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## IN MEMORIAM

### **Dr Nada Milašin (1929-2022), through the prism of her work at the Institute of Architecture and Urban & Spatial Planning of Serbia**

Dr Nada Milašin (maiden name Živković) was the only child of her parents, mother Evica and father Ljubomir and from her earliest childhood, Nada showed a desire for learning and knowledge – so her parents decided, which was very rare at that time, to send her to the grammar school in Prijedor after she had finished her primary education in Drvar in 1938 or 1939. At the beginning of the Second World War, in 1941, Nada found herself with her parents in Drvar and then, as a twelve-year-old, she was accepted into League of Communist Youth of Yugoslavia (SKOJ). During the Italian occupation, Nada and her mother were in prison in Knin from November 1942 to September 1943, i.e. until the capitulation of Italy. At the age of 14, Nada was the only young woman from Drvar sent to a coding course at the Supreme Headquarters of the People's Liberation Army. There were a total of 12 of them who attended that course, not far from the famous cave in Drvar. The head of the course was Branka Savić, the wife of professor and future academic Pavle Savić, who is assumed to have created the code, and the course itself took place in the greatest possible secrecy. This circumstance, i.e. the acquaintance with Pavle Savić, largely determined Nada's later orientation towards scientific and research work.

Nada survived Operation Drvar, a German operation in May and June 1944 whose goal was to capture Josip Broz Tito and remove the leadership of the Partisan movement in Yugoslavia. A few weeks after the operation, Nada, according to a previous command, joined the headquarters of the Fifth Corps as a code reader, where she carried out tasks from May to December 1944. In that period, as a code reader, not as a fighter with a rifle, she participated in the operations to liberate Banja Luka and Travnik, and in other actions of the Fifth Corps. Then a dispatch arrived from Belgrade, which was liberated in October 1944, that Nada should join the code department at the Supreme Headquarters. From the Supreme Headquarters, she was assigned to the Headquarters of the People's Defence Corps of Yugoslavia (KNOJ), where she worked as a code reader, including working in its counterintelligence service (KOS KNOJ), until demobilization in 1947. Then, Nada went to study in the Soviet Union at the Mendeleev University of Chemical Technology, but due to a resolution of the Informburo, she returned to Belgrade after a year, where she graduated from the Faculty of Technology. After completing her studies, she was employed at the Nuclear science Institute "Boris Kidrič" (present "Vinča" Nuclear Institute), where she continued her collaboration with Dr Pavle Savić. From 1964 until 1968, she stayed at the Saclay Nuclear Center in Paris, where she worked on the problem of the impact of radioactive radiation on the construction materials of nuclear reactors. She received her doctorate there in 1971 (doctorat ès sciences physiques) with very high marks, which are rarely obtained for a doctorate – très honorable. After that, Dr Nada Milašin returned to "Vinča", following which from 1976 to 1985, she was at the Federal Executive Council (SIV), as an advisor for environmental field. She jokingly said that since she had

become involved in ecology, it was her "atonement" for her nuclear sins.

She was a doyen in the field of environmental protection in the SFRY (almost three decades of work in this field), where she worked as an advisor at the Federal Secretariat for the Protection of the Human Environment and a senior research associate at the Institute of Architecture and Urban & Spatial Planning of Serbia. She was one of the first proponents of developing Environmental Impact Analysis in SFRY. With her husband Marko, a diplomat and ambassador of the SFRY, she lived and worked in Hungary, France and a number of African countries (Algeria, Senegal and Gabon). Dr Nada Milašin taught at the École Nationale Polytechnique (Department Mines et Metallurgie), and at the University of Algiers as a nuclear physicist (1973-1975), as well as at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering in Belgrade (1962). Later, she taught in the field of environmental protection at the Faculty of Architecture in Belgrade (1994-1996), and worked in the Atomic-Biological-Chemical Administration of the SFRY.

In the early 1980s, the Institute of Architecture and Urban & Spatial Planning of Serbia endeavoured to improve its scientific research work and increase its scientific research staff. In that period, in addition to existing researchers at the Institute acquiring different scientific and research titles, the Institute took on a large number of researchers in the scientific profession, among them Dr Nada Milašin (1985).

Upon her arrival at the Institute, Dr Nada Milašin was immediately involved as an environmental associate in existing and new scientific research projects for the development of the Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia, as well as spatial plans for special purpose areas and some urban plans. My collaboration with her involved scientific research projects and spatial plans related to spatial development and environmental protection in large mining basins (Bor-Majdanpek, Kolubara, Kosovo-Metohija).



*Nada Milašin (second on the left) attending the opening ceremony of the Belgrade Book Fair*

During her time at the Institute, Dr Nada Milašin had certain responsibilities in the area of publishing. First of all, it should be noted that she was the first Editor-in-Chief of the international journal *Spatium*, from its launch in 1997 at the Institute of Architecture and Urban & Spatial

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Planning of Serbia, until issue 19 from March 2009. For a time, she was president of the Institute's publishing council, and in this capacity, she prepared the presentation of the Institute's new publications at Belgrade Book Fair as part of the Ministry of Science stand. Nada and I (as the Director) attended the opening ceremony of the Belgrade Book Fair several times and participated in the presentation of the Institute's publications. Our joint photo is from one such ceremony (see the photo on a previous page).

During her work at the Institute, until her retirement (and after that) Dr Nada Milašin published a large number of scientific and professional papers, chapters in books, and she participated in numerous national and international scientific conferences.

It is little known that Nada Milašin also wrote poetry in her free time for her own enjoyment, poetry which was often humorous. She wrote children's poems (one book) as well as the books *Priručnik / The Guide* (1985), *Senegalski dani / Senegal days* (2008), and *Tuđe riječi i misli (Citati) / Other people's words and thoughts (Quotations)* (2008). Nada wrote and published reportages from the countries in which she resided as a wife of a diplomat. She also translated from French to Serbian. Thus, Nada's translation of a poem (from 1982) was published in the journals *Šume* and *Drvotehnika* in articles by Slavka Zeković and Ratko Ristić respectively in 2016, as well as in an interview with Nada Milašin in *Drvotehnika* in 2017, and here it is in Serbian, with an abbreviated version in English:

**Molitva šume** (Translated from French by Nada Milašin)

Čoveče!

Ja sam toplota tvoga ognjišta u hladnim zimskim noćima.

Prijateljska hladovina kad sunce letnje žeže.

Ja sam sleme tvoje kuće, daska tvoga stola.

Ja sam ležaj na kome spavaš i drvo od koga brodove svoje gradiš.

Ja sam ručka tvoje motke i vratnica tvoga dvorišta.

Ja sam drvo tvoje kolevke i tvoga posmrtnog kovčega.

Čoveče!

Saslušaj moju molitvu:

Pusti me da živim i da smirujem klimu da bi ti se rascvetalo cveće.

Pusti me da živim i zadržavam tajfune, da zaustavljam peščane oluje.

Pusti me da živim da obuzdam vetrove i oblake, da svetu nosim kišu.

Pusti me da živim da bih sprečila poplave.

Ja sam majka svih reka jer su potoci moja deca.

Ja sam bogastvo Zajednice jer su sela sa mnom imućnija.

Ja ukrašavam tvoju zemlju svojom zelenom odećom.

Čoveče!

Ja sam duša tvoje domovine.

Usliši moju molitvu:

Ne uništavaj me!

**Prayer of the Woods** (an abbreviated version)

I am the heat of your hearth on the cold winter nights,  
the friendly shade screening you from the summer sun,  
and my fruits are refreshing draughts quenching your thirst  
as you journey on.

I am the beam that holds your house, the board of your  
table,  
the bed on which you lie, and the timber that builds your  
boat.

I am the handle of your hoe, the door of your homestead,  
the wood of your cradle, and the shell of your coffin.

I am the bread of kindness and the flower of beauty.

Ye who pass by, listen to my prayer: Harm me not.

*Dr Nenad Spasić,  
Architect*