

Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences



Graduation Plan: All tracks

Submit your Graduation Plan to the Board of Examiners (Examencommissie-BK@tudelft.nl), Mentors and Delegate of the Board of Examiners one week before P2 at the latest.

The graduation plan consists of at least the following data/segments:

Personal information	
Name	Thif Tahtah
Student number	4645138

Studio	
Name / Theme	Social sustainability in urban development
Main mentor	Yawei Chen Urban Development Management
Second mentor	Fred Hobma Design and Construction Management
Argumentation of choice of the studio	Interest in human aspect of urban development. Recognizing that urban planning extends beyond physical structures, I am interested in understanding and addressing the social dimensions, such as community, inclusivity, and participation.

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	A look into private-led participation: Navigating shifting responsibilities between private developers and municipalities in urban regeneration projects.
Goal	
Location:	Netherlands, emphasizing on Amsterdam in the empirical part.
The posed problem, research questions and design assignment in which these result.	
<p>The posed problem:</p> <p>In recent years, Dutch planning practices have seen a notable shift towards private sector-led participation processes. These initiatives are 'led' by property developers and 'facilitated' by local planning authorities aimed to realize both planning, market and social objectives. However, there is limited academic attention on the changing roles of public and private actors and how they decisively organize and manage these private-led processes in practice. This paper delves into the roles played by municipalities and developers, drawing empirical insights from the practices observed in Dutch participation processes.</p>	

Research questions:

MQ: What are the changing roles of private developers and municipalities, and how can they collaborate to enable private-led participation processes?

RQ1: What are the roles that private developers and municipalities play in private-led participation processes?

RQ2: What are the barriers and enablers of private-led participation processes?

RQ3: What best practices can be suggested to improve the collaboration between private developers and municipal authorities in private-led participation processes?

Design assignment:

- (1) Generate a conceptual understanding about the organizational and managerial roles of planners and developers, in order to make a theoretically informed contribution to planning research.
- (2) Generate a understanding of the key components of participation processes and their barriers and enablers discussed in academic research.
- (3) Empirically assess planner and developer roles in participation processes, in order to generate valuable lessons for planning practice.
- (4) Empirically assess the barriers and enablers of private-led participation process, drawing lessons for planning practice.

Process

Method description

The main research design will be a multiple case study and complemented by a literature review to generate conceptual variables that can be used to conduct empirical research. The case study research will include semi-structured interviews with private developers and municipal planning authorities involved in the cases. Furthermore, available documents of the project, such as development agreements, planning briefs will be examined.

The private-led participation processes are selected on the basis of a set of selection criteria, which include: Private-led participation processes involving private developers, municipal authorities, and citizens; participation process where the private developer initiates and municipality facilitates; within the municipality of Amsterdam; (almost) completed projects; and access to data and willingness of public and private participants to be interviewed.

Literature and general practical references

I intend to consult literature on changing roles of state, market and civil society and participation, both in a general wider perspective and also narrowed down to planning related practices and the Dutch context.

Furthermore, I intend to consult

Reflection

1. What is the relation between your graduation (project) topic, the studio topic (if applicable), your master track (A,U,BT,LA,MBE), and your master programme (MSc AUBS)?

Studio topic:

Participation processes could lead to more sustainable development by ensuring that diverse perspectives are considered, fostering inclusivity, and promoting social cohesion within urban communities. By analyzing the changing roles of developers and municipalities, both influencing these processes, a better understanding of barriers and enablers can be drawn. This could lead to practical insights of private-led participation processes, which can influence the and contribute to sustainable urban.

Master track MBE

Analyzing how private and public roles evolve and influence private-led participation contributes to the landscape of management within the built environment. My research not only addresses the practical aspects of how urban projects are influenced by different actors but also sheds light on the organizational strategies and managerial approaches adopted by both public and private entities involved.

Master program:

The master's program consists of a range of fields associated with the built environment, encompassing architecture, urbanism, and building sciences. My research is positioned within the domain of urban planning and management, serving as a crossroads between urbanism and building sciences. It delves into the intricate dynamics of overseeing urban development projects, particularly the collaborative efforts between public and private entities. Moreover, my focus extends to the intangible human dimension influenced by such collaborations, emphasizing the role of participation in shaping urban development.

1. What is the relevance of your graduation work in the larger social, professional and scientific framework.

Societal:

By emphasizing the interconnectedness between private-led participation and social sustainability, the research aims to contribute to the broader discourse of sustainable development, highlighting the role of collaborative and participatory approaches in fostering better participation processes.

Given the recent legislative changes and the implementation of The New Environmental Act, this research aims to clarify the societal implications and challenges associated

with increased responsibility placed on private developers to facilitate citizen participation. This change highlights an importance for understanding the roles and relationship between public and private entities in light of private-led participation.

Furthermore, with a focus on the changing role of municipalities, the study intends to explore the relationships and dynamics inherent in private-led participation processes. Through examining the role of private developers and municipalities in private-led urban projects, the study aims to foster a deeper understanding of what this implies for the cooperative mechanisms required for private-led participation.

Scientific:

The research on private-led participation aims to bridge the gap between theory and practice by examining academic studies on role shifts in private-led development, barriers and enablers for state-led participation, and collaboration between developers and municipalities in real-life scenarios. The aim is to empirically test and validate established theories in practice, addressing a significant gap in existing literature on private-led participation. This contributes theoretical insights to this field.

The integration of knowledge from these diverse fields reflects the interdisciplinary nature of this research, wherein the integration of social studies and private-led development studies is vital for creating a comprehensive framework that addresses the complexities and intricacies of private-led citizen participation. This integration aims to foster a more nuanced approach to participatory urban development.