

# 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	Thomas Snoek
Student number	5869021

Studio		
Name / Theme	Sustainable Area Development	
Main mentor	Tom Daamen	Area Development (Management in the Built Environment)
Second mentor	Marjolein Spaans	Governance (Management in the Built Environment)
Argumentation of choice of the studio	<p>The Sustainable Area Development studio offers an exciting opportunity to delve into the complexities of shaping urban spaces. I'm interested in combining the institutional context with the built environment and developing inclusive and resilient environments.</p> <p>I also enjoyed ON5 and 'Urban Redevelopment Game' very much. Therefore, the choice for this studio obvious.</p>	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	The Implementation of Governance and Regional Cooperation in Area Development: The case of Leidsche Rijn
Goal	
Location:	Utrecht; Leidsche Rijn and Rijnenburg

The posed problem,	<p>The case of Rijnenburg reveals the complexities of area development in the current institutional context, marked by fragmented decision-making, financial constraints, and conflicting stakeholder priorities.</p> <p>These issues hinder progress and create challenges in aligning housing, environmental, and infrastructure goals, making it difficult to address the urgent spatial needs of the region effectively.</p>
research questions and	<p>Main research question:  <i>How can governance and regional cooperation contribute to the implementation of area development in the Netherlands, with a focus on lessons from Leidsche Rijn for the future development of Rijnenburg?</i></p> <p>Sub-questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>How has regional cooperation developed in the Netherlands since 1990?</i></li> <li>2. <i>What are the main factors for successful area development in regional cooperation?</i></li> <li>3. <i>What are the main lessons, regarding regional cooperation, from the area development of Leidsche Rijn?</i></li> <li>4. <i>What are the recommendations for the area development of Rijnenburg?</i></li> </ol>
design assignment in which these result.	<p>Recommendations for the area development of Rijnenburg</p>
<p>The objective of this research is to analyze how governance structures and regional cooperation influence the implementation of large-scale area development projects in the Netherlands. By comparing the development of Leidsche Rijn and Rijnenburg, the study aims to identify key lessons, best practices, and challenges in governance and stakeholder collaboration. Ultimately, the research seeks to provide actionable recommendations for enhancing governance frameworks and fostering effective regional cooperation to ensure sustainable, inclusive, and well-coordinated area development in Rijnenburg and similar projects.</p>	
<b>Process</b>	
<b>Method description</b>	
<p>This research adopts a qualitative case study approach to explore governance and regional cooperation in area development, focusing on the cases of Leidsche Rijn and Rijnenburg. The study employs the following methods and techniques:</p>	

1. Literature Review

- A thorough review of academic literature, policy documents, and reports to establish a theoretical framework for governance, regional cooperation, and area development.

2. Document Analysis

- Analysis of spatial planning policies, development plans, and agreements related to Leidsche Rijn and Rijnenburg to understand governance structures, decision-making processes, and stakeholder roles.

3. Semi-Structured Interviews

- Interviews with key stakeholders, including public officials, planners, and developers, to gain in-depth insight into challenges, successes, and collaborative efforts in area development.

4. Casestudies of Leidsche Rijn and Rijnenburg

- A comparison of Leidsche Rijn and Rijnenburg to identify transferable lessons, best practices, and governance strategies applicable to Rijnenburg.

These methods will ensure a comprehensive understanding of the governance and cooperation dynamics, supporting the development of practical recommendations for future area development projects.

### Literature and general practical references

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## 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)?

The graduation project topic, which focuses on governance and regional cooperation in large-scale area development, directly aligns with the principles of sustainable area development and management in the built environment. Sustainable area development emphasizes the need to balance economic growth, environmental preservation, and social equity in urban planning. This project investigates how governance structures and regional cooperation can support these goals by enabling well-coordinated, inclusive, and efficient development processes.

In the context of the built environment, effective management involves integrating infrastructure, housing, and environmental considerations to create resilient and livable urban spaces. By analyzing the cases of Leidsche Rijn and Rijnenburg, the project explores how governance strategies can drive sustainable outcomes, such as reducing carbon footprints, enhancing flood resilience, and fostering community engagement. This work contributes to the broader field of sustainable urban management by identifying actionable insights for planning and implementing future developments.

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

This research addresses pressing societal challenges, including housing shortages, climate adaptation, and sustainable urbanization. The outcomes of this work can inform policies that improve the quality of life by promoting balanced developments that integrate affordable housing, green spaces, and resilient infrastructure. By focusing on governance and regional cooperation, the study highlights ways to foster community involvement and ensure that developments align with local needs and values.

In the field of urban planning and development, professionals increasingly face the complexities of fragmented decision-making and conflicting stakeholder priorities. This research provides practical insights into how governance structures and regional partnerships can overcome these challenges, enabling more effective project execution. Urban planners, developers, and policymakers can use the findings to refine collaborative approaches, streamline decision-making processes, and enhance the overall sustainability of large-scale projects.

From a scientific perspective, this research contributes to the growing body of knowledge on governance in spatial planning and regional cooperation in area development. By comparing the developments of Leidsche Rijn and Rijnenburg, the study provides empirical data and theoretical insights into how governance models evolve and function in different institutional contexts. These findings can advance academic discussions on decentralization, public-private partnerships, and adaptive planning, while also offering a framework for future research on sustainable area development.

By bridging theory and practice, this work has the potential to inform both academic inquiry and real-world applications in creating sustainable, inclusive, and resilient urban environments.