

# 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  
title **Habilitation** in architecture  
institution Romanian Ministry of Education/Technical University of Cluj-Napoca  
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 / Bacalaureate**  
"Nicolae Bălcescu" High School, Cluj-Napoca  
Profile: Mathematics-physics

## Professional experience

Higher education and research

**Current employer** 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;

## PhD supervision

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)

since 2014

### accomplished 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
- Silivan 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

## Visiting appointments

• February-March 2022

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

• 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*  
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.

## Research Grants

- 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.

## Publications

in English  
(selection)

### articles

- Dana Vais, "Systematization: A Key Term in 20th-Century Romanian Urbanism", *Urban Planning*, vol.7, no.1 (2022), pp.207-222 (**WoS emerging/ Scopus**)
- 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

#### **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 Romena 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
- Dana Vais, "Architects Displaced: Making Architecture at the Periphery in Communist Romania", *in extenso* 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", *in extenso*, 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.), *Defining Space*, 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)", *in extenso* in the *First Symposium on Waterfronts in the Danube Region - Book of Proceedings*, 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

- *Architecture and Culture* (UK, Taylor and Francis), ISSN: 2050-7828 (since 2019)
- *sITA - Studii în Istoria și Teoria Arhitecturii* (Universitatea de Arhitectură și Urbanism Ion Mincu București), ISSN: 2457-1687 (online), 2344-6544 (print) (since 2013)

### Prizes and nominations

- 2017 Honorable Mention at the *Architecture Biennale of the Transylvania Order of Architects*, "for writing on architects and architecture"
- 2009 The *Arhitext* review prize for architectural writing
- 2007 The "*Professor Bologna Prize*" (awarded by the National Alliance of Student Organizations in Romania)
- 2002 Nomination at the Architecture Biennale in Bucharest for the editing of the review *logiA* - The Review of the Faculty of Architecture in Cluj
- 2007 and 2013 prizes awarded by the Technical University of Cluj (for research and teaching)

### Languages

Romanian (mother tongue)  
English and French.