

# Sustainable Construction: The Advantages and Disadvantages of Modern Construction Technologies

Mattijs Holler, Program of the Environment University of Washington Site Supervisor: Christian Holler, Herbert Bau GmbH

Faculty Advisor: Alexa Schreier, Program of the Environment





@mattijs\_holler



## Background

- The built environment emits about 2/3 of the worlds CO2
- A large increase in worlds population increases the demand for more buildings
- Tight time schedules force construction companies to work fast and make them cut corners
- Bad water and waste management pollutes the surrounding environment
- Cheap materials get produced and delivered by other countries

## **Thesis Questions**

- How does the industry build now? How should they build?
- What are advantages or disadvantages of sustainable construction?
- What needs to be done to promote changes?

## Internship and Methods

- I interned with Herbert Bau Gmbh in Vienna.
- I worked within a team of students and conducted research on sustainable construction.
- Our job was to find different methods of construction and maintenance, and to figure out what prevents companies of changing.
- We did weekly observations on Construction Sites

## Results

The results of my research came from different research papers, site observations and interviews with different professionals.

#### Two common construction methods:

- Pre-fabricated method
- On-Site method

#### **Building Styles:**

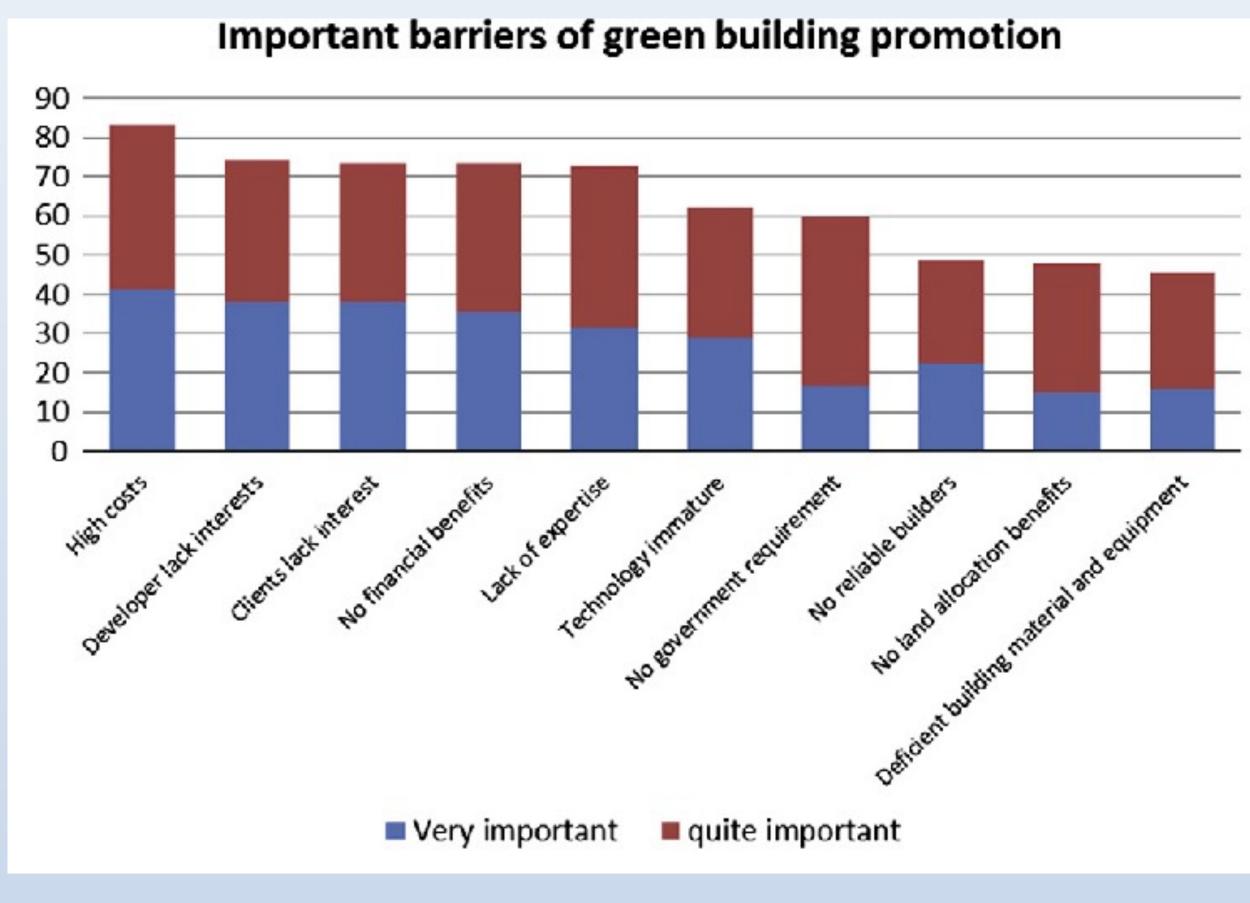
- Energy efficient Building
- Environmentally friendly Building
- Sustainable Building

### **Advantages of Sustainable Construction**

- Decrease construction time, which decreases emission of GHG
- Increases health of the surrounding Environment
- Saves energy during construction

#### Disadvantages of Sustainable Construction

- High financial expenses
- Specialist workers
- Complex design procedures



**Figure:** Factors in construction which prevent companies from moving towards sustainable methods.

#### Changes that should be made:

- Governments need to make sustainable construction more attractive for companies
- Support local material producers to prevent price dumping by big international companies
- This will reduce transport time of material

## Significance

The importance of this project is to show that small changes in the way we build and maintain buildings can have big positive impacts on the environment

#### Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Christian Holler, Alexa Schreier, Matt Bannerman and my Coaches, Sean McDonald, Ana Wieman, and all my Classmates which have supported me through my Capstone and College.