

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	Anne Erven
Student number	5912229

Studio		
Name / Theme	Inclusive Communities	Thematic Lab 3
Main mentor	Yawei Chen	Urban Development Management
Second mentor	Ellen Geurts	Real Estate Management
Argumentation of choice of the studio	I chose this lab, as I believe that fostering inclusivity is essential for creating more just societies. This lab offers the opportunity to explore how inclusive practices can be created and managed, not just to benefit marginalised groups, but to enrich society as a whole. By working within this theme, I hope to potentially contribute to meaningful change, using research and collaboration to create spaces where everyone feels valued.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	The path to just urban green spaces
Goal	
Location:	Municipality of Maastricht
The posed problem,	Despite the recognised importance of urban green spaces (UGS) for well-being, their spatial justice in the Dutch context remains insufficiently explored. In highly urbanised municipalities, these urban green spaces are under most pressure. The existing policies emphasise social inclusion, but they seem to lack integration of residents' lived experiences and perspectives on UGS management. Without their views, these injustices may worsen as cities densify further.
research questions and	MRQ To what extent can urban green spaces be managed at the municipal level to ensure spatial justice within the built environment, stimulating social sustainable urban development?

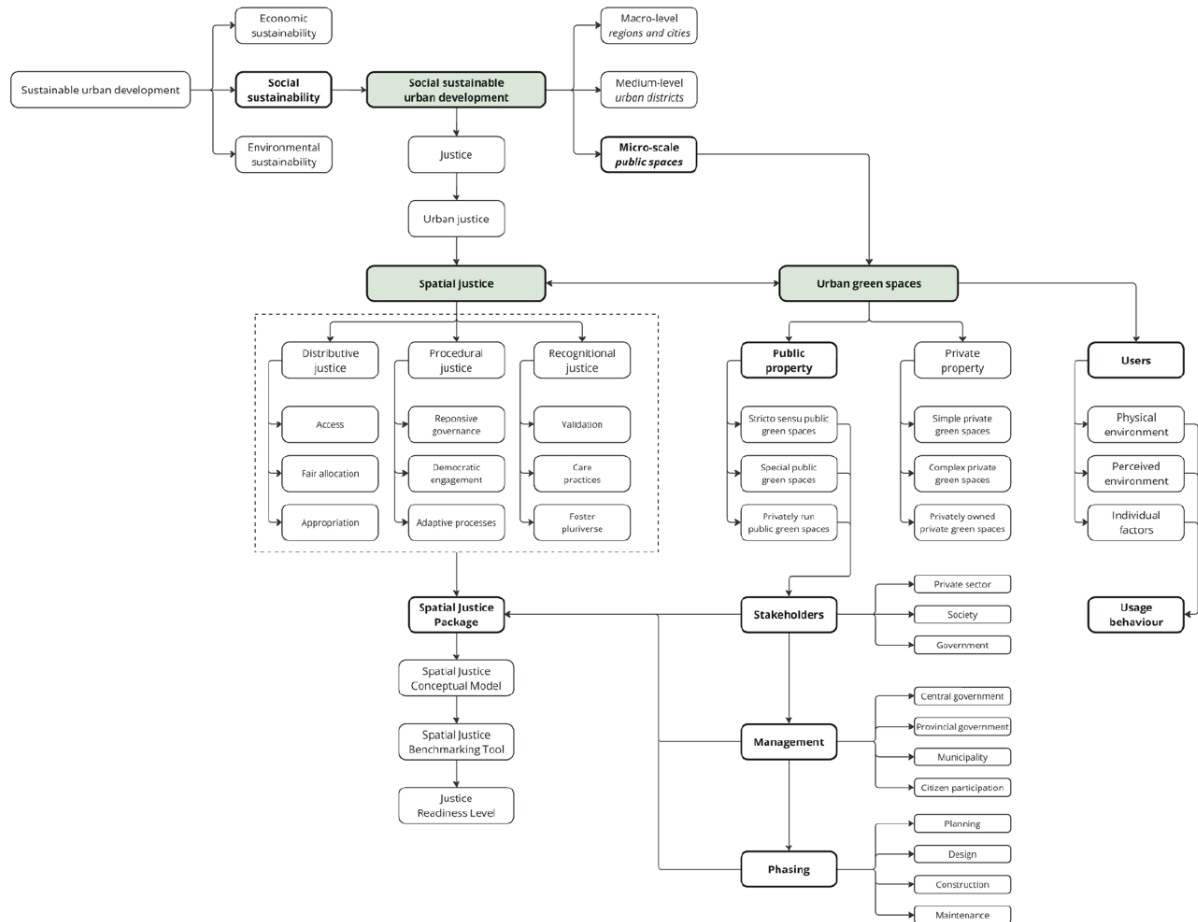
	<p>SRQ 1 How is spatial justice currently a critical component in achieving social sustainable urban development in the management of urban green spaces in the context of the municipality of Maastricht?</p> <p>SRQ 2 To what extent can the spatial justice of urban green spaces be recognised and evaluated in the municipality of Maastricht, considering both policy-level indicators and people's usage patterns at the neighbourhood level?</p> <p>SRQ 3 How can the evaluation of spatial justice in urban green spaces inform policy recommendations and management strategies for enhancing social sustainable urban development?</p>
assignment in which these result.	This research aims to analyse whether the level of spatial justice in neighbourhoods affects the use of UGS, and whether improving spatial justice at the policy level can improve this usage. By evaluating the spatial justice of these UGS and incorporating local perspectives, the study seeks to develop actionable recommendations for more just UGS management, contributing to social sustainable urban development.

Process

Method description

SRQ	Type	Method	Technique	Reason	Outcome	Source	Scope
1	Quantitative	Municipal records analysis (secondary data)	VSOA-coding	Understanding how values are expressed and transformed into actionable items	Defines the overarching vision, the strategies for its realisation, the specific objectives set, and the concrete actions proposed as the foundation for evaluating spatial justice	Urban sustainability transition plan or similar documents	Policy level
1	Quantitative	Municipal records analysis (primary data)	Spatial Justice Evaluation Package	Structure, assess, and visually represent the evaluation of spatial justice considerations in urban planning and governance documents	The degree of spatial justice at the policy level, highlighting well-performing dimensions and areas in need of improvement	Outcome of VSOA-coded material	Policy level
2	Quantitative	Questionnaires (primary data)	Quantitative questionnaire A	Assessing how the intended policy is perceived by end-users in relation to spatial justice	Degree of alignment between end-user experience and the intended policy regarding spatial justice across different socio-economic neighbourhoods	Local end-users of UGS within specific neighbourhoods	Neighbourhood level
2	Quantitative	Questionnaires (primary data)	Quantitative questionnaire B	Exploring the extent to which the experience of spatial justice influences the frequency of UGS usage among end-users	The frequency with which end-users use UGS. Additionally, possibly identifies potential reasons, based on the socio-ecological model, that explain why end-users do or do not engage with UGS	Local end-users of UGS within specific/highest priority neighbourhoods	Neighbourhood level
3	Qualitative	Focus group (primary data)	Semi-structured focus group	Starting the conversation on where the key challenges lie, understanding the priorities, and exploring how the municipality can incorporate this into policy	The municipality will gain a better understanding of how spatial justice can and should be prioritised at the policy/management level, enabling end-users to make better use of UGS (if supported by the research findings)	Representatives from the local end-users of the considered neighbourhoods, municipal policy makers, and the private sector	Policy level

Literature and general practical references



Reflection

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)?

My graduation project aligns with the Inclusive Communities theme by addressing spatial justice in the distribution of UGS, ensuring a just experience for all people of the community. It connects to the Management in the Built Environment track by focussing on optimising policy frameworks, stakeholder collaboration, and management strategies for socially sustainable UGS management. Within the broader MSc Architecture, Urbanism, and Building Sciences programme, my research contributes to urban planning and policy by integrating social and managerial perspectives to create more just and sustainable cities. By analysing spatial justice in UGS management and proposing actionable policy improvements, my study bridges inclusivity, strategic urban management, and sustainable urban development.

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

The relevancy of (socially) sustainable urban development, spatial justice, and UGS has become increasingly prominent in current urban discussions, as these concepts together highlight how the benefits and challenges of urban environments are distributed across different communities. Examining UGS through the lens of spatial justice provides a deeper understanding of the systems that shape access to these

fundamental resources. This perspective not only sheds light on critical social injustices, but also underscores the importance of integrating spatial justice into academic research and urban policy to drive meaningful improvements in urban management.

Societal relevance

In the context of sustainable urban development, the focus lies in meeting the present societal needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs (Mehan and Soflaei, 2017). By incorporating social sustainable urban development into this research, key issues such as governance, social justice, and community well-being are addressed specifically.

UGS play a fundamental role in enhancing the quality of urban life by providing essential ecosystem services. They offer a range of benefits, including environmental, economic, social, and psychological well-being, as well as physical health improvements (Schipperijn, 2010). Beyond their immediate benefits, UGS are crucial for climate change adaptation. However, these resources often do not receive the attention they deserve in urban management discussions (Derkzen et al., 2015). Rapid urbanisation has further intensified pressure on green areas, threatening their availability and the benefits they provide (Zhou and Wang, 2011). As UGS scarcity increases, it becomes more crucial that the existing spaces are well-suited to the needs and preferences of the local population, ensuring they align with their requirements and desires as well as possible. Without proactive strategies, cities, particularly those experiencing significant population growth, face the risk of losing the benefits of these crucial spaces for its residents (Derkzen et al., 2017).

The challenges posed by urbanisation highlight the urgent need for research into the spatial justice of UGS. Understanding how spatial justice functions in urban settings and how it can be applied to create more inclusive cities will ultimately contribute to a more just and sustainable society, and a potential higher quality of life for its individuals.

Scientific relevance

Beyond its societal implications, exploring spatial justice in relation to UGS holds significant scientific value as well. A critical gap exists in understanding how UGS can be effectively managed within a municipal framework to achieve spatial justice. This lack of research represents a notable shortcoming in both academic literature and urban planning practice, especially regarding actionable strategies for promoting socially sustainable urban development. By addressing this gap, this thesis aims to provide valuable insights that contribute to the existing body of research.

In doing so, it seeks to expand discussions on spatial justice and UGS management, deepening the understanding of how these elements can be integrated to foster more just and socially sustainable urban environments.