Chapter 7 - Reflection

This research has been something quite challenging and has changed a lot over the past few months. Intentionally it started off by doing an assessment in how tenants should be included in deep-renovations of their homes in order to improve their mental satisfaction, something that cannot be researched upon very easy. It became clear that this is not doable and a complete shift in focus was necessary in order to progress, which also resulted in an extended period of time for the research, but eventually really was the best choice I could have done. The focus towards the heat transition and the challenges that comes with this, especially since it is an important focus point and hot topic for the Netherlands, made it quite interesting for multiple parties.

The feedback of the mentors, a total of three, was sometimes confusing and overwhelming due to all their various disciplines and views on the research, and aligning this with my view and focus points was sometimes difficult. It was helpful and all feedback was well-founded and resulted in a much more doable research given the time and resources. I learned that conducting a research is keeping in mind the several layers that should be thought upon. Everything should be clear and have an in-depth reasoning in why what is researched, is important. Even though it sometimes is really overwhelming, remaining calm and listening to what is said will really help getting a result to be proud of and that is also valuable for the greater society.

The approach used in the research worked for the most part. The goal was to identify multiple aspects regarding the adoption of heat grids, and the different methods used to gather data, provided useful data. In order to establish a well-defined method in which the results will be as expected or wished was quite hard and needed lots of reconsideration to fine-tune every part of it. The hardest part is that from the start, it is uncertain whether the stakeholders involved in your selected case are willing to cooperate, this cannot be influenced and is difficult. Once this succeeded, the rest of the research and its methods worked quite well. In general it would have been nice if the views of the tenants from the cases was researched upon, but this appeared to be really difficult and unreachable. Since this was a critical element, a different approach was necessary and thank to the mentors a good alternative in intercept interviews was chosen, which gave some interesting views. Overall, the approached that was used is not perfect and does not include all the necessary parts to give a really in-depth answer that is validated by multiple instances, but it does give a really good overview of the current strategies used by the stakeholders, and what its effects and effectiveness are. These are valuable insights for stakeholders that are currently struggling with this communication part. This is a start, and additional researches can dive more in-depth in certain aspects to provide more answers and get a better understanding.

The climate change is real, and we will have to deal with this. Heat grids are one of the solutions to deal with this problem and it interesting to see how several instances deal with the implementation of those heat grids. Social housing is an important but also difficult sector to include, due to various views of the tenant and other societal problems this group experiences, and especially for this group it is so important to include them, listen to them and give them a sense of involvement by communicating in a clear and profound way. It is known that especially this group finds it more difficult to adopt new technologies in their homes, so a tenant-friendly approach in which communication and feedback are researched upon will make the difference in how heat grids are adopted.