

Part 04:

Case Studies and Field Studies

- Studies of real urban projects (redevelopment of neighbourhoods, new constructions, etc.)
- Analysis of specific issues in urban projects (accessibility, mobility, sustainability, etc.)
- Participatory approach in operational urban planning
- Examples of successes and failures in the implementation of urban projects

Course 7 : Studies of real urban projects and analysis of specific issues in urban projects

1. Studies of real urban projects (redevelopment of neighbourhoods, new constructions, etc.)

Urban redevelopment projects: an example of the transformation of existing spaces

Urban redevelopment projects are often carried out to modernize or revitalize existing neighbourhoods. These projects aim to respond to challenges such as the dilapidation of buildings, the saturation of infrastructure, or the inefficiency of land uses. The redevelopment of a neighbourhood can include a variety of measures, ranging from the renovation of housing and buildings to the creation of new public facilities or the reorganisation of public spaces.

A concrete example of urban redevelopment is the rehabilitation project **of the La Villette district in Paris**. This project aimed to renovate a former industrial space into a modern and dynamic district, with new housing, green spaces, cultural infrastructure and public facilities. The aim was to preserve the historic character of the place while adapting it to the contemporary needs of the inhabitants and incorporating sustainability principles. This type of project highlights issues related to heritage preservation, densification and the integration of sustainable development principles.

Redevelopment projects can face several challenges, including the management of local populations and the integration of new inhabitants, resistance to change, and the issue of accessibility and mobility. Local authorities must therefore adopt a comprehensive and inclusive approach, taking into account not only the technical aspects of the project but also the social and environmental needs.

New construction projects: the creation of new urban districts

New construction projects, on the other hand, aim to create entirely new urban districts, often in peripheral areas or on vacant land. A striking example is the **Cité de l'Innovation project in Bordeaux**, which involved the construction of hundreds of homes, offices, as well as leisure and cultural facilities in a developing area. This type of project requires careful planning, as it must integrate housing, public spaces, services (schools, hospitals) and transport infrastructure.

Challenges in building new neighbourhoods include planning for urbanisation, integrating new spaces into the existing urban ecosystem, as well as managing environmental impact. In addition, it is crucial to ensure social and functional diversity in the design of neighbourhoods. The planning of these spaces must take a long-term view, taking into account demographic changes and the future needs of the inhabitants.

References:

- Lefèvre, J. (2021). *Urban redevelopment and renewal*. Editions Urbanisme.
- Gagnon, M. (2023). *New construction projects in urban areas*. Presses Universitaires de Paris.

2. Analysis of specific issues in urban projects

Accessibility: a major challenge for urban projects

Accessibility is one of the key criteria in the planning of urban projects. This includes access to public transport, pedestrian and cyclist traffic, as well as the adaptability of infrastructure for people with disabilities. In a city, the issue of accessibility must be taken into account from the design phase to ensure that public and private spaces are usable by all, regardless of age, disability or mobility.

For example, the **Nantes city centre redevelopment** project has incorporated innovative solutions to improve accessibility, such as wider sidewalks, safe cycle paths, and easily accessible public transport. These choices make it possible to improve the fluidity of travel while meeting the requirements of sustainability in terms of mobility. In this context, accessibility is not limited to the physical needs of citizens, but also encompasses ease of access to public services, jobs and recreational facilities.

Mobility: a challenge in the management of contemporary cities

Mobility is another crucial issue in urban projects. Managing the flow of people and goods is essential to keep the city running smoothly. The planning of transport networks, whether by bus, tram, metro, bicycle, or car, must be thought out in an integrated way to allow smooth

travel and reduce congestion. This also includes the management of public space to facilitate traffic, especially in dense areas.

The **Lyon automatic metro** project is a significant example of this. This project was designed to improve mobility in a rapidly expanding city, allowing for greater traffic flow while reducing the ecological footprint of urban transport. The integration of new modes of transport, such as electric trams or cycle paths, is also essential to encourage more sustainable behaviour and reduce CO2 emissions.

Sustainability: integrating environmental issues into urban planning

The concept of sustainability is now central to the planning of urban projects. The construction of new buildings, the redevelopment of public spaces or the management of green spaces must all be thought out according to the principles of sustainable development. This includes reducing energy consumption, using eco-friendly materials, managing waste, preserving natural spaces, and implementing solutions to manage climate change risks, such as floods or heat waves.

The **Parc de la Villette ZAC project in Paris**, for example, has integrated innovative solutions in terms of water management and energy efficiency. Energy-efficient buildings have been designed, recyclable materials have been used, and green spaces have been created to improve air quality and provide relaxation areas for residents.

References:

- Besson, F. (2022). *Accessibility and mobility in urban projects*. Presses Universitaires de Lyon.
- Ricard, V. (2023). *Sustainable urban planning: challenges and strategies*. Editions du Plan.

Course 8 : The participatory approach in operational urban planning and examples of successes and failures in the implementation of urban projects

1. Participatory approach in operational urban planning

The importance of citizen participation in urban planning

The **participatory approach** has become a key element of contemporary urban planning. It aims to involve citizens, local associations, businesses and other stakeholders in the planning

and development process of urban territories. The idea is to collect the opinions of the various stakeholders in order to better meet the needs and expectations of the inhabitants and to ensure that the project respects the particularities of the territory.

This participation can take various forms, ranging from public consultations to field surveys and participatory workshops. One of the emblematic projects of this participatory approach is the **project to redevelop the Confluence district in Lyon**, where public workshops allowed residents and shopkeepers to give their opinion on the layout of public spaces, the creation of new housing and the organisation of transport. This approach made it possible to adapt the project to local realities and to ensure better acceptance of the project by the inhabitants.

The participatory approach also promotes better social cohesion and can reduce conflict, as it gives citizens a sense of ownership and involvement in decisions that affect their daily environment.

Examples of the implementation of participatory urban planning

The project for the **development of the Parc du Haut-Bélier in Strasbourg** is a good example of participatory urban planning. By integrating working groups made up of local residents, young people, the elderly and various associations, the urban planners were able to design a public space that met the varied expectations of users. Decisions on the location of playgrounds, community gardens or sports areas were taken in consultation with the local population.

References:

- Balland, M. (2022). *Participatory urban planning: from theory to practice*. Editions Urbanisme.
- Morel, F. (2023). *Citizen participation and urban governance*. Presses Universitaires de Paris.

2. Examples of successes and failures in the implementation of urban projects

Success Stories in Urban Projects: A Model for Successful Transformation

The success of urban projects is often the result of good planning, adequate funding and effective management of resources. A success story is the La Défense project **in Paris**, a business district that has been redeveloped to become a major economic hub in France. This project has succeeded in transforming a disused industrial area into a vibrant district that meets the needs of a professional population while integrating sustainability elements such as energy management and efficient public transport.

Failures in urban projects: the case of certain new towns

However, not all urban projects are successful. New **towns** in France, such as **Cergy-Pontoise** or **Evry**, are examples of failures in terms of urban development projects. These cities were designed in the 1960s and 1970s to decongest Paris and offer modern and accessible housing. However, design errors, such as the excessive concentration of social housing or poor integration into the regional fabric, have led to problems of isolation, poverty and social segregation.

References:

- Demazière, A. (2023). *Urban projects: successes and failures*. Editions du City Planning.
- Lemoine, P. (2022). *Urban failures: analysis of poorly successful projects*. Presses Universitaires de Lyon.

Conclusion

Urban projects are complex processes that involve multiple considerations, ranging from accessibility and mobility to sustainability and citizen participation. They offer great opportunities to improve the quality of life of residents and transform urban spaces. However, they are not without their challenges, and it is essential to learn from past successes and failures to guide the implementation of future projects. Citizen involvement and rigorous management are keys to the success of any urban project.

