



Concerning the art and creativity complex “Santo Kirico”

Twenty -seven years ago the Union of Architects in Bulgaria and the International Academy of Architecture (an organization of consultative status with ECOSOC – UN) took the decision to build an art and creativity complex of their own. Bulgaria avails of many beautiful places, but the idea was the rich architectural traditions of the country to be emphasized too. This was the reason to approach the Metropolia of Plovdiv and to obtain a contract of unlimited duration for the construction of this complex, on a plot, where there used to be a monastery but at the concrete time only the remains of a church were there. The premises of the monastery – ramshackle structures of mud and stone were in ruins.

The idea was to bind the new art creative center of the UAB and IAA with the Bulgarian tradition. For that mater, the aforementioned contract had been signed. UAB and IAA took the obligation to renovate the icons in the church and the preserve it for the needs of the Metropolia of Plovdiv.

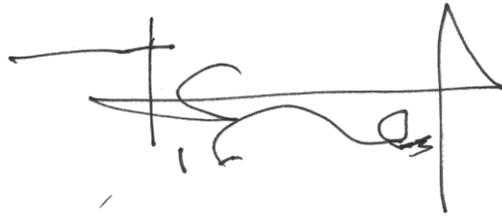
The creativity complex has been designed and erected, functioning as a contemporary center for art work. It comprises 6 collective work studios, 35 individual studios for work and recreation, conference hall for 200 people with translation and projection cabins, exhibition hall of 800 sq.m. area, a library, restaurant with up to date kitchen block, club, two coffee shops, disco-club, administration, storage area, central heating system and modern installations. The complex has been connected to the close by town of Assenovgrad by an asphalt road. The cost of the overall investment was about 7mln.US \$.

In the complex the UAB and IAA were carrying out educational courses, which numerous Bulgarian and foreign architects have taken advantage of. And all these was terminated when in 2013 a greedy new archbishop of Plovdiv considered the complex quite attractive. And started a fierce battle to affiliate and preempt the whole complex with the church.

As the Metropolia does nor avail of any property document whatsoever for the church as well, the issue was filed in the Court of Plovdiv, comprising the church and the creative complex. In result the Court took the decision to acknowledge the Metropolia of Plovdiv as owner of the whole complex!

An act so outrageous, it obviously excited the overall architecture society. We deem that the legal decision would be the church with the renovated icons to be acknowledged as Plovdiv Metropolia’s property, but the art and creativity complex, subject of the unlimited duration contract and totally erected and used by the UAB and IAA, to be acknowledged undoubtedly property of the UAB.

On the 11th of February 2015 the case is to be ruled by the Supreme Court of Bulgaria.

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Architect Georgi Stoilov, Academician

President of the International Academy of Architecture
On behalf of the Initiative Committee

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Sofia, Bulgaria