Reflection – Milan Bezem 5331749

This graduation project, developed within the MBE track of the MSc AUBS programme, investigates how collaboration between key actors in the construction value chain can enable the reuse of structural components. The topic aligns closely with the MBE focus on process management, stakeholder alignment, and sustainable development, while also contributing to the broader ambition of circular construction practices. It aligns with the MBE focus by not only addressing technical barriers but also proposing process-oriented strategies that strengthen crossactor collaboration and sustainable development, which is a key focus in both the MBE track and the MSc AUBS program.

Initially, the research aimed to explore both the barriers to reuse and the strategies to overcome them. However, the balance between these two goals was not optimal. A large part of the research focused on identifying and understanding barriers, particularly organizational, which provided a strong foundation but left limited time to fully develop or validate practical strategies. As a result, while the strategy guide offers relevant insights, it could have been more detailed in terms of implementation, especially regarding tools, timing, and actor responsibilities across project phases.

The research findings on actor roles, supply-planning mismatches, and information asymmetries directly informed the formulation of the strategies in the strategy guide. On the other hand, translating these findings into practical strategies revealed the importance of prioritizing early-phase collaboration and clarified which types of knowledge are most critical in practice.

Throughout the process, I found it challenging to structure the research output and define what the final deliverable would look like. This often led to uncertainty and inefficiency in planning. However, the feedback sessions with my mentors were crucial in providing more direction and clarity, and helping me maintain progress. Their guidance helped me refine my problem statement and focus on actor collaboration, and better connect theoretical input with empirical findings. This iterative process also taught me how to deal with ambiguity during research.

The methodology, a combination of literature review, case studies, semi-structured interviews, and a workshop, worked well in capturing diverse perspectives and practical constraints. The combination was chosen to bridge theoretical knowledge with practice-based insights. For example, practicebased insights were used to validate theoretical findings. While the sample size was limited, the qualitative data provided valuable input for the development of strategies. However, earlier clarity on the framework's scope and intended output could have helped in creating more actionable and detailed strategies from the start. In addition, conducting follow-up interviews or validating findings with actors after the workshop could have added more depth to the research, but this was not pursued due to time constraints.

Academically, the research contributes to the discussion on collaborative governance in circular construction, particularly regarding structural reuse. It addresses the gap in the literature concerning how reuse can be enabled through collaboration. The findings offer practical insights and directions for professionals in this field of research. Societally, the topic is highly relevant as reuse remains underutilized despite its environmental benefits. However, the translation of

insights into practice still requires further development, particularly concerning system-level tools like national demolition databases or performance-based reuse contracts. Dedicating more time to concrete tool development or practical strategies could have enhanced the societal value and transferability of the results.

The research is grounded in the Dutch context, particularly in projects involving actors with more experience in reuse. However, the strategies developed are also relevant to reuse projects in other contexts. It should be noted that transferability may be limited in regions with less formalized collaboration structures or where reuse practices are not yet institutionalized.

* It is important to note that to improve clarity and ensure fluency, selected sentences in this research were rephrased using AI (ChatGPT), based on my own content and intentions. All analytical interpretations and academic arguments remain my own.