**Introduction**

The potential of nature-based solutions (NBS) is promising: by mobilizing nature, they simultaneously provide social, economic, and environmental benefits and are associated with sustainable, even regenerative urban development. Still, at present, realizing NBS can be distant from the theoretical concept, making the NBS achievements restrained, with hidden potentials and missed opportunities. This challenge is intricately connected with the way urban spaces are designed and designed, reflecting user practices, culture, and the understanding that NBS must serve humans and the natural environment alike. This dissertation research responds to this gap by exploring how NBS can be amplified through strategic design considerations and how, in turn, NBS enhances the ‘urban’ together with human well-being.

**Research question**

How can the design framework of NBS contribute to reducing the gap between NBS’s ‘rhetoric of potential’ and their implementation and impact on achieving urban regeneration?

**Conceptual framework**

**Findings**

**APPLICATIONS FOR THE FRAMEWORK FOR STUDYING THE DESIGN OF URBAN NBS

**MAIN FINDINGS outcomes:** provide ‘touchpoints’ between humans and nature enabling nature interactions, experiences, and learning, but the placemaking toolkit needs to be reoriented towards a community- and more-than-human-focused design approaches: a socio-ecologically embodied approach is required for NBS to assert its regenerative potential.

**Process:** all phases are critical in providing opportunities for community involvement, and sustainability learning.

**THE DESIGN FRAMEWORK OF REGENERATIVE NBS**

This conceptual framework, adapted from Mang and Haggard’s (2016) work, and applied for researching the design framework holistically, is one of the original contributions of this dissertation. It serves to navigate among the interacting dimensions which define NBS design. In addition, it demonstrates the complexity of NBS design and the need to devote adequate attention and resources to work on all three dimensions for implementing NBS. The research also illustrates the flexibility and wide applicability of this framework in assessing or analyzing NBS with varied typologies and scales, and it can be useful for both ex-post and ex-ante assessments of NBS.