

# 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](mailto: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	Tessa den Hartog
Student number	4370570

Studio		
Name / Theme	Graduation Laboratory MBE- theme 4 post pandemic	
Main mentor	Aksel Ersoy	Urban Development
Second mentor	Fred Hobma	Building Law
Argumentation of choice of the studio	There were lots of topics allowed in this theme, this gave more freedom. Citizen's participation and urban area development are both interesting topics and these were both part of the theme. I am curious about the influence of citizens on urban area planning and governmental decisions. Government might want to have more support and trust from citizens about their decisions.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	The added value of a local referendum in urban area development
Goal	
Location:	Netherlands and Amsterdam IJburg
The posed problem,	<p>[Problem Statement]</p> <p>The democratization of the city is a topic of societal relevance of today, whereby municipalities are searching for ways to include their citizens during plan developments. The municipal council has obtained the power to make the decisions for the municipality by the city voters based on the municipal law. However some topics arise more friction between the government and citizens which can lead to a local referendum. Besides this, there is a need of extra legitimization on certain topics and a referendum can be used. A local referendum is an unique instrument for the municipality to ask the citizens for their advice in order to make a legitimate decision on a specific matter. The outcome of the referendum can therefore be useful to support and validate the reasoning of the decision making in urban planning.</p>

research questions and	<i>What is the added value of a local referendum for urban area development?</i>
design assignment in which these result.	An evaluation of the referendum as an instrument in urban area development.

[This should be formulated in such a way that the graduation project can answer these questions. The definition of the problem has to be significant to a clearly defined area of research and design.]

By studying a local referendum about urban area development from the past, an evaluation and insights can contribute to the understanding of the added value of this instrument in urban area development. The aim of this study is to evaluate the influence of local referendums in urban area development. With a case study on the referendum in IJburg as an extreme case. This evaluation can lead to insights for future local referendums and how they can be improved (do's and don'ts).

## **Process**

### **Method description**

[A description of the methods and techniques of research and design, which are going to be utilized.]

This research will be exploratory research. The research question will be answered by available scientific literature, policy documents, and acquired qualitative data. Available scientific literature on local referendums in general and cases in other countries will be used to gain a better understanding of the use of this instrument in general. Policy document and governmental websites can be analyzed for a better understanding of the situation in a specific municipality or area.

In addition, a case study on the referendum of IJburg will be done. Qualitative data will be collected by 15 semi-structured interviews with actors in a case study and experts on referendums in the Netherlands. For example, who were involved in the project IJburg which got interrupted by a local referendum.

## **Literature and general practical preference**

[The literature (theories or research data) and general practical experience/precedent you intend to consult.]

The research question will be answered by literature and qualitative data. I will use literature about the drivers for land reclamation, literature about referendums and local referendums in general, including cases in other countries. Besides literature about public values. Besides this, the city archive is used as a source for data collection on the case study.

## **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)?
2. What is the relevance of your graduation work in the larger social, professional and scientific framework.

1. The relationship between the topic and my master track MBE is related to urban planning. In MBE we have learned already some other instruments on how government can steer private parties. However now it is about the relationship between citizens and government.

The relationship between the topic and studio topic is a bit different. However, we can say that the pandemic changed our lives, and maybe we have different values or want to have more influence on urban area planning and governmental decisions. Government might want to have more support and trust from citizens about their decisions. However, it is still related to the citizens participation in urban area development.

The topic is related to my master program MSC AUBS because a local referendum can interrupt the building process of each stakeholder. Afterall we built for the use of citizens, therefore support by citizens would be an advantage.

2. There is already some democratization going on city level, for example citizens participation. This is also visible in the municipal vision of Amsterdam. Recently, the municipality of Amsterdam decided to make the procedure for city referenda more accessible for citizens. This shows that the city referenda as an instrument is still of importance until today. The government want to build the city for the citizens and therefore support though a city referenda is contributing to their urban development plans.