# Towards a healthy real estate sector

Delft University of Technology Management in the Built Environment

P5 Presentation - 28 January 2021 Bram van Roessel

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"An explorative study on the stakeholder interests and potentials of a new type of lease in office buildings in the Netherlands, the healthy lease"

**I.** Introduction

**II.** Theoretical Framework

III. Empirical Research

IV. Conclusions

Introduction

"On average an office worker spends around 40% of his time per week in an office building"



Zo ziet het ideale "gezonde" kantoor eruit



Mensen presteren gemiddeld 10% beter in een gezond kantoor



Kantoormedewerker van de toekomst: gaan we er echt zo beroerd uitzien?

# The Economist

# Covid-19 has forced a radical shift in working habits

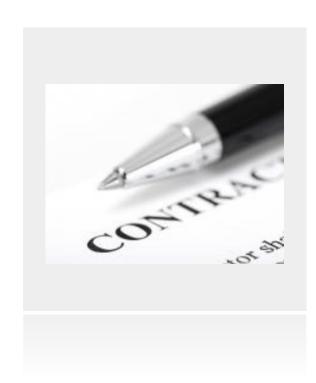


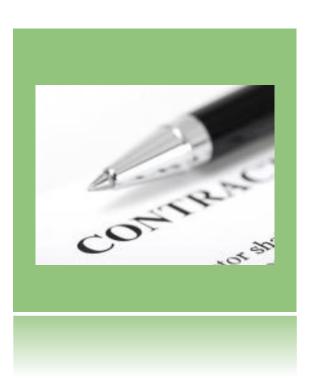
Reimagining the office and work life after Covid-19

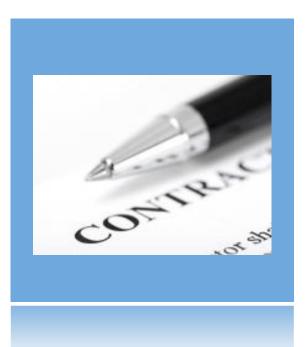












# Introduction

#### Research aim:

 explore and develop guidelines for a new type of lease agreement in office buildings in the Netherlands, the healthy lease.

"What are the different stakeholder interests and potentials of a healthy lease model which can be applied in office buildings in the Netherlands?"

• Phase I : Analyse the concept of user health in office buildings -> Theoretical framework

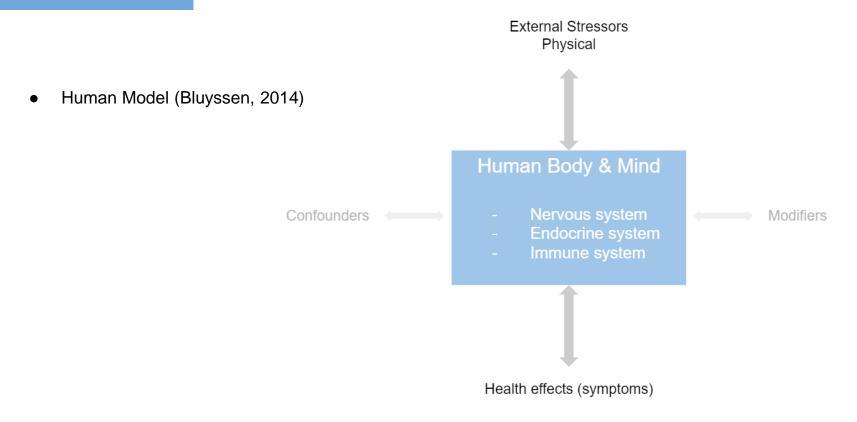
• Phase II : Understanding the origins and mechanisms of green leases -> Theoretical Framework

• Phase III : Explore the stakeholder interests and potentials in a health lease -> Empirical research

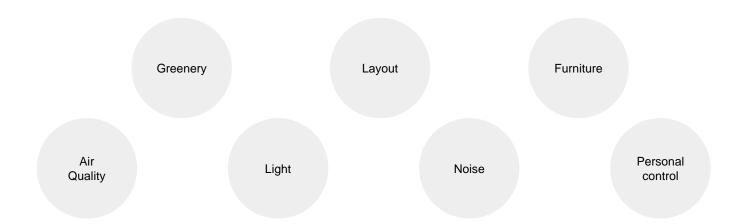
# Phase I - user health in office buildings

- 4 conceptual health models (Larson, 1999)
  - WHO Model
  - Medical Model
  - Wellness Model
  - Environmental Model

**WHO Model -** State of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity



- Literature (Colenberg et al., 2020; Bluyssen, 2016) Identified 7 building features (stressors)
- This research focuses on features that fall within control of building owners



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# Theoretical overview

	Health features					
Health symptoms	Air	Lighting	Noise	Personal Control		
1. Dry Eyes	(1,15)	(2)		(2)		
2. Dry Throat	(1,3)					
3. Stuffy/Runny Nose	(3)					
4. Headache	(1,11, 15)	(7)	(5)	(28)		
5. Lethargy	(1)	(8,9)	(10)			
6. Itchy Eyes		(2)	(6)			
8. Breathing Difficulty	(1,12,14)					
9. Flu-like Symptoms	(12, 32)					
10. Dry Skin	(3)		(5,6)			
11. Irritated Skin			(21)			
12. Irritated Eyes	(11)	(1,7,9,16)		(28)		
13. Wheezing	(12)					
14. Coughing	(12)					
15. Sneezing	(12)					
16. Trachycardia (rapid heard rate)			(17)			
17. Irregular Heart Beats			(17)			
18. Bradycardia (slow heart rate)			(17)			
19. Stress		(16)	(20,21,22)			
20. SBS symptoms overall	(12,14,18)		(6)			
21. Musculoskeletal symptoms		(2,16)		(2)		
22. Perceived comfort / satisfaction	(4)	(8,9)	(20,21, 24)	(25, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31)		
23. Absenteeism	(13, 32)		(19)			

	Author	Title			
1	Bluyssen et al. (1996)	European Indoor Air Quality Audit Project in 56 Office Buildings			
2	Joines et al. (2015)	Adjustable task lighting: Field study assesses the benefits in an office environment			
3	Jaakkola et al. (1991)	Mechanical Ventilation in Office Buildings and the Sick Building Syndrome. An Experimental and Epidemiological Study			
4	Roulet et al. (2006)	Perceived health and comfort in relation to energy use and building characteristics			
5	Kristiansen (2010)	Is Noise Exposure in Non-Industrial Work Environments Associated with Increased Sickness Absence?			
6	Niven et al. (2000)	Building sickness syndrome in healthy and unhealthy buildings: an epidemiological and environmental assessment with cluster analysis			
7	Aries et al. (2013)	Daylight and health a review of the evidence and consequences for the built environment			
8	Lamb and Kwok (2016)	A longitudinal investigation of work environment stressors on the performance and wellbeing of office workers			
9	Veitch et al. (2008)	Lighting appraisal, well-being and performance in open-plan offices: A linked mechanisms approach			
10	Jahncke et al. (2011)	Open-plan office noise : Cognitive performance and restoration			
11	Brightman et al. (2008)	Evaluating building-related symptoms using the US EPA BASE study results			
12	Fisk (2000)	Health and productivity gains from better indoor environments			
13	Milton et al. (2000)	Risk of Sick Leave Associated with Outdoor Air Supply Rate, Humidification, and Occupant Complaints			
14	Seppanen and Fisk (2001)	Association of Ventilation System Type with SBS symptoms in Office Workers			
15	Bluyssen et al. (2016)	Self-reported health and comfort in modern office buildings: first results form the EU OFFICAIR study			
16	Fostervold and Nersveen (2008)	Proportions of direct and indirect lighting			
17	Kristiansen et al. (2008)	Noise frequency components and the prevalence of hypertension in workers			
18	Seppanen et al. (1999)	Associations of ventilation rates and CO2 concentrations with health and other responses			
19	Fried et al. (2002)	The joint effects of noise, job complexity, and gender on employee sickness absence: An exploratory study across 21 organizations			
20	Schlittmeier & Liebl, A. (2015)	The effects of intelligible irrelevant background speech in offices – cognitive disturbance, annoyance, and solutions			
21	Shaflee Motlagh et al., (2018)	Empirical study of room acoustic conditions and neurophysiologic strain in staff working in special open-plan bank offices			
22	Seddigh et al., (2015)	The effect of noise absorption variation in open-plan offices: A field study with a cross-over design			
23	Sundstrom et al., (1994)	Office noise, satisfaction and performance			
24	Croon et al., (2005)	The effect of office concepts on worker health and performance: a systematic review of the literature			
25	Wells (2000)	Office clutter or meaningful personal displays: The role of office personalization in employee and organizational well-being			
26	Knight and haslam (2010)	Organizational identification and comfort as of workspace and employees' satisfaction and well-being			
27	Bluyssen et al. (2011)	Comfort of workers in office buildings: The European HOPE project			
28	Toftum (2010)	Central automatic control or distributed occupant control for better indoor environment quality in the future			
29	Boerstra et al. (2015)	Comfort and performance impact of personal control over thermal environment in summer: Results from a laboratory study			
30	Shahzad et al. (2017)	Energy and comfort in contemporary open plan and traditional personal offices			
31	Huizinga et al. (2006)	Air quality and thermal comfort in office buildings: Results of a large indoor environmental quality survey			
32	Bluyssen et al. (2020)	How can airborne transmission of COVID-19 indoors be minimised?			

# Theoretical overview

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# Air quality

- 15 of the 23 health symptoms are impacted by air
- The most occurring symptoms are:
  - headache
  - breathing difficulty
  - Sick Building Syndrome (SBS) overall

# Light

- 8 of the 23 health symptoms are impacted by light
- The most occurring symptoms are:
  - irritated eyes
  - lethargy
  - musculoskeletal problems
  - impact on perceived comfort

# Noise

- 12 of the 23 health symptoms are impacted by
- The most occurring symptoms are:

  - impact on perceived comfort

# **Personal Control**

- 5 of the 23 health symptoms are impacted by personal control
- The most occurring symptoms are:
  - impact on perceived comfort

## Phase II - Green Leases

#### What?

A green lease is a performance oriented lease agreement in which the landlord (lessor) and the tenant (lessee) make agreements about the sustainable use and sustainable exploitation of a building (Quispel and Heemskerk, 2011)

# Why?

- Corporate branding of organizations
- CSR perspective
- Reducing reputation risk
- Positive contribution to building value
- More engagement between Landlord and tenant
- Overcome the split-incentive
- Break down the circle of blame

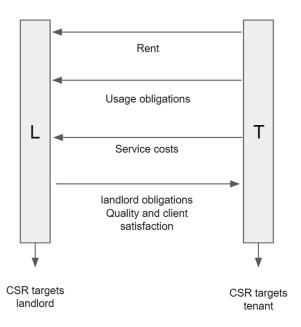
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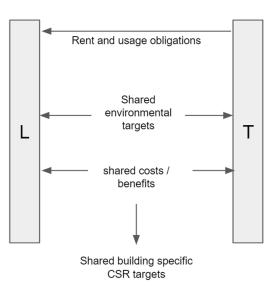
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#### Traditional lease

## **Green Lease**

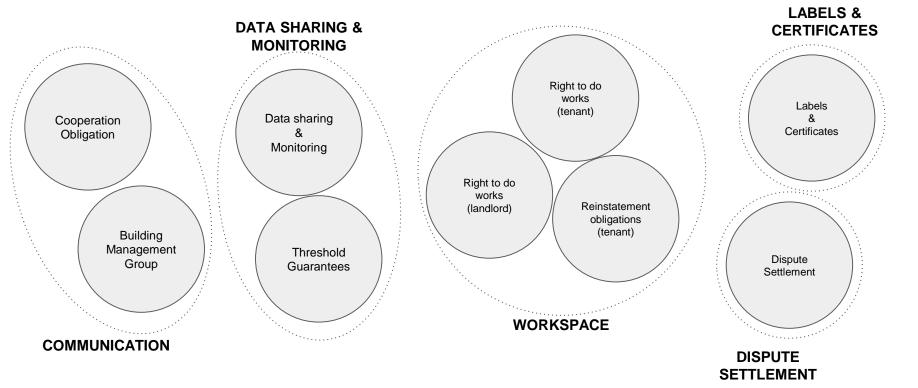
- Important starting points:
  - Single tenant vs. multitenant office buildings
  - Newly constructed buildings vs. existing buildings





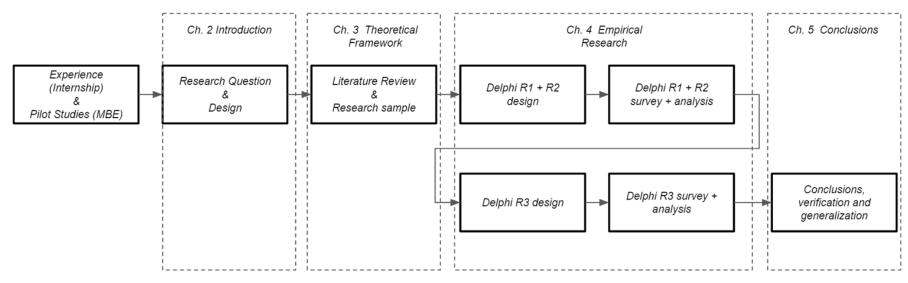
(Adapted from Quispel and Bausch, 2011)

Identified characteristics (themes) of green leases (Bugden et al., 2013; Quispel & Bausch, 2011)



# Phase III - Stakeholder interests and potentials of a healthy lease

- Case Study Method
  - Delphi Method a method to structure group communication processes around complex problems. Structured communication is achieved by providing (anonymous) feedback to the participants in different rounds throughout the process.(Linstone & Turoff, 1975).



(Adapted from Skulmoski et al.., 2007)

# Case Study Selection



Location

Hoofddorp (Case I) LFA

sqm

Construction year : 2004. Fully renovated in

2019/2020

Single / multi tenant : Multi-tenant office building Sustainability labels : BREEAM excellent, EPC

label A

Averlage lease length presentation Branyears Roessel **Delft University of Technology** 

: 25,000

28 January 2021



(Case II)

LFA : 6,449 sqm

**Construction year** : 1992. Will be renovated in

2021

Single / multi tenant : Single-tenant office building Sustainability labels

: BREEAM very good,, EPC label A

Lease length : >15 years



Landlord 1 Value add investor

**Tenant 1** Real estate related

**Tenant 2** Conventional

**Tenant 3** Tech related



- Landlord 2
   International investor
- Tenant 4
   Government related

# Round 1

Stakeholder interviews on interests in healthy lease model

# Round 2

- Rating of identified themes based on a Likert-scale
  - Not important at all, Low importance, Neutral, Important, Highly important

# Round 3

- Evaluation and validation round
  - Not important at all, Low importance, Neutral, Important, Highly important

# Findings case I - Round 1 & 2

- Findings case I
- Communication Monitoring perceived as important
- Only tenant 1 rated BMG neutral
- Data sharing and monitoring perceived as (highly) important
- Only landlord 1 rated threshold targets as important and tenant 2 rated data sharing as important

#### Landlord 1 (value add)

### Tenant 1 (real estate)

#### Tenant 2 (conventional)

## Tenant 3 (tech)

#### Co-operation (obligation)

- Important
- communication should be increased in a healthy lease
- communication and cooperation increases tenant satisfaction and decreases tenant complaints
- Indirect (positive) effect on branding

#### Building management group

- Important
- currently there are regular (tenant) meetings (quarterly)
- in these meetings the focus is mostly on the day to day operation of the building
- interesting to put extra focus on long-term strategies regarding the healthy community in Pharos
- downsides
- extra operational costs
- might scare of new investors in taking over the building including all responsibilities in the leases
- focus on short-term (monetary) henefits

#### Co-operation obligation

- Highly important
- goes hand in hand with data sharing and monitoring in a healthy lease
- extra desirable during the Covid pandemic
- proper communication on building features give comfort and assurance on the safety of the workspace

#### **Building management group**

- Neutral
- tenant meetings can be transformed into a BMG in a healthy lease
- the early stage communication and tailor made solutions are appreciated. This is not common
- it is advocated to put more focus on long-term health and well-being in a BMG as part of a healthy lease

#### Co-operation obligation

- Important
- communication should be increased in a healthy lease, compared to current situation
- more focus on health strategies rather than day to day issues

#### Co-operation obligation

- Important
- Cooperation and communication is currently too open-ended.
- should be more strict in a healthy

#### Building management group

- Important
- health strategies should not only concern common areas but also leased space of tenants. A BMG can facilitate discussion on this
- a BMG can stimulate the combination of organizations initiatives and building initiatives

#### Building management group

- Important
- In a healthy lease a PoR and Data from sensors can be used as guideline and input for BMG meetings

#### Data sharing

- Highly important
- measuring is knowing
- proactive problem solving
- PoR should be supplemented with placing sensors in a healthy lease downsides
- pressure on the landlord to do something with this data
- potential new investors might be discouraged by these responsibilities and potential extra costs

#### Threshold targets Highly important

Data sharing

Highly important

gives comfort and health

Facilitates the ongoing

improvement strategies

as the safety (Covid related)

performance of the building as well

communication process on health

- provide comfort on the health performance of the building
- healthy lease, it should be clear who is responsible for this

#### Data sharing Important

- Data sharing can be an added value
- in a healthy lease
- Privacy is an important item to consider and should be guaranteed in a healthy lease

#### Threshold targets

- Highly important
- ensure a healthy and safe workplace
- Covid will most likely increase this demand for safe and healthy workplaces (now and in the future)
- Threshold targets can account for this

#### Data Sharing

- Highly important
- essential item to include in a healthy
- makes it possible to steer on building features
- will be more challenging in multi-tenant buildings

#### Threshold targets

- Highly important
- would be the ultimate goal to include in a healthy lease with respect to data sharing and monitoring
- ensures safety and contributes to better decision making on healthy performance for the organization

# monitoring ∞ sharing (

## Threshold targets

- Important see above on downsides of applying thresholds
- potential differentiation between different type of investors

- If thresholds are not met in a
- A procedure for this should be laid down in a healthy lease

Findings case I - Round 1 & 2

- Different opinions on Workplace (not important at all vs. important)
- Different opinions on labels & certificates (low importance vs. highly important
- No consensus on these main themes after round 1 and 2 compared to Communication and Data Sharing & Monitoring

## Landlord 1 (value add)

#### Tenant 1 (real estate)

#### Tenant 2 (conventional)

#### Tenant 3 (tech)

#### Alterations by landlord

- Neutral
- a PoR can function as a guideline for doing works in the building and leased space in a healthy lease
- a PoR structures this process and facilitates communication during BMG's
- degree of strictness of a PoR can differ in healthy lease but must be equal for all tenants in a multi-tenant buildina

#### Alterations by tenant

Neutral

Workplace

Labels and Certificates

see above

#### Reinstatement obligations tenant

- Neutral
- not perceived as essential for a healthy lease
- differs from case to case

#### Alterations by landlord

- Important
- the PoR applied in Pharos is not perceived as restrictive
- a PoR can be included in a healthy lease as a guideline for doing works in the leased space

#### Alterations by tenant

- Important
- see above

#### Reinstatement obligations tenant

- not important at all
- not perceived as important for a healthy lease

#### Alterations by landlord

- Important
- differentiation must be made between standard works and health promoting works
- in a healthy lease this differentiation can be added to the PoR and discussed during BMG's

#### Alterations by tenant

- Important
- see above

#### Reinstatement obligations tenant

- Neutral
- should be included in a healthy lease, but considered from case to case depending on the status of the fit-out

#### Alterations by landlord

- Neutral
- works should be categorized in standard works and health performance works
- can be included in a PoR
- this will stimulate the health performance of the building

#### Alterations by tenant

- Neutral
- see above

#### Reinstatement obligations tenant

- Neutral
- should be included in a healthy lease, but considered from case to case depending on the status of the fit-out

#### Applicability of labels & certificates

- Highly important
- Important in a healthy lease contribute positively to overall branding of the building
- tailormade solutions regarding health and well-being are more valuable and effective
- labels and certificates can be a good starting point of health and well-being strategies in a healthy lease

#### Applicability of labels & certificates

- Low importance
- are not essential to apply in a healthy lease
- tailormade agreements aligned with the organizations wishes and demands are more valuable

#### Applicability of labels & certificates

- Neutral
- are not essential to apply in a healthy lease
- tailor made agreements are more desirable in a healthy lease

#### Applicability of labels & certificates

- Important
- form a good basis for health and well-being agreements in a healthy
- contribute positively to the organizations corporate image (CSR)

# Findings case II - Round 1 & 2

- Findings case II
- Communication perceived as (highly) important
- Data sharing and monitoring perceived as important
- Only tenant 4 rated threshold targets as neutral

#### Landlord 2 (international)

#### **Tenant 4** (governmental)

#### Co-operation (obligation)

- Important
- Too open-ended at this moment
  - In a healthy lease communication should be increased and applied throughout the whole lease term
- Good communication must be enforced in a healthy lease and must be written down more strict and mandatory.

#### Building management group

- Highly important
- A differentiation must be made between single and multi tenant buildings.
- In a multi-tenant building setting up a BMG will be a bigger challenge.
   In Utrecht, with one tenant, this
- should be easier.
- Not only landlord and tenant should participate in this BMG but also the
- Long-term strategies with respect to the health performance of the building must be starting point for a BMG

#### Co-operation obligation

- Highly important
- In a healthy lease communication between landlord and tenant should occur more frequent (on regular basis)
- Currently this is not the case
- In the light of the Covid pandemic it is even more relevant and important to incorporate in a healthy lease

#### **Building management group**

- Important
- A BMG would be good tool to increase the communication in a healthy lease
- The situation in Utrecht makes it possible to set up a BMG relatively easy as it is a single-tenant building
- In the BMG not only landlord and tenant should participate but also the PM and some important (technica) service providers
- More stakeholders (experts) aboard will most likely result in better decisions with respect to the health performance of the building

#### Data sharing

- Important
- The potential benefits of data sharing are evident. It increases steering opportunities and control of the indoor environment
- It is a challenge to generalize this for all individuals.
- Personal control plays an important role as addition to data sharing

#### Threshold targets

- Important
- Applying thresholds can be a good branding tool for a building and landlord (especially with Covid)
- Clear agreements should be made in a healthy lease when targets are not met (who is responsible?)
- The landlord must also make very strict agreements with technical suppliers on the backside, who are responsible for installations, sensors etcetera

# Data sharing Neutral

- Can be definitely of added value in a healthy lease
- Due to Covid the organization is extra aware of health and safety in the building. Monitoring can be a good way to ensure safety
- Privacy is an important item to consider in this article. Some employees might not accept (personal) data sharing
- The situation in Utrecht, with a long-term lease in place, is suitable to apply data sharing and monitoring over a longer period

#### Threshold targets

- Important
- applying thresholds ilease would be the ideal form of a healthy lease as it comes to data sharing and monitoring. Especially in the light of the Covid pandemic

Communication

# Findings case II - Round 1 & 2

- Different opinions on Workplace alterations (not important at all vs. highly important)
- Reinstatement obligation is rated as not important at all and low importance
- Labels and certificates are perceived as (highly) important in case II

#### Alterations by landlord

- Not important at all
- not perceived as important in a healthy lease
- a landlord should be free to do necessary works in the building
- what is the added value of these themes for a healthy lease?
- it is unlikely that it contributes to the branding and attractiveness of the building

#### Alterations by tenant

- Not important at all
- not perceived as important in a healthy lease
- a tenant should be free to do necessary works in the eased space
- what is the added value of these themes for a healthy lease?
- it is unlikely that it contributes to the branding and attractiveness of the building

#### Reinstatement obligations tenant

- Not important at all
- not perceived as important for a healthy lease
- should be considered from case to case (dependent on buildings, tenant, market cyclus, fit-out quality etc)

#### Alterations by landlord

- Highly important
- more partnership and transparency on this is desirable
- maintenance budgets of tenant and landlord should be aligned with respect to decision making on health performance
- costs can potentially be shared
- works must be demarcated (divided between landlord and tenant)

#### Alterations by tenant

- Highly important
- more partnership and transparency on this is desirable
- maintenance budgets of tenant and landlord should be aligned with respect to decision making on health performance
- costs can potentially be shared
   works must be demarcated (divi
- works must be demarcated (divided between landlord and tenant)

#### Reinstatement obligations tenant

- Low importance
- potential downsides of communication obligations are:
- extra operational costs
- might scare of new investors in taking over the building including all responsibilities in the leases

# i illicates

#### Applicability of labels & certificates

- Important
- Contribute positively to the branding and attractiveness of the building towards tenants and investors

#### Applicability of labels & certificates

- Highly important
- could be a good starting point in a healthy lease for implementing health performance strategies
- tailor made agreements should follow from this in order create the perfect basis for a healthy lease

Norkplace

# Findings Round 3

# **Participants**

- Landlord 1 & 2
- Tenant 1 & 3 (Case I)
- Property manager (Case II)

# **Labels and Certificates**

- Consensus in round 3
- Labels and certificates as a starting point for tailor made agreements

# Workspace

- Consensus in round 3
- Workspace alterations should be incorporated in a Program of Requirements (PoR)
- Reinstatement obligation not perceived as essential in a healthy lease

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# Findings Round 3

## Communication

- Focus on long-term strategies in a healthy lease
- Property manager and (technical) suppliers should attend BMG
- Communication obligations can affect marketability of a building -> different opinions between landlord 1 and 2

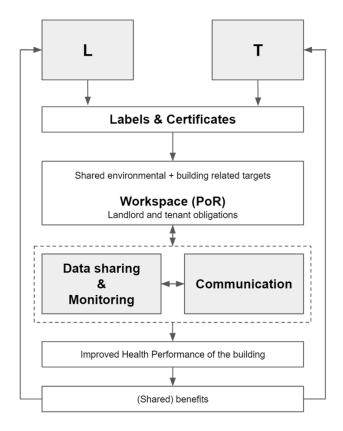
# **Data Sharing & Monitoring**

- Single vs. Multi tenant building differentiation
- Proactive steering on potential problems  $\circ$
- Privacy of employees should be taken into account
- Potential effect on marketability

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# **Healthy lease**

- lease contract between landlord and tenant where health performance strategies have a central role
- Aim is to create and maintain a healthy indoor environment for office users throughout a lease term
- This results in mutual benefits



- Landlord and Tenant are place next to each other instead of opposed
- Starting point for (tailor made) health and well-being agreements

- Right to works (landlord and tenant) laid down in Program of Requirements (PoR)
- Reinstatement obligation not essential in a healthy lease

- Communication and Data sharing rated as essential for a healthy lease
- Building features (air.light.noise, personal control) integrated in Data Sharing & Monitoring

- Increased branding and marketability (Landlord)
- Increased corporate image (Tenant)
- Ensurance of safe workplace (Tenant and Landlord)
  - Potential to share costs (Landlord and Tenant) -> further research

## Limitations

- Limited amount of cases (2)
- No in-use building included in research (new vs. in-use)
- No focus on (monetary) benefits and costs in this research

### Recommendations for further research

- Confirm / generalize findings by conducting more case studies
- Expand cases with in-use buildings versus newly / redeveloped buildings
- Differentiate between type of investors (value add, international but also institutional investors)
- Include and describe (monetary) benefits and costs

# **Practical Implications**

- Applicability of a healthy throughout the whole building lifecycle
- From design phase to operational phase
- More focus on designing a qualitative indoor environment in education programme



Main research question:

"What are the different stakeholder interests and potentials of a healthy lease model which can be applied in office buildings in the Netherlands?"

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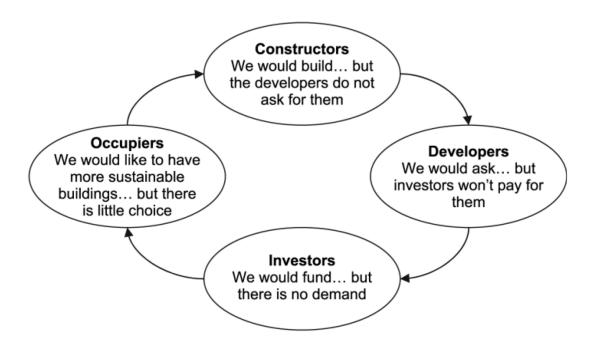
# Conclusion

- Case studies <u>did confirm</u> added value of Communication in a healthy lease
  - focus on long-term health performance strategies
  - o BMG's as platform to facilitate this
  - Contributes to overall branding (marketability) of a building
  - Potential effect on marketability -> scattered opinions between both landlords
- Case studies <u>did confirm</u> added value of Data Sharing & Monitoring in a healthy lease
  - strongly related to Communication
  - Thresholds provide assurance on safe workplace (Covid-19)
  - Contributes to overall branding (marketability) of a building towards tenants
  - Applying thresholds might have effect on marketability of a building towards investors
  - Privacy is an important item to consider

- Case studies <u>did not confirm</u> added value of reinstatement obligation in a healthy lease
  - Not perceived as essential in a healthy lease
- Case studies <u>did confirm</u> the added value of workspace alterations
  - These should be laid down in a PoR and added to a healthy lease
- Case studies <u>did confirm</u> the added value of Labels & Certificates
  - Labels and certificates as a starting point in a healthy lease to make tailor made agreements on health performance strategies
  - Solely a label or certificate in a healthy lease is not sufficient
- Case studies <u>did confirm</u> the difference in multi-tenant vs. single-tenant buildings

#### Vicious circle of blame

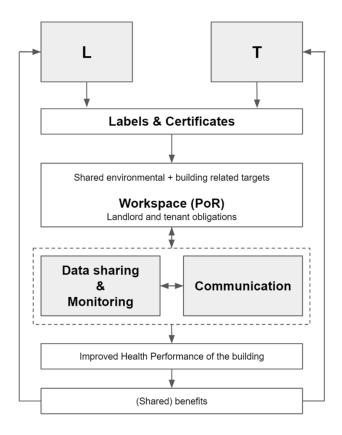
Case studies did confirm presence of vicious circle of blame



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# **Healthy lease**

- lease contract between landlord and tenant where health performance strategies have a central role
- Aim is to create and maintain a healthy indoor environment for office users throughout a lease term
- This results in mutual benefits



- Landlord and Tenant are place next to each other instead of opposed
- Starting point for (tailor made) health and well-being agreements

- Right to works (landlord and tenant) laid down in Program of Requirements (PoR)
- Reinstatement obligation not essential in a healthy lease

- Communication and Data sharing rated as essential for a healthy lease
- Building features (air.light.noise, personal control) integrated in Data Sharing & Monitoring

- Increased branding and marketability (Landlord)
- Increased corporate image (Tenant)
- Ensurance of safe workplace (Tenant and Landlord)
  - Potential to share costs (Landlord and Tenant) -> further research

# **Questions?**

# Q&A

# • Round 3

- Not all interviewees participated
- No real estate lawyer to discuss Dispute Settlement
- Consensus reached on Label and Certificates
- o Consensus reached on Workspace