

# Minimum Documentation Fiche 2003

composed by national/regional working party of:

0.1 Picture of building/site

depicted item:

source:

date:

## 1. Identity of building/group of buildings/urban scheme/landscape/garden

1.1 **current name of building** Politechnical University of Bucharest – Faculty of Electrotehnics, Telecommunications and Information Technology

1.2 **variant or former name** The new building of the "Ștefan Gheorghiu" Academy –

1.3 **number & name of street** bd. no.1-3, Iuliu Maniu Bd

1.4 **town** București

1.5 **province/state** -

1.6 **zip code** 061071

1.7 **country** ROU

1.8 **national grid reference** 44°25'59"N 26°3'23"E

1.9 **classification/typology** EDC

1.10 **protection status & date** the listing as historic monument is being prepared

## 2 History of building

2.1 **original brief/purpose** 1971

2.2 **dates: commission/completion** 1975

2.3 **architectural and other designers** Constantin Rulea (architect manager), Mircea Anania, Octav Dumitriu I. Găleşanu, I. Lucacel, V. Țelea (architects) .

2.4 **others associated with building:** the furniture was designed by architects Victor Abraham, A. Popescu, M. Boengiu, Petre Silaghi, Rodica Matache, C. Vișan.. Resistance of materials: engineers T. Popp, M. Mironescu, S. Gavrilescu, A. Bortnowschi, V. Sava, A. Crăciun, C. Radu, Gh. Bratu. Electrical installations: engineers: V. Marinescu, A. Băilescu, I. Roșca, D. Scărlătescu.. Acoustic works: engineers A. Necșulea, N. Wegener. Technical and sanitary works: engineers N. Predeleanu, M. Oniga, C. Mechanical works: engineers I. Filimon, I. Ciurez. Exterior installations: engineers S. Toader, R. Busuioc. Garden designers: engineers P. Furtuna, R. Frantz

2.5 **significant alterations with dates**

2.6 **current use** EDC

2.7 **current condition** good condition

## 3 Description

3.1 **general description** It is a building of a rectangular plan, with its long axis parallel to Iuliu Maniu Bd., and with four aisles of unequal dimensions, which close

around a patio. From the point of view of the spatial composition, the aisles towards Iuliu Maniu Bd. and Geniului Bd., which develop vertically, represent the main volumetric component of the edifice; the height of this volume is balanced, towards the bottom, by a succession of short volumes in jutting. The other two volumes, towards the old building and the yard, also of small height, make the connection with the old campus. As far as interior layout is concerned, it is worth noticing the building organization according to functions. At the basement level there were ancillary – the library's stock, the clothes room, a buffet-bar and the technical spaces. The ground floor, the mezzanine and the first floor have both common spaces and spaces which are considered as representative. There is an ample hall on three storeys with pilasters; it should also be remarked the unevenness of the pavement and the curves of the mezzanine and of the first floor. The perspective towards the interior yard gives elegance and transparency to this space; the stairway contributes also to the elegant view of the hallway. The hall permits the access to the three amphitheatres, of 100 seats, of 250 seats and the aula of 500 seats; in the hallway there is a small commercial space and also, the access way to the library. At mezzanine, the library, a documentation point and an expositional space were provided. The first floor keeps the tradition of the "noble floor"; here besides the amphitheatres of 100, 250 and 500 places which are developed around the wide common spaces, there are also the other representative spaces: vice-chancellorship, the council room, the TV studio. On the current levels, class and studying rooms were provided - laboratories, small projection rooms, offices for teaching staff, and on the eighth floor, a dividable room. The interiors, at least on the first three levels, are very carefully designed without using any precious finishing. The architecture's expressivity is a result of the modular structure and of the construction materials which were used (for example, the precast caskets left apparent on the ceiling, the module screens which mask the access to the sanitary places). The amphitheatres enjoy a special attention as far as the interior spaces are concerned – the walls plated with vitrified brick in the dye of desk and ceiling wood, which gives these spaces the impression of unity and intimacy. On the exterior side, the general impression given by the severity of the concrete and the successiveness of the bearing panels of the current floors is softened by the warmer chromatics and the smoother surface of some large vertical surfaces, plated with face brick. As opposed to these, the first three levels of the main wings and the small height wings owe their architectural expressivity to the way of valorising the functions of the interior spaces in the exterior volumetric aspect. The main entrance is also remarkable, its solemnity being given by the colossal pilasters, which, in more refined forms, are met with all the public edifices built in Bucharest in the modern period.

The building was provided with special technical endowments – a TV studio which is completely equipped and which can use all the capabilities of a TV network with a closed circuit, also can provide simultaneous translation in different languages for all amphitheatres, etc.

**3.2 construction** precast concrete (precast panels, precast caskets, precast coffers)

**3.3 context** Former building of The "Ștefan Gheorghiu" Academy and the campus. While the old buildings are integrated in the neighboring, characterized by alignments of short buildings, the vertically developed volumes of the new building of The "Ștefan Gheorghiu" Academy and of the new hostel, mark a change of volumetric design.

## 4 Evaluation

**4.1 technical** As the architect manager declared in an interview (architect Constantin Rulea, "*Academia „Ștefan Gheorghiu București*", in "Arhitectura" Review, no. 5/1977, p. 10), because "the execution works needed to be finalized in extremely short timeframes", the designers used constructive systems in which "the precast concrete... should have had a large weight of the built volume... for the fronts of the current floors, bearing precast panels were used. For the platforms, on the first three levels, wherever it was possible, precast caskets were used, for the platforms of the superior levels precast coffers were used. On the other hand, the chosen constructive system imposed the necessity to adopt a common modular designing system for all spaces (1.26 meters)".

### 4.2 social

Beginning with the '60s and especially in the '70s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, due to a positive demographic evolution, the Romanian education of all degrees has extended. Within the same process, the number of higher education centres has increased considerably and their territorial distribution has changed. The foundation of new superior education centres and the extension of the existing ones have determined a vivid constructive activity in this domain. During this time, The Polytechnic Institute of Bucharest, The National Centre for Physics of Măgurele, The Oil and Gas Institute of Ploiești, The Economic Sciences University of Iași etc. were built, among others. The analyzed building is also part of this tendency and also, by its initial destination, it is representative, on a material level, for the beginning of the final phase of communist ideology in Romania, when the sole party has taken control over all aspects of the scientific life in the country. The "*Ștefan Gheorghiu*" Academy developed its activity under the management of The Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party, taking over, from the Romanian Academy and concentrating under its authority, all the research institutes in the field of social sciences (e.g. Institute of Economic Research, Institute of Art History).

**4.3 cultural & aesthetic** Although, due to the initial destination, the new location of The "*Ștefan Gheorghiu*" Academy possesses endowments which were not common for the places of higher education built in the same period, the analyzed building is considered as representative for the program of education facilities built in the contemporary period in Romania. Due to the period in which this building was achieved – the beginning of the nationalist-communist epoch in Romania, and due to the ideological "closure" of that era, taking also into consideration the initial destination of the building – that of an institution of education which trained the superior staff of the Communist party -, the affiliation of the analyzed building to the brutalist style could not be asserted explicitly. However, there is a general consensus among the architects that the new location of The "*Ștefan Gheorghiu*" Academy is the first brutalist building in Romania. From a urban point of view, the insertion way of the new buildings in the general layout influences positively the aspect of one of the most important entrance roads to Bucharest and also the aspect of a special historical objective of the city (the building is close to the former royal residence – today - the presidential administration, being also close to the botanical gardens).

**4.4 historical** In an article referring to the "Architectural Act in the constructions for education" ("Arhitectura" Review, no. 4-5/1981, p. 86-90), architect Ion Mircea

Enescu considered the new building of The “Ștefan Gheorghiu” Academy in Bucharest, as “a true rejuvenation in the university construction architecture. Rejuvenation due to the energy ..... with which it was implanted in the intersection between two important traffic roads, the clearness of the design, the simple relations between functions and the indisputable architectural posture... doubled by a special care for detail and an execution which few constructions can prove, the “Ștefan Gheorghiu” Academy can be considered as one of the reference works. I foresee that its value already influences and will continue to influence our contemporary architecture in the future as well, not only in the construction field for education”.

**4.5 general assessment** There is a general consensus in the architects community that the edifice of The “Ștefan Gheorghiu” Academy is the first building built in the brutalist style in Romania.

## **5 Documentation**

### **5.1 principal references**

- Architect Constantin Rulea, *Academia Ștefan Gheorghiu București*, in “Arhitectura” Review, no. 5/1977, pages 9-20.
- Architect Ion Mircea Enescu, *Actul arhitectural în construcțiile pentru învățământ*, in “Arhitectura” Review, no. 4-5/1981, pages 86-90

### **5.2 visual material attached**

### **5.3 rapporteur/date**

## **6 Fiche report examination by ISC/R**

name of examining ISC member:

date of examination:

approval:

working party/ref. n°:

NAI ref. n°:

comments:

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