

Buenos Aires High Density

Tiro Federal
(Unlocked II)

Studio Cecilia Chiappini
Preliminary Brief - 20th SEPTEMBER 2020

maib34 2020-2021, Semester 3

Engagement Urban Cultures

International Master of Science in Architecture

Faculty of Architecture, Campus Sint-Lucas Brussels, KU Leuven

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Summary

“Buenos Aires High Density: Tiro Federal (Unlocked II), maib34 2020-2021” lead by Cecilia Chiappini is the 2nd in a series of design studios focused on the capability of infrastructural transformations to unlock urban developments of high density. The proposal is to rethink the meaning of high density in combination with a new understanding of urban qualities, private-public and collective spaces. The students will produce an architectural-urban design-case proposal based on their enquiries on a specific location.¹

This semester’s location is Tiro Federal, in Nuñez, Buenos Aires. This implies the transformation of the former open-air sportive areas of 17 hectares, including the historical building of Tiro Federal Argentino Club (target shooting) for urban developments.

Divided in several plots, about 150.000 sqm of new residential buildings could be built in towers of up to 100m high (in 2 plots of 10.000 and 1800 smq sold on 20th November 2018 and 25th Augustus 2020). These face two of the most important avenues of the city, Avenida del Libertador and Avenida Leopoldo Lugones. Behind that, a green buffer is to be constituted, with pedestrian connections to UBA Ciudad Universitaria (University of Buenos Aires Campus), and further linking to the La Plata river side and the facilities along the coast. The areas towards the river are to host the so-called Parque de la Innovation (Innovation Park), a public development of 120.066 sqm for “creative industries” (12 hectares).

Tiro Federal is an example a phenomenon that is becoming recurrent in the city of Buenos Aires, the purchase of large public plots for private developments, in eventual combination with public works.

This also hocks with general developments going on in the city, mainly relating to infrastructures, for example the replacement of Paseo del Bajo Avenue for a new semi-sunken corridor, and the on-going process on requalifying the La Plata River side, as a metropolitan linear corridor called Costanera Norte-Salguero, Distrito Joven.

The critical components of these cases is the fact that the availability of the land for urban uses (formerly affected to transit, industrial and harbor-related uses) is unlocked by operations at the infrastructural level. This is fostered by the State and exploited by the Real Estate sector, touching upon the most consolidated and sensitive areas of the city and metropolitan area.

The background of the enquiries is the worldwide situation triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic, making it more urgent to rethink the way we live together in high density contexts.

1. Buenos Aires, maib34, 2019-2020; and Buenos Aires, maib34/24, 2020-2021. See particularly Buenos Aires: 01. Eman Afaneh – Iulia Ilie and 02. Anneleen Brandt – Sébastien Ronchetti (maib34 2019-2020); Barcelona: Simon Desimpelaere: <https://app.box.com/s/xptz87dc10p2lbc3hhfbujl71wz3ct68> (maib24 2017-2018); Brussels: Soojeong Kwon: <https://app.box.com/s/v3lho5we753j9ca3yu6md4kh5to6b9hi> (maib14 2017-2018), Saeki Tatsuya: <https://app.box.com/s/eyeun2psbcm9wfar55ci3modc9ho8ph> (maib14 2016-2017). Toni Popovski (maib24 2016-17)
2. As developed in close relation with the tutor’s PhD-research on Infrastructures under Transformation as Spaces of Collectivities”
3. Inspired by Learning from Las Vegas and Made in Tokyo. See References.

During an intensive research-design studio, students will discuss conceptual issues, develop and test explorative tools to address the issues at stake, especially looking at “expectations, materializations and appropriations,” around infrastructures and collectivities;² deploying a “learning from...” approach.³

The background is the on-going research on the value of infrastructures and collectivities as tools to design the city. These elements are articulations of urban processes at different levels, material and physical, immaterial and symbolic. All with fluctuant spatial manifestations, embracing qualities and emergent appropriations and unexpected processes.

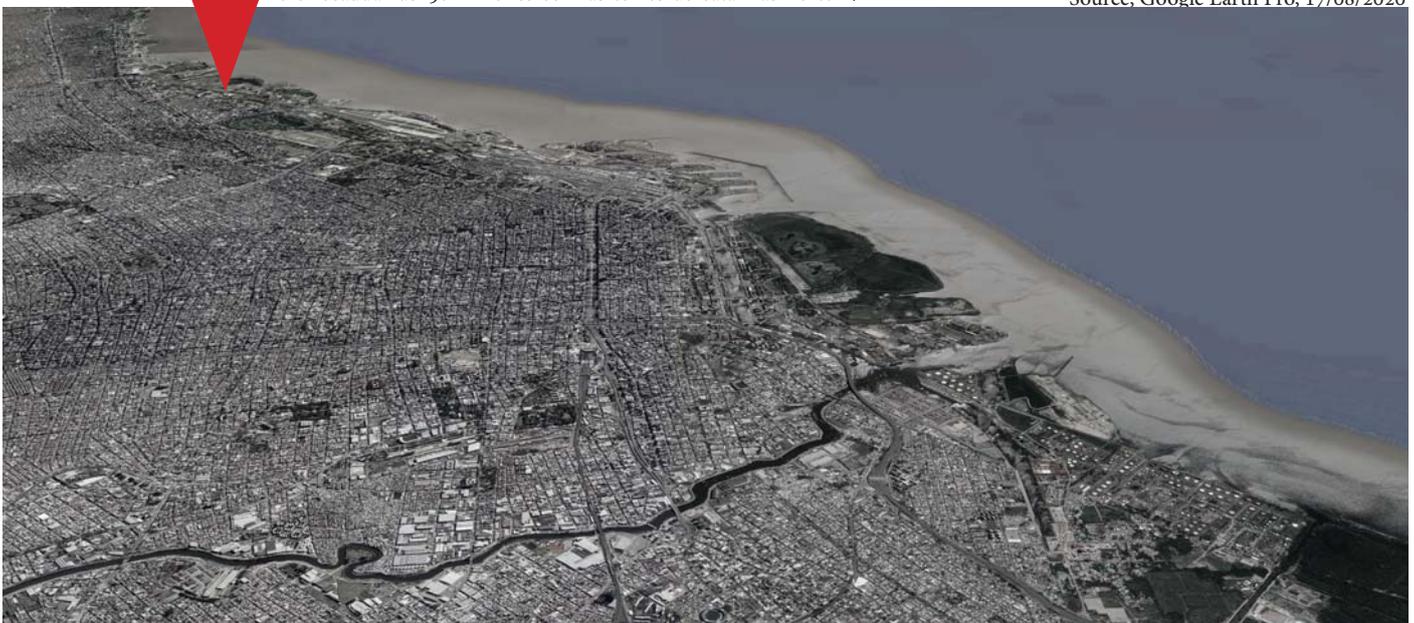
The modality of the design studio is full remote, and the main objective is to generate urban design and architecture devices, and strategic plans, that particularly look at (inter)cultural dimension of urban spaces. The skills to develop along the way are the capacity to deal with foreign highly complex contexts, to put in place a coherent research and design process. Each student is to define and prove a critical point-of-view, translated into design understood in a broad sense. The focus of the design stages will be on dealing with high density around built spaces (generating new buildings, for example), open spaces (rethinking public spaces around the area) and contacts (exploring extensions, refuncionalizations, or interactions with existing elements). Students will work in groups of 3-4 in the research stages, and in groups of 2 in the design stages.



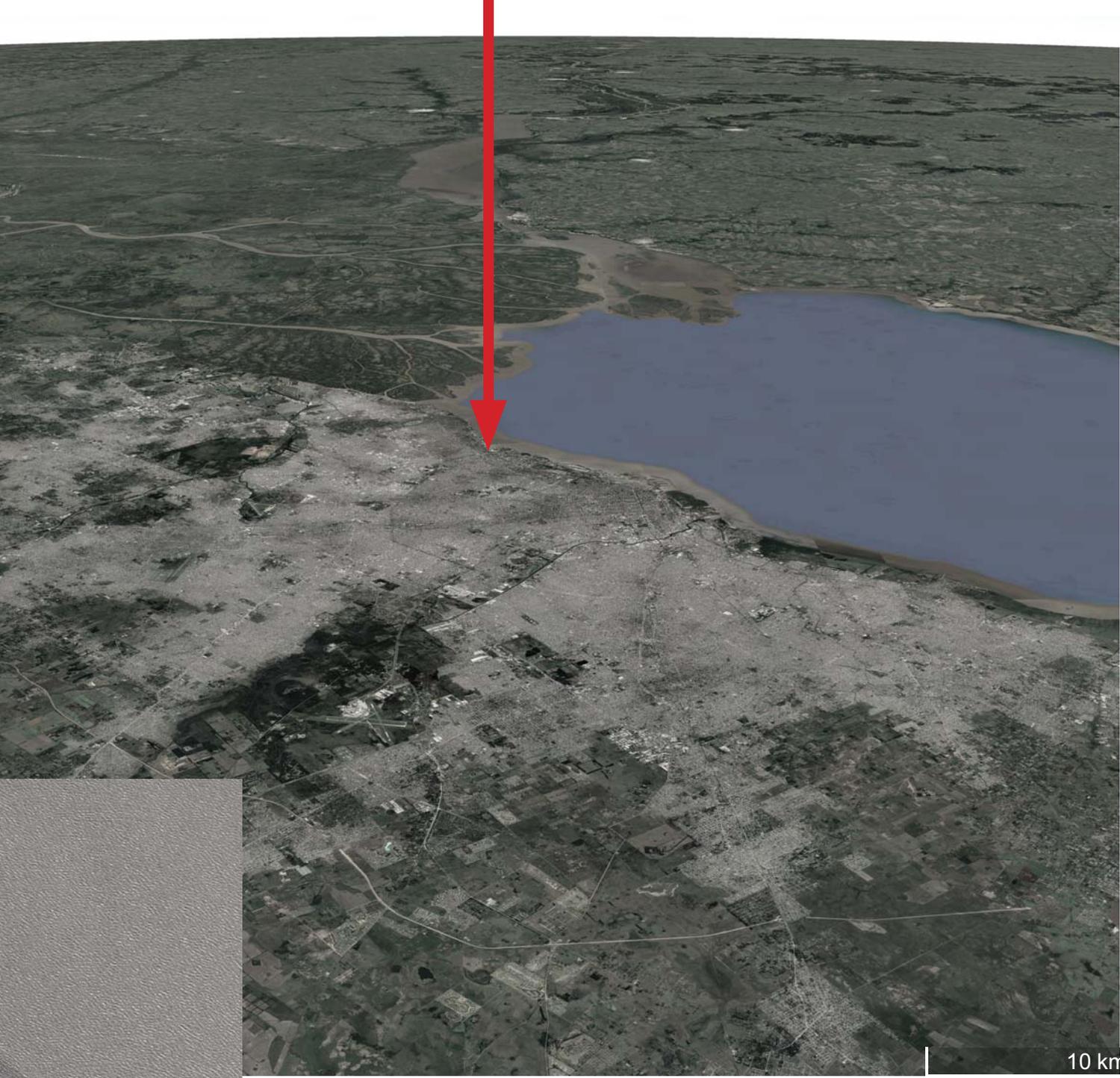
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Source: <https://www.lapoliticaonline.com/nota/96849-riberena-larreta-qui-ere-recaudar-us250-millones-con-las-torres-de-catalinas-norte-ii/>

Source: Google Earth Pro, 17/08/2020







10 km

Site at different scales. Source: Google Earth Pro, 7/9/2020



Context and Design Challenge

1. Pandemic

“11 March 2020. Deeply concerned both by the alarming levels of spread and severity, and by the alarming levels of inaction, WHO made the assessment that COVID-19 can be characterized as a pandemic.”(WHO, <https://www.who.int/>)

Since end of December 2019, when a cluster of cases of pneumonia were reported in Wuhan, Hubei, Province, China; an unprecedented worldwide crisis started. With this, the way live and think our cities is changing for ever. In a matter of weeks, even days after this call, countries around the world started activating protocols for dealing with the new phenomena. In some cases, radically opposite approaches were confronted. Some governments advocated for different levels of lockdowns, either relying on personal responsibility or deploying the military on the streets. Other refused to implement any measures.

The levels of spread have ever since found different curves and we all learn to read them in relation to other critical aspects such as the capacities of health sectors, levels of freedom. With the passing of time, different areas of the world have been experiencing waves and this triggers multiple reactions and perceptions on the status of pandemia.

Since the situation (and the perception of it) is changing so rapidly, it is important to say that at time of writing this brief (mid-2020), the situation is the following: while Europe, has progressively loosen up the measures and focused on social distancing (still expecting second or third waves); Latin America and North America have felt the impact later and are still struggling with keeping the situations under control. All the hopes are put on the development and distribution of reliable vaccinations and medicines. The end of the pandemic is coupled with these events and many resources are allocated to this.

The consequences of both pandemic and measures are being now addressed. They are of all nature, and the first debates start from the (immediate) economics and social implications at local and national levels. Yet, the global scale of the virus phenomena means that the scale of the discussions is also (to be) global. This is all embedded in political tensions and ultimately, reaches the environmental level.

Ultimately, the pandemic triggers many questions on how we relate to each other, and therefore on how we use space, and live together. This touches all levels and scales, from the domestic to the public, in the end, the way we understand urban life and cities is put under question.

2. High-Density

This design studio address directly a situation that is strongly impacted by pandemic in urban spaces: reassessing high density. While this can be done in a variety of manners (from more general and conceptual, to more problem-solving), the position of this design studio is at the intermediate spatial scale. It starts by enquiring spatial configurations around high-density modes, as ways to rethink and inform new models and design strategies. These are then explored via architecture and urban design proposals of different scales.

Normally, high density is associated to high-rise buildings in strategic locations, hands-in-hands with consolidated infrastructure (from highways and stations for accessibility to the high demands of electricity and water consumption, for example). In Western context, this is executed in different ways. From city-centre concentrations, like in the USA downtowns (Houston as an example that can also be associated to a natural catastrophe), to (peri)central renovations, as in the European reconversions of harbours and industrial plots (from Hamburg-HafenCity as paradigm of the first; to the areas around train stations under transformation in the Netherlands, including Amsterdam, Utrecht, Breda, 's-Hertogenbosch, as nearby example of the second one).

High-rises are normally associated to enclaves, and to the dominance of the tertiary sector (offices, hotels and services), being both integrated and detached from the urban tissues (Canary Wharf in London and La Defence in Paris are probably the main references). Still, the need of spaces for living in strategic urban locations has historically put pressure on this lucrative restriction. In recent years (let's say since the turn of the Century), an acceleration in the changes of technological resources and their effects on the expectations and ways of living and working increase the pressure to reassess high-rise developments. On

top, what is considered high-quality high-density is also to be enquired. Normally linked to a variety of urban processes and conflicts, the effects of high-density developments include social fragmentation and exclusion, thematization, real estate inflation and gentrification, vacancy and rapid obsolescence (Brussels North Neighbourhood as the closest example of some of these issues).

Currently, in a context of general housing shortage and social pressures, demographics reconfigurations (rapid urbanization, transnational flows and aging populations) and economic-environmental crisis, pandemic comes to accentuate the need to re imagine high density. The design studio will undertake this task by using the special case of Buenos Aires, Argentina. Here the relation between high-density models and (reassessed) urban life can be tested *at extremis*.

3. Buenos Aires, Argentina

Argentina has adopted one of the strengthen approaches in dealing with the spread of the virus. Specifically, in March 2020 (almost simultaneously with Europe even though there were almost no registered cases locally), the national government puts in place a total lockdown and complete closure of the borders. In April 2020, it declared that no aerial traffic would be allowed until September 2020. Ever since, it has been going back and forth in different “phases” of lockdown both at the national, provincial and urban levels. In July 2020, while many provinces have reached phase 4, in which social distancing is the norm; the Metropolitan Area of Buenos Aires, housing about 13 million people, is put back to phase 1, the highest degree of restrictions. The police and military forces are the methods to endure this.

The extreme approach is being both acclaimed and criticised. This happens internally and externally, and it is still hard to judge if it is adequate. The main questions are on the consequences at economic and social levels. This comes on top of structural conditions that make the life at cities like Buenos Aires rather different than the life in European Cities. Pandemic accentuates these differences and turns into an occasion to put under questions many aspects. These aspects are not the centre of discussion of this design studio but constitute an undeniable background.

In terms of high-density urban areas, the downtown and coastline of Buenos Aires (towards the La Plata River), are doing through a strong transformation process and therefore constitute an exceptional area to explore new approaches.

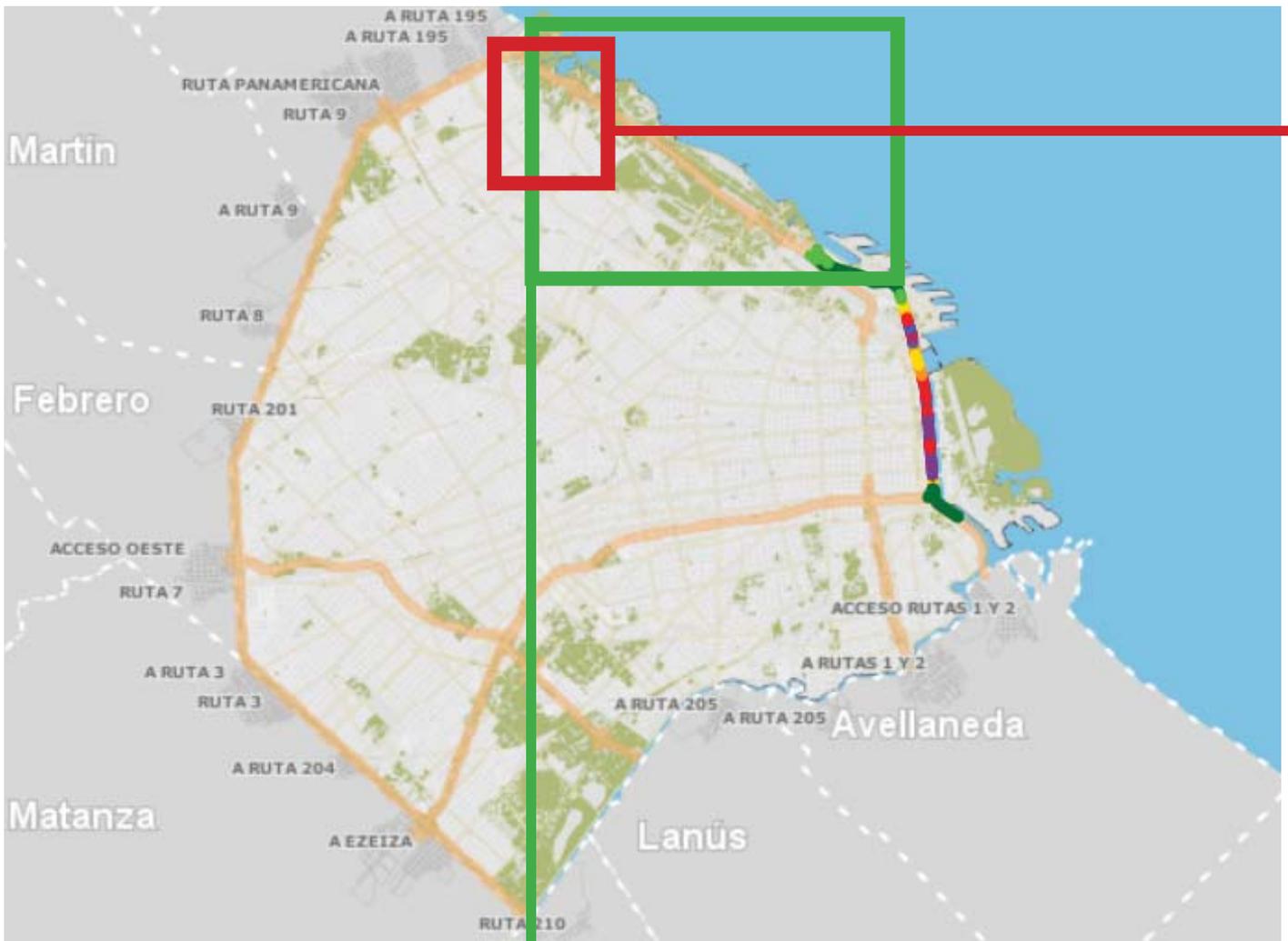
The area at stake is blurry delimited by the North Access and Paseo del Bajo (new infrastructural corridor touching the city centre), and by the La Plata River. Along this, several developments are taking place. From South to North, the list starts with Zona Sur, a highly populated area around the historical harbour of La Boca that is trying to upgrade and clean its water resources. Then, Puerto Madero area, the ‘90s harbour reconversion into high-end housing, hotels and offices that is reaching next stages in urban integration. It continues with Catalinas Norte II, currently under development with thousands of square meters of offices under development to complement and upgrade Catalinas Norte Business District. From then on, there are major elements such as the Retiro central train and bus stations, the harbour of Buenos Aires and the city (national) airport.

The coastline is a green corridor of 30 km until the La Plata Delta (marked by Tigre City). This corridor touches along different urban tissues, intertwined with green and industrial patches of diverse consolidation. On the first section, North from the city centre, there is a project for the requalification currently under development on Costanera Norte, called Distrito Joven (Young District).

Nuñez is a neighbourhood in the northern edge of the city. It touches upon the La Plata River and the most consolidated high density urban areas. Here, there are large green areas both urbanized and vacant, together with several metropolitan facilities, such as the River Plate football club and the University of Buenos Aires.

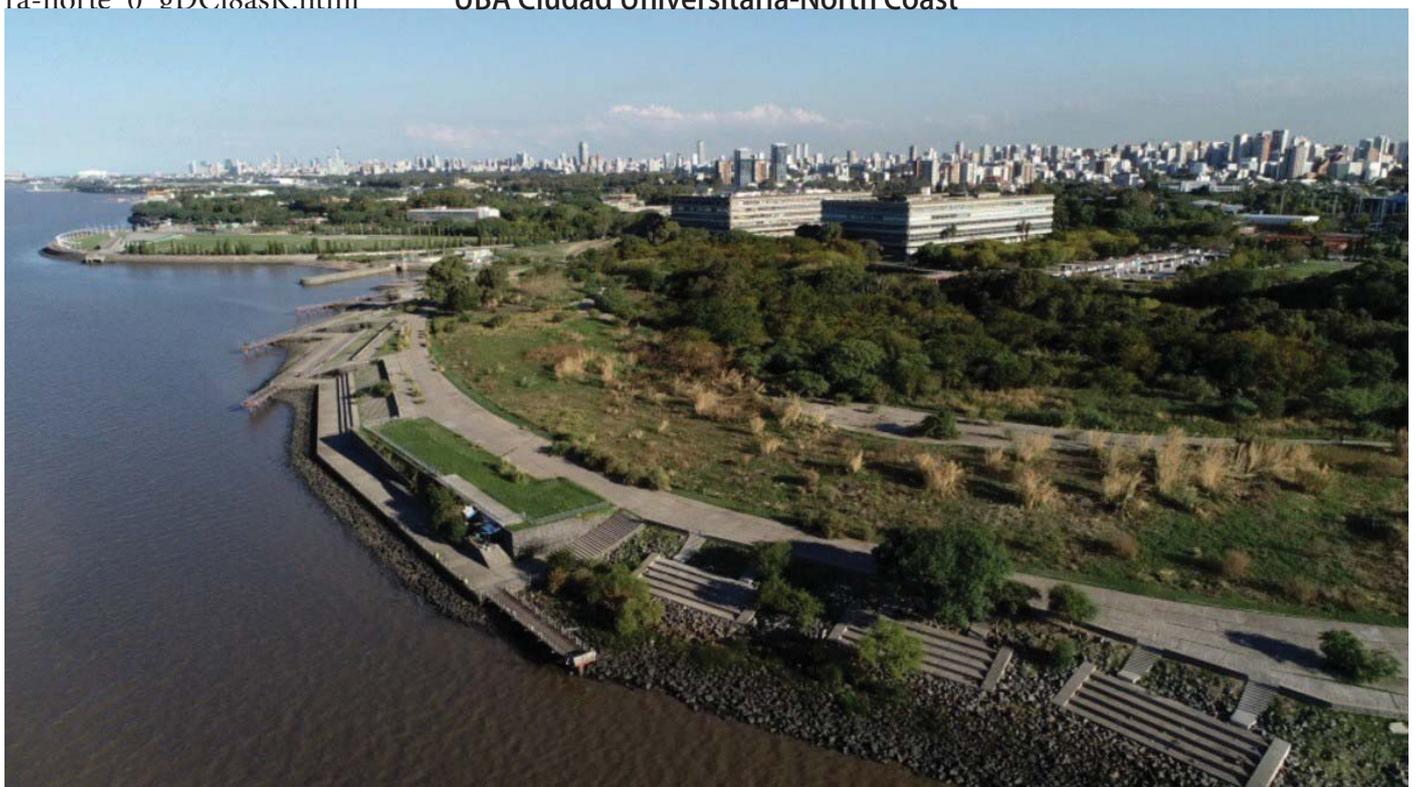
The design studio will focus on Tiro Federal, one of those big plots at a critical location under enormous pressure for development.

Here, tests of high-density are to be produced in articulation with a refreshed understanding of urban life. Programmatically, high density will not be restricted to offices, but include housing, production, and recreation, in extended senses.



https://www.clarin.com/ciudades/distrito-joven-plan-mejorar-relacion-ciudad-rio-costanera-norte_0_gDCi8asK.html

UBA Ciudad Universitaria-North Coast



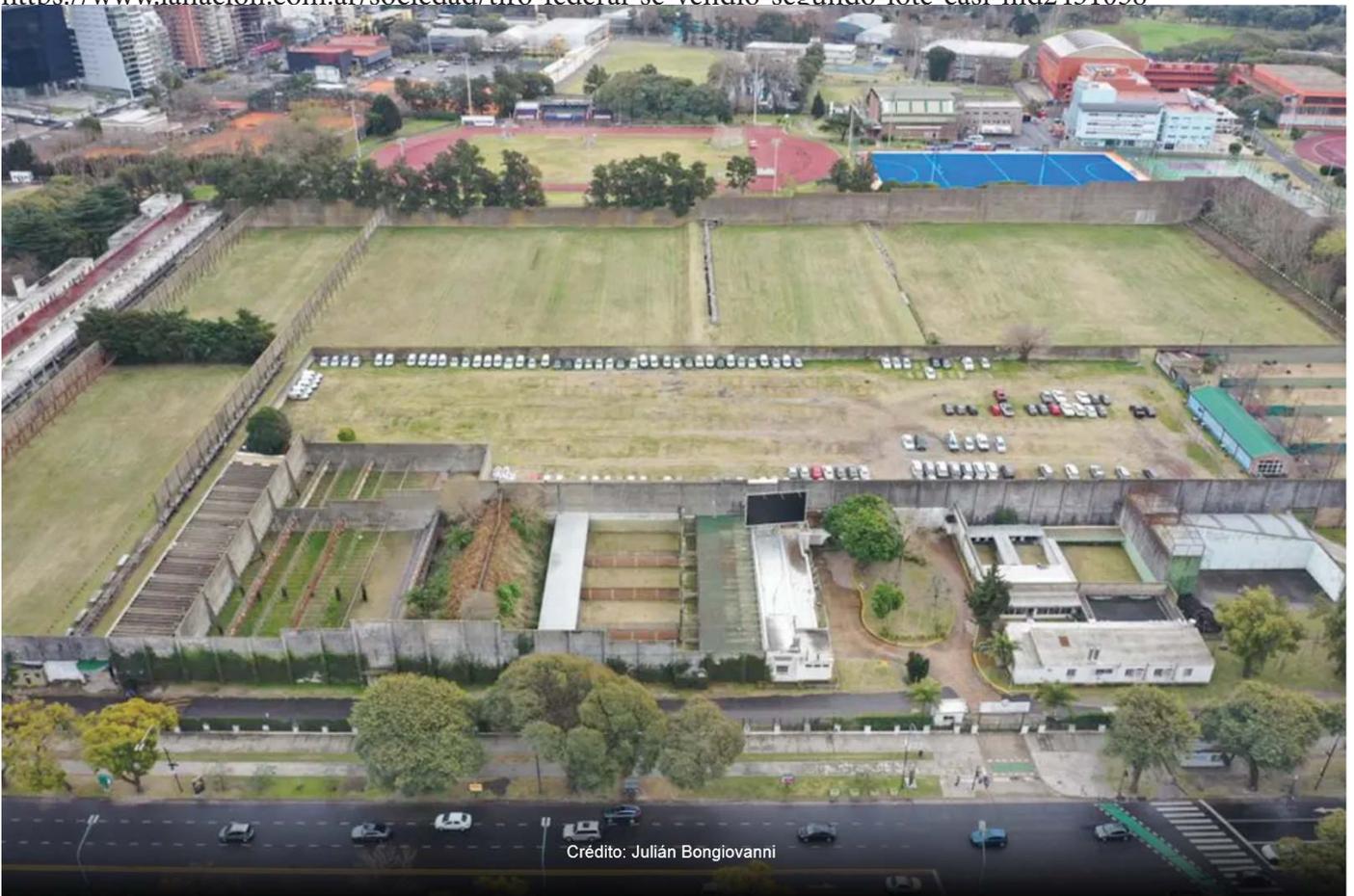
Buenos Aires - Tiro Federal



Fuente: Archivo

<https://www.lanacion.com.ar/sociedad/tiro-federal-se-vendio-segundo-lote-casi-nid2431058>

<https://www.lanacion.com.ar/sociedad/tiro-federal-se-vendio-segundo-lote-casi-nid2431058>



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Buenos Aires Transformations



Uba Ciudad Universitaria as link to Buenos Aires North Coast

Source: <https://www.bahelitours.com/es/galeria>



Competition Call City of Buenos Aires
New infrastructures in Buenos Aires



Tiro Federal

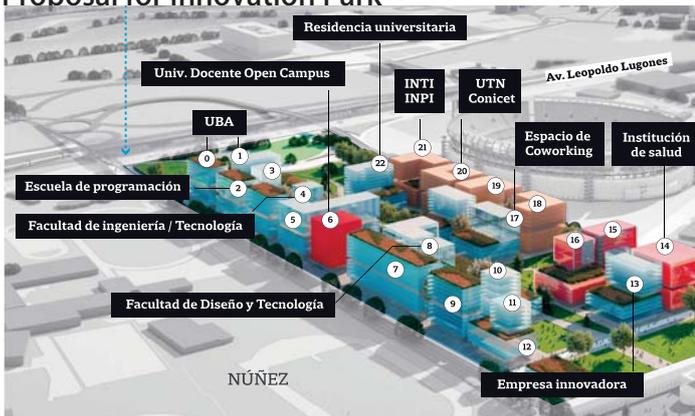


Prevision for the entire area including housing towers and Innovation Park

Current state of the plot for the Innovation Park



Proposal for Innovation Park



DESTINO DE LOS ESPACIOS

Innovación Privada*	100.000 m ²
<small>(2, 4, 8, 13, 14, 17, 22)</small>	
Innovación Pública	62.000 m ²
<small>(9, 1, 6, 20, 21)</small>	
Innovación Privada **	57.000 m ²
<small>(15, 16, 18, 19)</small>	
Residencial	45.000 m ²
<small>(5, 7, 9)</small>	
Usos Mixtos	43.000 m ²
<small>(10, 11)</small>	
Oficinas	23.000 m ²
<small>(3, 12)</small>	

Source: La Nacion online

Intermediate Context

Buenos Aires' coastline possess several questions at the architecture and urban levels to be addressed in the course of the design studio. The enquire on one or more of these is intended to become central to the argument lines for the development of position, research strategy and design proposal by the students. Addressing the implications of the kind of operations gathered around them is to become central to the design process in broader sense. Some of the issues at stake may include:

- Questioning “what kind of”, “for whom”, “under what conditions” is high density intended. What kind of models and buildings does this generate? (accent on built spaces)
- Enquiring the conditions under which urban land is rendered available in relation to infrastructural processes, the operations around them, and the imaginaries projected by different stakeholders; the capacity of urban space to generate certain and processes in relation to the development of urban spaces. What kind of urban spaces are thought in association with high-density proposals? (accent on open spaces)
- The relation between new interventions and consolidated and sensitive urban areas, the relations and processes condensed at urban edges (relations to existing fabric and natural environment), and the connections with other transformation processes. What kind of relations are generated? (accent on contacts)

Ultimately, the combination of these dimensions are to inform the design processes and in consequence to broaden up the set of options for dealing with such urban developments in such critical areas. This means concretely that student may go for urban arrangements and models that question the originally proposed operations (in this case the arrival of several towers to the development plots or the winning design competition proposal), and include creative ways of combining densities, target users, lobbies-imaginaries, combinations of public-private operations, etc.

Larger Context

The case triggers enquiries that are to be linked to a variety of scales, having them as background and general context, including for example Buenos Aires at urban and metropolitan, national or inter-oceanic/continental scales. Furthermore, urban processes are to be enquired at intermediate and micro-scales and dimensions aiming at identifying the different paradoxes and complexities (at material or/and social levels) that manifest in urban spaces. Proposing ways of embracing them are to be part of the design explorations.

In Argentina, several factors come together constituting a background of urban development and life. The following is a schematic list that can be used to select one pressing issue to articulate the architectural proposal with:

- Higher levels of poverty are annually registered.
- High levels of unemployment and consequently informal work (non-registered shops, services, etc.) is highly vulnerable to pandemic contexts.
- Social security has increased in the last years but fail to address structural conditions such as labour reinsertion.
- Inflation has been growing for years and it comes in hands with devaluation of the local currency (Argentinean peso).
- Poverty tends to concentrate in slums, where lack of infrastructure and confinement makes living conditions extremely harsh.
 - Social housing policies are weak and in turn the living conditions tend to still be rather precarious.
- Argentina is one of the richest countries in the world in terms of agricultural and natural resources, with worldwide exports.
 - With free university education, human resources are amount the most wanted region and worldwide.
- This comes in hand with a very rich cultural scene and the long tradition of looking for European inspiration. This in turns, comes from its roots as a migration country since the late 1800s.
- ...

The studio wants to explore how extreme situations, like pandemic, can be used to twist conditions and ultimately proposed more inclusive, fairly distributed resources, including urban quality.

Buenos Aires Transformations at the Core of Paradoxes and Complexities



Areas of Densification Through History

1. Downtown
2. Inner Neighbourhoods
3. Periphery
4. Riverfront
5. Traditional Parks
6. Urban Vacancies
7. Real Estate Districts



Gross Socio-Economic Distribution

1. High-Income Class
2. Middle-Income Class
3. Low-Income Class

Source: (top) varied / (bottom) HIGH-RISE LIVING AND THE INCLUSIVE CITY Workshop 2018 - May 21-25 / Professor Arch. Julio Arroyo-Arch. Franco Giardino FADU / UNL - Santa Fe - Argentina



Buenos Aires Transformations at the Core of Paradoxes and Complexities

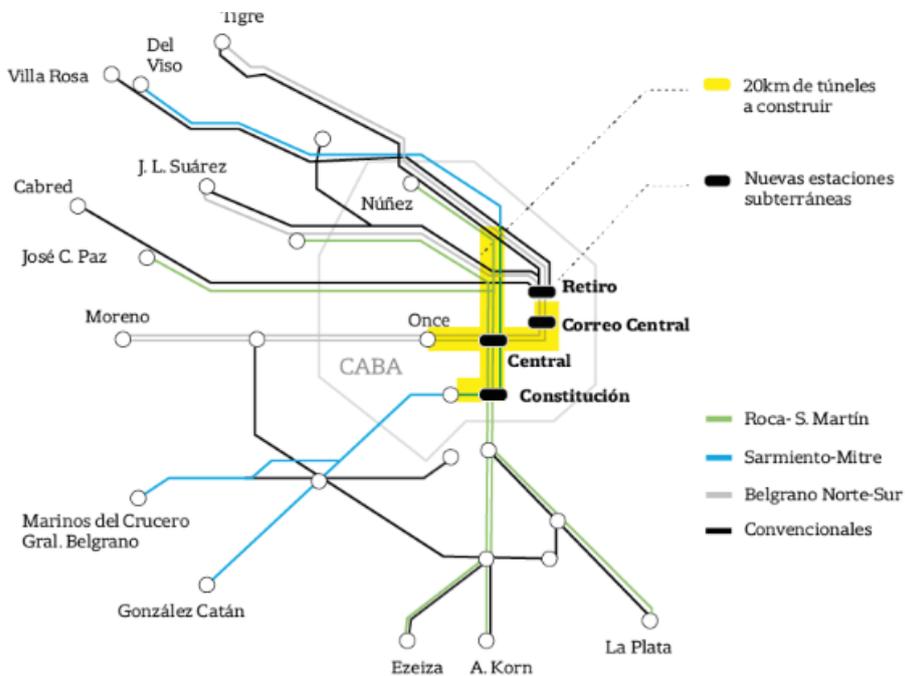


<https://news.un.org/es/story/2020/06/1475272>

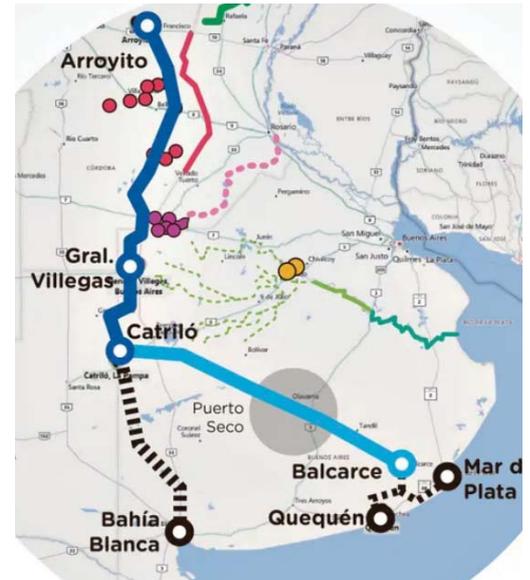
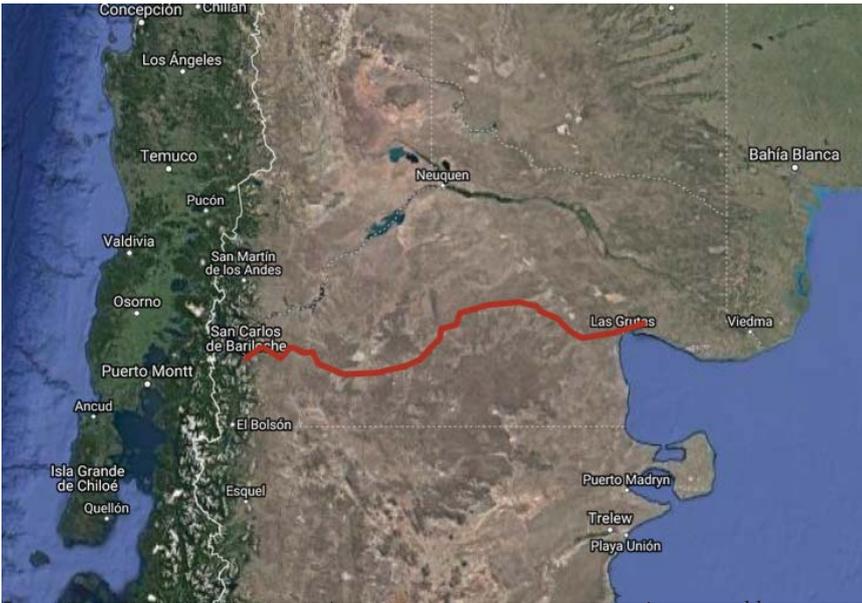
<https://notasdeactualidad.com.ar/movilizaciones-en-la-ciudad-de-buenos-aires-y-varias-provincias-por-vicentin/>



Buenos Aires Transformations: Urban and Metropolitan Scales



Buenos Aires Transformations: National and Inter-Oceanic Scales



Source: <https://www.lanacion.com.ar/2185939-presentan-proyecto-autopista-navegable-campo-costaria-us3000>, <https://www.lanacion.com.ar/2207614-el-nuevo-tren-patagonico-ira-cordillera-playa>.



Strategic Partnership

In order to assist students in such a complex case, the design studio will include remote consultation and lectures. Here, different interests are of brought in. These are part of an on-going collaboration with international Universities that gets extended to a practice-academic experiment.

The members of this network area: First, KUL-Cecilia Chiappini's ongoing research on infrastructures as spaces of collectivities (Belgium, The Netherlands).⁴ This will be proposed also within her private practice ARQ-CHIA, in association with Eng. Prof. Enrique Chiappini who has experience in major engineering projects in Latin American.⁵ This is put in relation to the collaboration that was put in place for the maib34 Buenos Aires Unlocked (I) in 2019-2020. This is composed by UNL-Prof. Julio Arroyo's work on public architecture and urban space (Argentina) who will contribute with his expertise in assessing public spaces under pressure and his deep knowledge of Buenos Aires.⁶ Then, IAU-USP-Prof. Manoel Rodrigues Alves will participate from his expertise and interest on verticalization and urban quality of life under the impact of global-financial capitalism in cities.⁷ Finally, Florencia Lorenzo, project manager at the Government of the City of Buenos Aires, will assist students to understand the context from the technical/implementation point of view.

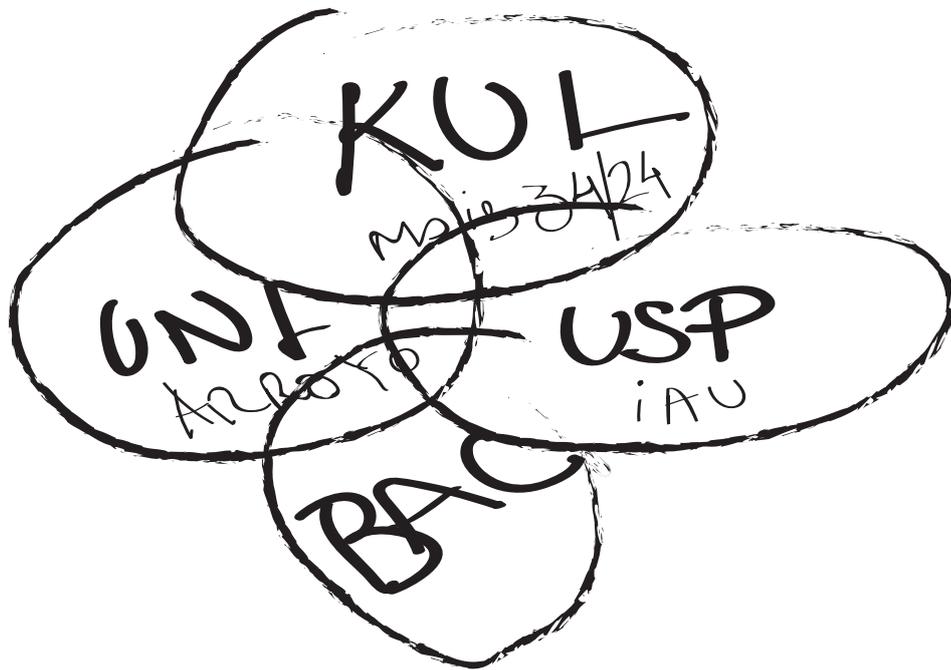
Cecilia Chiappini, as leader of the design studio will assess the needs along the process to find proper and complete know-how for managing all the systems integrated in the assignment. Comparisons and cross-references and collaborations with Asiya Sadiq and Martine de Maeseneer (KU Leuven) addressing other transformation cases such in Pakeistan and China (launched also in 2019-2020) will be extended.

⁴ KUL-Cecilia Chiappini's teaching and research focus on unveiling the capacities of infrastructures and collectivities to condensate urban processes and to put in evidence relations and contradictions of expectations-realization-appropriations, central and marginal actors and their spatial outputs at different scales, with a peculiar focus on temporality, intermediate and micro-processes. See: www.collectivespaces-kuleuven.be

⁵ See: www.arq-chia.com.ar

⁶ UNL-Prof. Julio Arroyo' research project focuses on the complex production of the public domain in the urban space of Argentinean cities. This is reflected in the contemporary debate about perception, understanding and appreciation of public space (more stable, normative, physically determinable socio-spatial processes) and the public (more eventual, contingent, indefinable socio-cultural processes). There is an enervated relationship between these terms which is observable in the conflicts of everyday life. The hypothesis states that recent public domain works of architecture in Argentine cities exhibit inconsistencies between the concept of public space and public practices. The historical context is the contemporaneity as defined by the interweaving of global scale processes (economic globalization, computerization, media influence, supra-national facts, migrations, environmental risk, etc.) and next scales ones (urban split, socio-physical segregation, environmental vulnerability, etc.). Her expertise extends to general processes of transformation and in this case the accent will be put on extensions in heritage protected areas.

⁷ IAU-USP Prof. Manoel Rodrigues Alves' research project focuses on processes of production of the contemporary city, particularly in the (re)signification of the notion of public space. This is reflected in his ongoing project "Highrise Living and the Inclusive City", a research about verticalization processes jointly developed with colleagues from Université Lyon 2, that recognizes the investment of private capital for the maintenance of urban space has become a usual practice- mostly with the counterpart of temporary or permanent branding and the partnership of municipalities-, stimulating uses and practices conditioned by consumption and privatization of the urban space, posing questions such as: are we witnessing a new form of build-in gentrification, of all-enclosed buildings as a sign of the growing exclusion in the so-called 'neoliberal' entrepreneurial city? . See: bv.fapesp.br/pt/pesquisador/88882/manoel-antonio-lobes-rodrigues-alves



Links of References for Preliminary Research

Site Information: .dwg: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/18oJAy5Vd0eCQCpUms9w-xeYZsmDxqXSY/view?usp=sharing>. **Interactive map:** <https://mapa.buenosaires.gob.ar/comollego/?lat=-34.620000&lng=-58.440000&zl=12&modo=transporte>. **Open Plan and visualizator:** <https://planoabierto.buenosaires.gob.ar>. **New Code: (CUR Código Urbanístico):** <https://www.buenosaires.gob.ar/desarrollourbano/codigo-urbanistico>

Catalinas Norte II: <https://www.lanacion.com.ar/propiedades/inmuebles-comerciales/los-nuevos-proyectos-se-construiran-catalinas-nid2176729>, <https://cushwakeargentina.com/catalinas-el-centro-de-la-ciudad-comienza-su-transformacion/>, <https://www.buenosaires.gob.ar/planeamiento/visionciudad/paseo-del-bajo>, <https://www.buenosaires.gob.ar/compromisos/paseo-del-bajo-conectar-illia-au-la-plata>, <https://www.lapoliticaonline.com/nota/96849-ribere-na-larreta-quiere-recaudar-us250-millones-con-las-torres-de-catalinas-norte-ii/>

Related processes:

Tiro Federal: <https://www.lanacion.com.ar/sociedad/tiro-federal-se-vendio-segundo-lote-casi-nid2431058>, <https://www.lanacion.com.ar/buenos-aires/venta-tiro-federal-nid2426588>, <https://www.lanacion.com.ar/buenos-aires/el-tiro-federal-se-mudara-principios-2020-nid2254502>, <https://www.lanacion.com.ar/buenos-aires/avanza-la-transicion-del-tiro-federal-hacia-un-parque-educativo-y-de-investigacion-nid1966666>, <https://www.lanacion.com.ar/economia/torres-de-lujo-y-el-parque-de-la-innovacion-como-son-las-construcciones-que-revolucionaran-nunez-nid2028345>, <https://www.lanacion.com.ar/buenos-aires/el-tiro-federal-se-queda-en-nunez-pero-junto-al-rio-nid2045047>, [sabía que BIG anda merodeando?https://www.revistadeck.com/primer-nivel-bjarke-ingels-group-de-sembarcaria-en-buenos-aires/](https://www.revistadeck.com/primer-nivel-bjarke-ingels-group-de-sembarcaria-en-buenos-aires/)

AMBA: <https://www.lanacion.com.ar/sociedad/que-es-amba-nid2365754>, <https://cafedelasciudades.com.ar/sitio/contenidos/ver/344/que-es-el-amba-i.html?fbclid=IwARoL6ibQoo6K4klYiAdxWFgFEncTXH4RGSaoPSOkIwN-fGoyrS2amN4BghpM>

Parque Salguero: https://www.plataformaarquitectura.cl/cl/943442/ganadores-del-concurso-buenos-aires-y-el-rio-parque-salguero?utm_medium=email&utm_source=Plataforma%20Arquitectura&kth=4,617,835

Other Public Works, infrastructure in Buenos Aires: <https://www.lanacion.com.ar/2205723-ciudad-once-obras-mas-curiosas-2018-buscaran>,

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Villa Soldati: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Villa_Soldati, <http://www.villalugano.com.ar/barrio/historia/evolucion2.php>, <https://www.barriada.com.ar/category/barrios/villasoldati/>

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General: Manual of Physical Distancing: https://issuu.com/djlewis72/docs/200622_manualphysicaldistancing_draft?utm_medium=website&utm_source=archdaily.com

Social Housing: <https://cafedelasciudades.com.ar/sitio/contenidos/ver/343/planeamiento-urbano-y-localizacion-de-la-vivienda-construida-o-promovida-por-el-estado.html?fbclid=IwAR1vogogh4kfREpTSqSnvL4dgVSlhpFpbbFXyKtxbpN5keQEl5CMo8fSGfo>

This list is intended as a starter of a collective archive

All students selected for this studio are kindly requested to become a member of the Facebook Group **BA UNLOCKED-Cecilia Chiappini** AND to send an email to the tutor: mariacecilia.chiappini@kuleuven.be. Also, they are asked to on the International Master's blog and check the previous studio work, particularly the **COLLECTIVE PRODUCTION** pdfs, available in the <http://internationalmasterofarchitecture.be/portfolio/cecilia-chiappini/>

Theoretical Background

The studio theoretical position recognizes collectivities and infrastructures as core elements of urban life and culture, in many cases merged together absorbing intensity, tensions and conflicts, ultimately becoming material-symbolic assemblages, namely compounds or devices that include emerging qualities and parameters. Spaces for collectivities are urban spaces shared or co-inhabited by different entities that relate to each other and to space itself in cultural-driven manners, with no-common ground. Infrastructures have always had a determined role in urban environments, and has nowadays become extremely complex: while heavily criticized, their growth and intensification of use is triggered by overall urbanization and sprawl. Collectivities and infrastructures embrace different logics, some of them are considered planned, stable, or institutionalized; others rather emergent, unstable, spontaneous, and incremental, the studio will study their hybridization processes.

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Pedagogical Strategy - Methodological Stages

Stage 1: Position (on Infrastructures as Urban Spaces/Collectivities)

Conceptual references and identification of examples. Definition of the main terms and focus spatial elements. (Group discussions) / Case-Studies: Study of international cases. The multicultural backgrounds of students will broaden the spectrum of cases. The cases will be restricted to infrastructural constructions with links to the site (mainly railways, stations, canals, waterfronts, extensions of heritage protected urban areas, study of decadent commercial areas with commercial potential). (Individual)

Stage 2: Research Strategies (in Hybrid Contexts)

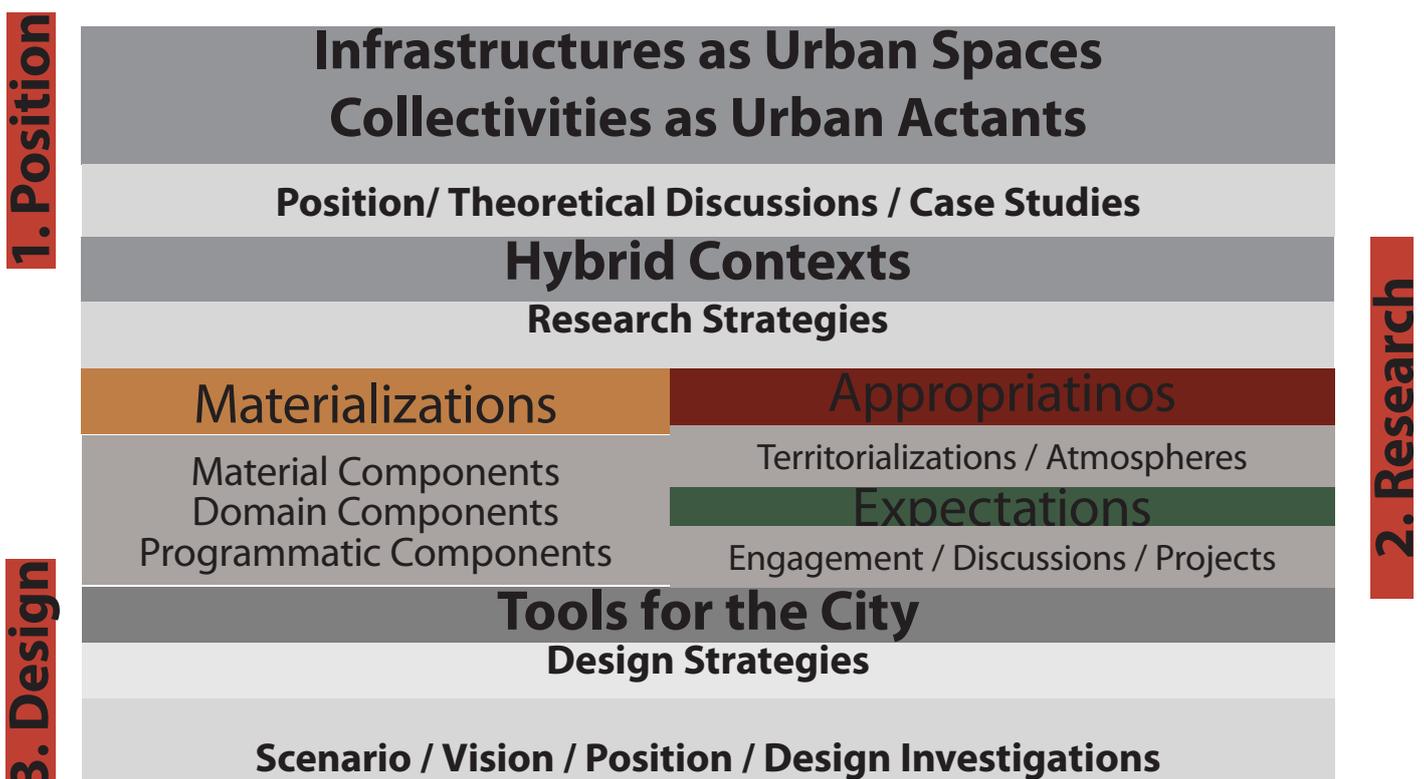
For this stage a specific methodology will be tested. The aim is to explore and unveil the multilayered, overlapping, unexpected, volatile and fluctuant character of collective spaces when linked to infrastructures through a series of themes. These are “Materializations”, that explores the physical-material, domain and programmatic components of spaces; “Appropriations” that explores ways of use and appropriation of these spaces, and the atmospheres created, focusing on their spatial outcomes; “Expectations” that brings in the immaterial forces linked to engagement, discussions, projects and imaginaries with a spatial impact; aiming to understand the physical impact of these elements and how (micro) negotiations couple material and immaterial realms. (4 Students Group)

Stage 3: Design Explorations (Tools to Rethinking the City)

1. **Scenario / Vision / Design Position:** Learning from... and identification of triggering elements for the definitions of a personal design position. The study of the area is focused on the actual users and processes. This will lead to the identification of a design-case including program and location. Infrastructures as collective spaces are the key aspects. (2 Students group)

2. **Design Investigations:** Design of an urban-architectural proposal within or around the site. (2 Students group)

The following graphs illustrate the Pedagogical Strategy and Methodological Stages that are developed in depth at the launch of the semester.



EXPECTATIONS

Symbolic Dimension
(Scientific Knowledge - critical valorization/ paradigms/ideas/theories)
URBIS
CIVITAS
POLIS
+ (Interpretations)
STATE
SOCIETY
CULTURE

MATERIALIZATIONS

Material Dimension
(Disciplinary Knowledge Design Process-Impact)
ARCHITECTURE:
FORMS-USES-
MEANINGS

APPROPRIATIONS

Social Dimension
(Phenomenological-Existential)
URBAN SPACE:
TOPOGRAPHY
TERRITORY
TEMPORALITY

Engagements / Imaginaries
Stakeholders / Projects /
Previsions
+
Media / Discussions
Update / Negotiations and Conflicts / Events and Emergent Processes

(Micro)
Unspoken

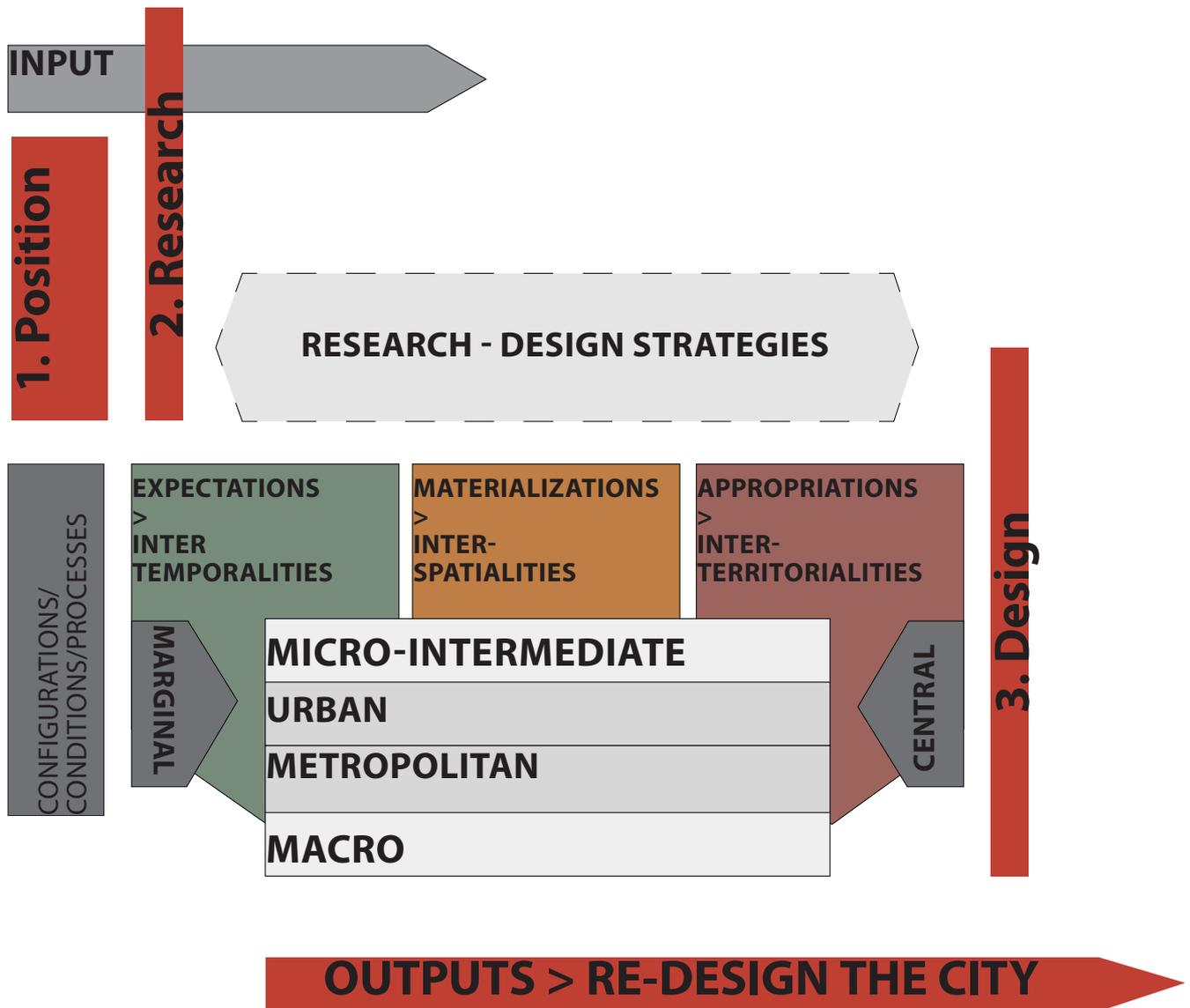
Material Components
Morphology + Spaces + Transitions
Permeability/Materiality
+
Programmatic Components
Programmes, Proximity
+
Domain Components
Property + Accessibility/
Spatiality + Territory

Triggers
+
Uses
Relations, Networks
+
Territorial Configurations
(Micro)processes

INTER TEMPORALITIES

INTER-SPATIALITIES

INTER-TERRITORIALITIES



Calendar Preliminary 20/9/2020
(dates indicated in red are critical to confirm)

Week 1, Assambly

Week 2; Oct. 06 (Remote)

Morning and Afternoon Sessions

- Start-up design-studio
 - Further explanation of methodology, theoretical frame, and site in Buenos Aires.
- Launch Stage 1. Position
- Launch Stage 2: Research Strategies
- Warm up exercise (to confirm)
- **Public Lecture on Mega City Issues @ Common curated by Asiya Sadiq (maib24)**

Week 3; Oct. 13 - INPUT LECTURE+WORKSHOP (Remote)

Morning Session

Development of work under Tutor supervision:

- Stages 1 (Position) and 2 (Research Strategies)
 - Launch Stage 3.1: Design Strategies: Scenario+Vision+Design Position
- Afternoon Session

• **13hs: Input Lecture**

“Urban Tools and Machanisms in Buenos Aires” by Arch. Florencia Lorenzo (Government of the City of Buenos Aires)

Week 4; Oct. 22 THURSDAY- (EXCEPTIONALLY) PUBLIC LECTURE (Remote)

Morning Session

Development of work under Tutor supervision:

- Stage 2: Research Strategies
 - Stage 3.1: Design Strategies, Scenario+Vision+Design Position
- Afternoon Session

12.30-13.30 hs: Public Lecture

“Contemporary Urban Processes in Buenos Aires in the context of global investments and emerging urban, environmental, economic and cultural tensions” by Prof. Julio Arroyo (FADU-UNL)

+ Public Q&A

14-15 hs: Input Lecture by Prof. Julio Arroyo (internal)

15.30-17.30 hs: Internal Workshop with Prof. Julio Arroyo: Stages 1 (Position) and 2 (Research Strategies)

Week 5; Oct. 29 THURSDAY (EXCEPTIONALLY) PUBLIC LECTURE + WORKSHOP (Remote)

Morning Session

- Stage 2: Research Strategies
 - Stage 3.1: Design Strategies, Scenario+Vision+Design Position
 - Launch Stage 3.2: Design Strategies: Design Investigations: Identification of programmes and sites for emergent design cases.
- Afternoon Session

12.30-13.30 hs: Public Lecture

“The production of cities and public spaces in the context of financial capitalism and global culture”, by Prof. Manoel Rodrigues Alves (IAU - USP)

+ Public Q&A

14-15 hs: Input Lecture by Prof. Manoel Rodrigues Alves (internal)

15.30-17.30 hs: Internal Workshop with Prof. Manoel Rodrigues Alves: Stage 3.1: Design Strategies, Scenario+Vision+Design Position

Week 6; Nov. 3 - INTERNAL MID-TERM REVIEW (Remote)

Morning & Afternoon Sessions

Internal Mid-Term Review:

- Stage 1: Position
- Stage 2: Research Strategies
- Stage 3.1: Design Strategies: Scenario+Vision+Design Position

Week 7; Nov. 10 NO DESIGN STUDIO - WORKSHOP WEEK

Week 8; Nov. 17 MID-TERM REVIEW - With strategic partners and Asiya Sadiq (maib24) (Remote)

Morning & Afternoon Sessions

Internal Mid-Term Review:

- Stage 1: Position
- Stage 2: Research Strategies
- Stage 3.1: Design Strategies: Scenario+Vision+Design Position

Week 9; Nov. 24 (Remote)

Morning & Afternoon Sessions

Development of work under Tutor supervision:

- Stage 3.2: Design Strategies: Design Investigations

Week 10; Dec. 1 (Remote)

Morning and Afternoon Sessions

Development of work under Tutor supervision:

- Stage 3.2: Design Strategies: Design Investigations

Week 11; Dec. 8 INTERNAL FINAL REVIEW (Remote)

Morning Session

Internal Final Review

- All Stages

Afternoon Session

Exchange moment - more information to be provided towards the final review.

Week 12; Dec. 22 (Remote)

Development of work under Tutor supervision:

Morning and Afternoon Sessions

- All Stages

Week 13 NO DESIGN STUDIO - Christmass Break

Week 14; Jan. 05 - EXTENDED REVIEW With strategic partners and Asiya Sadiq (maib24) (Remote)

(To confirm)

Extended Final Review

- All Stages

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Course Specific Competences maib34 Design Studio (B-KUL-A43004) -15 ECTS

https://onderwijsaanbod.kuleuven.be/syllabi/e/A43004E.htm#activetab=doelstellingen_idp1641920
or Google “maib 34+master of architecture ku leuven”

- 1A1 The student has insight in different aspects of the architectural process such as context analysis, conceptualisation, problem awareness and engagement, ethics and personal imagination.
- 5A1 The student is able to develop a relevant design project out of various spatial scale levels and the dimension of time.
- 3A1 The student is able to develop a critical argumentation on the position of his/her design project within the international architectural debate.
- 4A1 The student is able to act methodologically throughout the designing process in an independent manner.
- 5A3 The student is able to develop a relevant design project out of a conceptual-programmatic logic.
- 7,1 The student is able to develop alternatives from a multidisciplinary and intercultural perspective.
- 4A2 The student is able to act methodologically throughout the designing process in a creative manner.
- 4A3 The student is able to establish his/her own research or project strategy.
- 5A4 The student is able to develop an innovative design project.
- 7,2 The student is able to expand his/her knowledge continuously and creatively.
- 2C1 The student is able to develop a complex cultural-theoretical analysis.
- 5C1 The student is able to develop a relevant design, based on an complex cultural / societal context analysis.
- 2C2 The student is able to gather and compare cultural-theoretical information from a wide range of international sources, focusing on their practical application. for practical applicability, from a wide range of international sources.
- 3C1 The student is able to critically frame and place a complex architectural design.
- 6C1 The student is able to explicate a contemporary point of view out of a cultural-historical rhetoric within the disciplin.
- 7,3 The student is able to think and act interculturally.
- 3C2 The student is able to reflect on contemporary and innovative architectural-theoretical perspectives.
- 4C1 The student is able to assess the methodological limits of a design strategy.
- 4B1 The student is able to develop a constructional design strategy for a complex case.
- 4B2 The student is able to develop a relevant design, taking into account quality of comfort and sustainability.
- 1B1 The student has advanced insight in fundamental structural differentiations.
- 4B3 The student is able to develop a relevant design, taking into account fire safety, acoustics and other factors in constructional physics.
- 2B1 The student is able to think in a problemsolving manner, related to building technology.

Contribution to the generic competences:

The student is able to assimilate and integrate in critical way information through research and study in a way to act in a methodological, explorative and creative way in his architectural design in the UAD design studio. The student can interpret his personal frame of references in relation to architecture through the specific field of UAD (urban architectural design) and specifically in the field of cities in transition. He is able to describe, to evaluate and to apply key concepts on this field. The program focuses on designing architecture in a new urban context, taking into account the changing societal and spatial context, as well as the specific characteristics and regional and cultural identities of the European urbanity. The transformation and refocusing of the economic activity due to globalisation, knowledge economy, aging society, growth of the non-active population, tourism, the multicultural society... forces us to develop new working methods for the built environment. Students will be trained to cope with, plan and design architecture based on their understanding of the urban culture in those new conditions. The program emphasizes the specific combination of design and research, by exploring the impact of the complex urban processes on architectural design. Design is seen as a creative way to explore and look into those new societal challenges.