of efficiency. Housing production in Romania in the late 1960s and early 1970s", in: Kathleen James-Chakraborty (ed.), *Proceedings Of The Fourth International Conference Of The European Architectural History Network - EAHN, June 2-4 2016*, UCD School of Art History and Cultural Policy, **University College Dublin**, Belfield, Dublin, Ireland, pp.164-178

- Dana Vais, "Defining Space and Spatial Metaphors. Architecture and Urban Space at the Margins", conferința: "Defining Space", organizată de *AHRA*, University College Dublin and Humanities Institute of Ireland, Dublin, October 11-13, **2007**; abstract in: Hugh Campbell et. al. (eds.), *Defining Space*, **UCD University College Dublin**, 2007, pp. 85-86
- **AHRA conferences** (Architectural Humanities Research Association, UK): 2008 "Agency" (University of **Sheffield**), 2011 "Peripheries" (Queen's University, **Belfast**), 2012 "The Paradoxes of Dissidence" (**London** Metropolitan University), 2013 "Transgression" (University of the West of England, **Bristol**) (see publications above), 2015 "This Thing Called Theory" (School of Architecture, **Leeds** Beckett University).

Language skills

Romanian – mother tongue
English, French – fluent
Italian – passive knowledge

Computer skills

Mac-OS/iOS, Microsoft Office, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe InDesign, Graphic Converter

December 14, 2023

