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**Review PhD Thesis by Ing. arch. Bardhyl Rama, titled Ecodistricts – principles of planning and designing based on case studies**

Review of second submission, received 3-7-2023

This is the review of the second submission of the PhD thesis by Ing. Arch. Bardhyl Rama, titled "Ecodistricts – principles of planning and designing based on case studies." The structure and main content of the thesis are similar to the first submission of the PhD thesis. It is a revised and improved version with regard to the remarks of the opponents, members of the defence committee, and PhD supervisor dd. 24 January 2023. In this review I will address the points that I considered to be inadequate in the first version (review of 5 January 2023). These were the following:

**Theoretical embedding and literature review.** In the first version, the theoretical background was fragmented with almost no connection between the aspects that were covered. The current overview is much more coherent and the parts support each other. Ing. Arch. Bardhyl Rama uses a mixed-methods sequential explanatory design approach to tie the parts together. Relevant additional sources have been added to the literature review. In the first version, items in the literature review were listed incomplete, missing, or superfluous. The current literature review has been corrected.

**Selection of case studies.** In the first version, it was unclear why the three ecodistricts Vauban Freiburg, Kronsberg Hannover, and Bahnhof Heidelberg were selected and why they are representative of ecodistricts. The current version of the text gives a more comprehensive overview of realized ecodistricts and argues for the selection of the three cases. The total number of three still seems to me quite low, even in the light of the primarily quantitative study approach of mixed-methods sequential explanatory design. This leads to my question at the end of this review.

**Conclusions from the case studies analysis.** In the first version, conclusions about ecodistricts were drawn on the limited sample size of three analyzed case studies. This was statistically objectionable. The conclusions in the current version are now in the form of a comparative discussion based on the available data from the case studies. The scope of the conclusions is more modest and based on the available data.

In my view, the deficiencies of the first submission have been successfully addressed by Ing. Arch. Bardhyl Rama in his second submission. I consider the thesis to be passed and suitable for defence.

As a question for the defence, I would like to ask about the method of the research. There are three key elements: the framework of mixed-methods sequential explanatory design, the number of three analysed case studies, and the personal visit to the sites of the case studies. Suppose an urban planner or architect wants to design an ecodistrict. What instructions or steps would you advise that person to take to become acquainted with ecodistricts? In particular, I am interested to hear how the framework, case study or case studies, and personal visit work together.

Thank you for your consideration,

28. 8. 2023



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