

	APPENDIX A - GLOSSARY
--	------------------------------

Actors

Individuals, groups, or institutions that actively participate in shaping urban space, governance, and decision-making processes. Actors can include public authorities, private developers, local communities, cultural organizations, and informal users. In urban transformation, actors operate with different interests, resources, and degrees of influence, often entering into negotiation, conflict, or collaboration.

Almost Public Space

Urban spaces that appear public in their use and accessibility but are partially controlled, regulated, or owned by private or semi-private actors. These spaces blur the distinction between public and private, often allowing openness while maintaining underlying forms of control. They are central to contemporary urban redevelopment processes, where openness and regulation coexist.

Co-Management

A governance approach in which responsibility for managing urban spaces is shared between public authorities and non-state actors, such as community groups, private entities, or local organizations. Co-management implies negotiated decision-making, shared maintenance responsibilities, and collaborative governance structures, often used in the management of parks, community gardens, and temporary urban spaces.

Co-creation

A collaborative process in which multiple actors jointly produce knowledge, strategies, or spatial outcomes through shared engagement and interaction. In urban planning, co-creation goes beyond consultation by actively involving communities, institutions, and stakeholders in shaping the design, governance, and use of space. While often presented as an inclusive practice, co-creation may also reflect unequal power relations, depending on who defines the framework and controls implementation.

Collective Agency

The capacity of a group or community to act together in shaping, managing, or defending a shared space. In this thesis, collective agency refers to the ability of smaller actors, communities, and temporary users to influence urban transformation, even when they do not hold formal ownership or institutional power.

Commons Transition

The process through which informal, community-based, or collectively managed spaces shift into more formalized governance structures. This transition often involves institutionalization, regulatory integration, or transfer of control, which can alter the original social practices and meanings of the commons.

Curated Programming

The intentional selection and management of activities, events, tenants, or uses within a place. In redevelopment contexts, curated programming can support cultural life and public access, but it can also control which forms of activity are made visible, acceptable, or profitable.

Economic Valorization

The process through which land, buildings, cultural identity, or temporary uses are transformed into economic value. In urban redevelopment, economic valorization often occurs when the social, cultural, or aesthetic qualities of a place increase its attractiveness to investors, developers, visitors, or future residents.

Fragmented Multi-Owner Structure

A landownership condition in which a site is divided between several owners rather than controlled by one single actor. This can make urban transformation more complex, as planning, access, infrastructure, and development depend on coordination between different property owners and institutions.

Hybrid Governance

A governance structure in which urban space is managed through a combination of public, private, and semi-public actors. In hybrid governance systems, responsibilities for planning, management, and development are distributed across institutions, private stakeholders, and civil society. This often produces blurred boundaries of authority and creates negotiated forms of decision-making in urban transformation processes.

Interessement

Interessement Actors attempt to attract and stabilize other actors into the process. This may involve: meetings, policies, workshops, temporary projects, events, agreements. A concept from Actor-Network Theory (ANT), developed by Michel Callon, referring to the process through which actors are “locked into” particular roles or relationships within

a network. Interessement describes the strategies and mechanisms used to align different actors’ interests around a common project, often stabilizing collaboration or governance arrangements. In urban contexts, it helps explain how participation, co-management, or planning processes bring together heterogeneous actors under shared—but not necessarily equal—frameworks.

Lokalplan (Local Plan)

A legally binding planning instrument in Denmark that regulates land use, building conditions, and spatial development at the local scale. The lokalplan defines what can be built, how spaces can be used, and under which conditions development may occur. It is a key tool in Danish urban governance and plays a central role in structuring development processes in areas such as Refshaleøen.

Open-Ended Urbanism

An approach to urban transformation that allows places to remain adaptable over time rather than fully determining their final form, function, or users in advance. It values uncertainty, phased development, temporary use, and future adjustment as part of the urban process.

Performative Participation

A form of participation in which involvement in decision-making processes is not only functional, but also symbolic and staged. It refers to situations where participation is enacted to produce legitimacy, visibility, or consensus, even when actual decision-making power may remain limited or unevenly distributed. In urban governance, performative participation often appears through workshops, consultations, or co-design processes that demonstrate inclusion while shaping how participation itself is perceived and represented.

Place-Making

The process through which space acquires meaning, identity, and social value through human practices, interactions, and representations. Place-making can occur both informally (through everyday use and appropriation) and formally (through planning, design, or branding strategies).

Pre-Development

The phase before permanent redevelopment begins, during which a site may be activated through temporary uses, cultural events, interim leases, or experimental programmes. Although often presented as provisional, pre-development can already shape the identity, value, and future expectations of a place.

Public-Private Interdependence

A condition in which public authorities and private actors depend on each other to plan, finance, regulate, or manage urban transformation. In such contexts, responsibility and influence are distributed across both public and private spheres, making decision-making more negotiated and sometimes less transparent.

Spatial Adaptability

The capacity of a place to accommodate changing uses, actors, needs, and conditions over time. Spatial adaptability is especially relevant in transitional urban areas where temporary uses, long-term planning, and everyday practices overlap.

Stakeholders:

A specific category of actors who hold a direct interest, responsibility, or influence in a particular urban process or spatial transformation. Stakeholders may be affected by, or capable of affecting, planning decisions. In the context of Refshaleøen, stakeholders can include landowners, municipal authorities, developers, community groups, and temporary users, each with distinct priorities and claims over space.

Temporality

The role of time in shaping urban transformation. Temporality refers to how spaces are affected by temporary uses, phased redevelopment, seasonal activities, long-term plans, leases, delays, and changing forms of occupation.

Temporary Users

Actors who occupy or activate a site for a limited period of time, often through cultural initiatives, festivals, workshops, community gardens, or interim leases. Temporary users may contribute significantly to the identity and value of a place, even when their long-term presence is uncertain.

Third Sector

Organizations or groups that are neither public authorities nor private companies, such as associations, non-profits, foundations, volunteer groups, and community-based initiatives. In urban transformation, third-sector actors often mediate between institutional agendas and local forms of social or cultural activity.

Urban Commons

Urban spaces, resources, or practices that are collectively used, managed, or maintained by a community rather than owned or controlled exclusively by public or private actors. Urban commons are not fixed entities; they are continuously produced through social practices, negotiation, and governance arrangements. In contemporary urban contexts, commons often exist in tension with formal planning systems and private development pressures.

Vignette-Based Approach

A way of presenting research through selected fragments, episodes, or scenes that reveal wider dynamics. In this thesis, a vignette-based approach helps show the layered tensions, negotiations, and actor perspectives involved in Refshaleøen's transformation without presenting the process as linear or unified.

Refshaleøens Ejendomsselskab A/S

It is the Danish real estate company that owns, manages, and is transforming the artificial island of Refshaleøen in Copenhagen.

A/S (Aktieselskab)

The abbreviation A/S designates a joint-stock company under Danish corporate law. It corresponds, in terms of structure and shareholder liability, to the Italian S.p.A. (Società per Azioni). In this specific case, the company is not listed on regulated markets.

BIOFOS

It is a municipally owned utility company, so it operates as part of the public infrastructure system. This is important in Refshaleøen because it limits and shapes future urbanization. It actively conditions what can happen around it.

By & Havn

It is a hybrid public-development actor, because legally it operates as a corporation, uses market mechanisms, sells land, and negotiates like a private developer. Nevertheless it is public owned, by the City of Copenhagen (95%) and the Danish State (5%).

Andelsbordning (Cooperative ownership):

A Danish form of collective ownership in which members jointly own and manage a property or asset through a cooperative association. Rather than owning an individual unit outright, members hold a share in the cooperative, which grants them the right to occupy and use the property under collectively agreed rules.