

# Reflection graduation Thesis

Rosalyn Bodewes

4363671

## CHOICE OF SUBJECT

The relationship between my graduation and the subject adaptive reuse is visible. Adaptive reuse as a research subject is seen as a sustainable real estate strategy. The goal is to transform buildings to reduce the vacancy and increase the sustainability. This graduation connects to this as the research goal is to renovate industrial heritage to ensure use of the building and sustainability.

As mentioned in the preface, I have a passion for heritage. To combine this passion with management helped me to stay motivated for this thesis. At the beginning of my graduation, I already knew what I wanted to do. I wanted to find a way to help people find the right balance between cultural value, sustainability, and costs. The struggle was on how I wanted to research this. I knew I wanted to make model or program that could facilitate that. Whilst exploring my graduation topic, I noticed that more people did research in my field, but nobody made the link between cultural value, sustainability, costs, and the measures used during a renovation. To explore the field, I did some informal interviews with experts to ask whether it would be a promising idea to do research in this subject and I received positive replies, which motivated me to continue in this path. The fact that experts outside of the academic field were interested in this model it shows the transferability of my graduation to the wider professional framework.

## RESEARCH PROPOSAL

Close to my P2, I had the struggle to find the right methodology to do my research and especially in what form my decision-support model would be. With the help from my mentors at the faculty and my mentor at ABT, I came closer to a final structure for my model. The feedback that I received from my mentors was for that reason helpful. Sometimes I struggled with the feedback because I did not agree, and I could not handle the criticism if it did not come along with compliments. However, over time I learned how to learn from the criticism and it helped me develop my report.

The research consists of a literature study to gain background knowledge about the subject. In advance I did not know enough about industrial heritage renovation and so a literature study was needed to ensure background knowledge. The literature study also provided more specific definitions for the otherwise broad terms cultural value, sustainability, and costs. The empirical research contained case studies to extract common issues and measures. This also helped me to gain an overall knowledge about renovations and to know why certain measures were used. Initially the empirical research included interviews with experts. During the research it became clear that this was an unnecessary method that would take too much time since most of the information that I needed was provided in the internal drives of ABT. Interviews are only needed if you need to extract intangible aspects such as communications flaws. For this research only, substantial data was needed. To create a model, an operational research is done. This last method was an obvious approach since a model needed to be created. For this research only one case study is used to validate the model. This can be considered as a low sample, but it does not interfere with the scientific relevance because the model was constructed with three other case studies to ensure applicability.

## DATA COLLECTION

The data collection for the empirical research was done at ABT. From this part I learned the most from my own research. As a management student I did not have enough knowledge of heritage and building engineering to understand why certain measures are applied. I knew some aspects due to my bachelor architecture, but that was not enough to grasp the essence of some façade sections. Because I did my internship at a building engineer company, I had enough people to help me figure it out. My mentor Rosi encouraged me to try and understand the issues that arise during an internship. I liked to learn more about heritage renovation, and it motivated me even more to finish this research.

During the data collections an ethical consideration arose. The data that was extracted was formed by different companies and not just ABT. This means that there is a certain delicacy needed when using this data, such as referring to the company. Also, the experts that helped during the research participated voluntarily and gave consent for the use of the data.

## DATA ANALYSIS

Transforming the collected data into conclusions helped to form the result. During the analysis, the conclusion arose that the condition and the square meters of a certain building part is an important aspect that must be implemented in the decision support model. This conclusion transformed the result.

During the literature and empirical research, I already thought on how to make the decision support model. For this reason, the creation of the model went quite easily. The important part was to select the proper program as foundation of the model. Eventually Microsoft Excel was selected as this was the most accessible program. This was a good decision and it supported the research enough.

## OUTCOME

The assumption I made at the beginning of my thesis does not differ much from the final conclusion, meaning that I did not compromise my ideas and motivation while doing this research.

Initially, the model should show the impact of the measures on cultural value, sustainability, and costs. Eventually, the goal extended, and the model also shows which building part has the most potential to renovate by implementing the number of square meters, and the condition. Therefore, the outcome of this research was more than expected.

The result of my graduation thesis is a first stepping stone to a decision-support model that has the potential to be transferred in a wider social, professional, and scientific framework. In the end, this model has the potential to benefit the social environment because it stimulates professionals to renovate more industrial heritage and trigger academics to use this model as a foundation for their research. This will result in less vacant buildings and a better sustainable future. This supports to the ethical consideration of attributing to the society in a positive way.

The final part of the graduation period exists of implementing the given feedback of my p4 and refining the report. Right now, the academic language of this report is quite poor and needs some attention. Also, the lay out of the report could use some refinement. The most important part is the improving of the conclusion.