In-depth Interview Guide: Expert Robert van Kats

**Introduction**

This research is being conducted to get to know the views of experts on inhabitant involvement and inhabitant capacities evaluation in rural Sub-Saharan dwelling development.

I am conducting this research for my dissertation at the Delft University of Technology in The Netherlands. I am especially interested in the opinions of experts, which have relevant experience in developing dwellings in rural Sub-Sahara. My co-promoter Emile Quanjel introduced me with your expertise and was excited to find a suitable candidate for my research. In particular your published experience both at BlokKatsvanVeen & DASUDA,with projects like; Sustainable Low Cost Butterfly Housing South Africa, Kaloleni Nairobi. The questions I would like to ask you relate to inhabitant self-reliance towards their built environment and revolve around the topics: inhabitant involvement and inhabitant capacities in relation to the dwelling. The results of this interview will be used to understand participant involvement and capacities by comparing multiple experts from the field. Architects, architects operating within NGO’s and architecture professors, will reflect on: cause, consequences and correlations. Everything addressed within this interview is solely used for this research project, and will not be shared with anyone outside the research team. As this research uses the Delpi methodology outcomes will be shared within contestants but will be anonymized. At the end of the interview I would like to ask you to sign this document & the consent agreement. Do you have any questions before we begin?

**Background Information**

No. of interview: E2016-12-12-1

First name & Surname: Robert van Kats

Education: Academie van Bouwkunst Amsterdam

Positions: **Founder, Owner & Architect;** Blok Kats Van Veen Architects

**Founder & Chairman;** The Dutch Alliance for Sustainable Urban Development in Africa (DASUDA)

Active in Sub-Sahara Development since:

**Opening Questions**

1. Can you tell me on which housing projects you worked in Sub-Sahara Africa?

Probe: Country, Urban/Rural, commercial/non-commercial

1. What where your responsibilities in these projects? (note: Analyse/Design/Constructing)

Probe: Do these responsibilities differ from you European activities? Do you know if these are generally comparable to other practitioners?

1. Which activities did you organise in these projects? (surveys/meetings/workshops/presentations/

Probe: Do these activities differ from you European activities? Do you know if these are comparable to other practitioners?

1. What were the outcomes of the projects? (advice/rapport/design/blueprints)

Probe:

1. With which keywords would you describe your expertise in relation to housing projects in Sub-Sahara Africa?
2. How would you describe the role of architects working in developing rural housing projects in Sub-Sahara Africa?

Probe: What are their approaches and activities? How do these approaches and activities differ from a ‘Western’ context? Could they be relevant or useful for architects working in a ‘Western’ context?

**Key Questions**

1. To what extend do you think rural inhabitants are able to improve their built environment?

**Probe:** Why? To what extend should this process be organised by inhabitants and to what extend do they need support? Do you think there is balance between these two to the success of the project?

1. When looking at the contemporary housing development aid, for example habitat for humanity and the role of architects in this process. Do you think inhabitant involvement is sufficiently considered?

**Probe:** Why? Do the used planning and design methods sufficiently allow inhabitants to participate?

1. Should inhabitants be included in the overall development process of their dwelling?

Probe: to what extend, when, how,

1. How should inhabitants be included in the overall development process of their dwelling?

Probe: to what extend, when, how,

1. Could inhabitant their capacities be of importance to the overall development process?

Which capacities? When should they be considered?

1. Is it important to incorporate these capacities in the realization of rural dwellings?

Probe: why is suitability important? How can dwelling suitability be realized? What is the role of the inhabitant and what is the role of the architect?

1. Which capacities would you mark as success criteria in the realization of rural dwellings?

Probe: What enables a suitable dwelling for a local family?

1. To what extend should tradition and local building knowledge be incorporated in the solution formulation?

Probe: Which aspects? How? Who would decide?

1. Who should make final decisions concerning the built environment of rural inhabitants?

Probe: Which phase? Role of the designer?

1. Looking at the generally chosen materials and building methods by current operating agencies, to what extend do you think the inhabitants’, background, skills and income are considered?

**Probe:** Why? How?

1. What would you identify as the vital objectives for architects developing rural dwellings in Sub-Sahara Africa? (during phases; Initiating/analysing/designing/constructing/maintaining)

Probe: objectives in relation to the inhabitants, cultural, social aspects

1. How would you describe a successful outcome in developing rural dwellings in Sub-Sahara Africa?

Probe: When would they be considered successful? How could they remain successful?

1. What would inhabitants identify as vital for developing their rural dwellings in Sub-Sahara Africa?

Probe: Is this comparable to what you think is vital? What constitutes to this difference in opinion? How could this insight or knowledge gap (expert/non-expert) be closed?

1. What aspects related to the inhabitants should be considered in the design and building process, of the usage phase of these rural dwellings?

Probe: How should these be gathered?

1. Looking back at your education, do you think you were sufficiently prepared to work in situ?

Probe: Methods, Theory, Projects

1. Have you over the years acquired relevant tools, approaches, methods that enabled you to close this education gap or to add on your body of knowledge?

Probe: which? Were they directly applicable/context specific?

1. Are these relevant tools, approaches and methods directly applicable to the context?

Probe: Do they require adjustments?

1. Do you think that these relevant tools, approaches and methods are in general easy to find?
2. Do you have any suggestions what should be added to the architect’s education?

Probe: Methods, Theory, Projects

1. Looking at contemporary (fulltime) education, do you think it is important to educate the new generation of architects to work in comparable foreign informal contexts?

Probe: Why? Is this only important for foreign context? Or also for local (Dutch) context?

1. Looking at contemporary (fulltime) education, do you think new generations of architects are sufficiently prepared for these requirements?

Probe: Why, How?

1. Which approaches, theories, tools & methods do you suggest, should be a part of the contemporary education?

Probe: When, How, what form? (Methods, Theory, Projects)

**Closing Questions**

1. Could working on rural and informal architecture be of importance in architecture education?

Probe? Why? How?

1. What are your hopes for the future role of architects?

Probe: Education, profession, responsibilities

**Interview Consent Form**

Research project title: Inhabitant Inclusive Housing Design Support Tool

Research investigator: Ir. Arch. M. Smits PhD candidate

Research Participants name: Robert van Kats

The interview will take 90 minutes. We don’t anticipate that there are any risks associated with your participation, but you have the right to stop the interview or withdraw from the research at any time.

Thank you for agreeing to be interviewed as part of the above research project. Ethical procedures for academic research undertaken from Dutch institutions require that interviewees explicitly agree to being interviewed and how the information contained in their interview will be used. This consent form is necessary for us to ensure that you understand the purpose of your involvement and that you agree to the conditions of your participation. Please therefore read the information below and then sign this form to certify that you approve the following:

* the interview will be recorded and a transcript will be produced
* you will be sent the transcript and given the opportunity to correct any factual errors
* the transcript of the interview will be analysed by (Michiel Smits) as research investigator
* access to the interview transcript will be limited to (Michiel Smits) and academic colleagues and researchers with whom he might collaborate as part of the research process
* any summary interview content, or direct quotations from the interview, that are made available through academic publication or other academic outlets will be anonymized so that you cannot be identified, and care will be taken to ensure that other information in the interview that could identify yourself is not revealed
* the actual recording will be kept for valorisation purpose only
* any variation of the conditions above will only occur with your further explicit approval

**Quotation Agreement**

# I also understand that my words may be quoted directly. With regards to being quoted, please initial next to any of the statements that you agree with:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | I wish to review the notes, transcripts, or other data collected during the research pertaining to my participation. |
|  | I agree to be quoted directly. |
|  | I agree to be quoted directly if my name is not published and a made-up name (pseudonym) is used. |
|  | I agree that the researchers may publish documents that contain quotations by me. |

All or part of the content of your interview may be used;

* In academic papers, policy papers or news articles
* On our website and in other media that we may produce such as spoken presentations
* On other feedback events
* In an archive of the project as noted above By signing this form I agree that;

1. I am voluntarily taking part in this project. I understand that I don’t have to take part, and I can stop the interview at any time;
2. The transcribed interview or extracts from it may be used as described above;
3. I have read the Information sheet;
4. I don’t expect to receive any benefit or payment for my participation;
5. I can request a copy of the transcript of my interview and may make edits I feel necessary to ensure the effectiveness of any agreement made about confidentiality;
6. I have been able to ask any questions I might have, and I understand that I am free to contact the researcher with any questions I may have in the future.

# Printed Name

**Participants Signature Date**

**Researchers Signature Date**

If you have any further questions or concerns about this study, please contact:

Name of researcher:

Address: Eikstraat 32, 4814 HM Breda

Tel: +31610810674

E-mail: m.w.m.smits@tudelft.nl

You can also contact supervisor (Tom Avermaete): Prof.dr.ir. T. Avermaete

Address:

Tel:

Mail: