

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
SECOND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
UNIVERSIDAD DE BELGRANO
FACULTAD DE ARQUITECTURA Y URBANISMO
Master of Science in Architecture
Honors theses

Intervention strategies in marginal degraded enclosures of the metropolitan area of Buenos Aires.

El Programa de urbanización de Villa Tranquila

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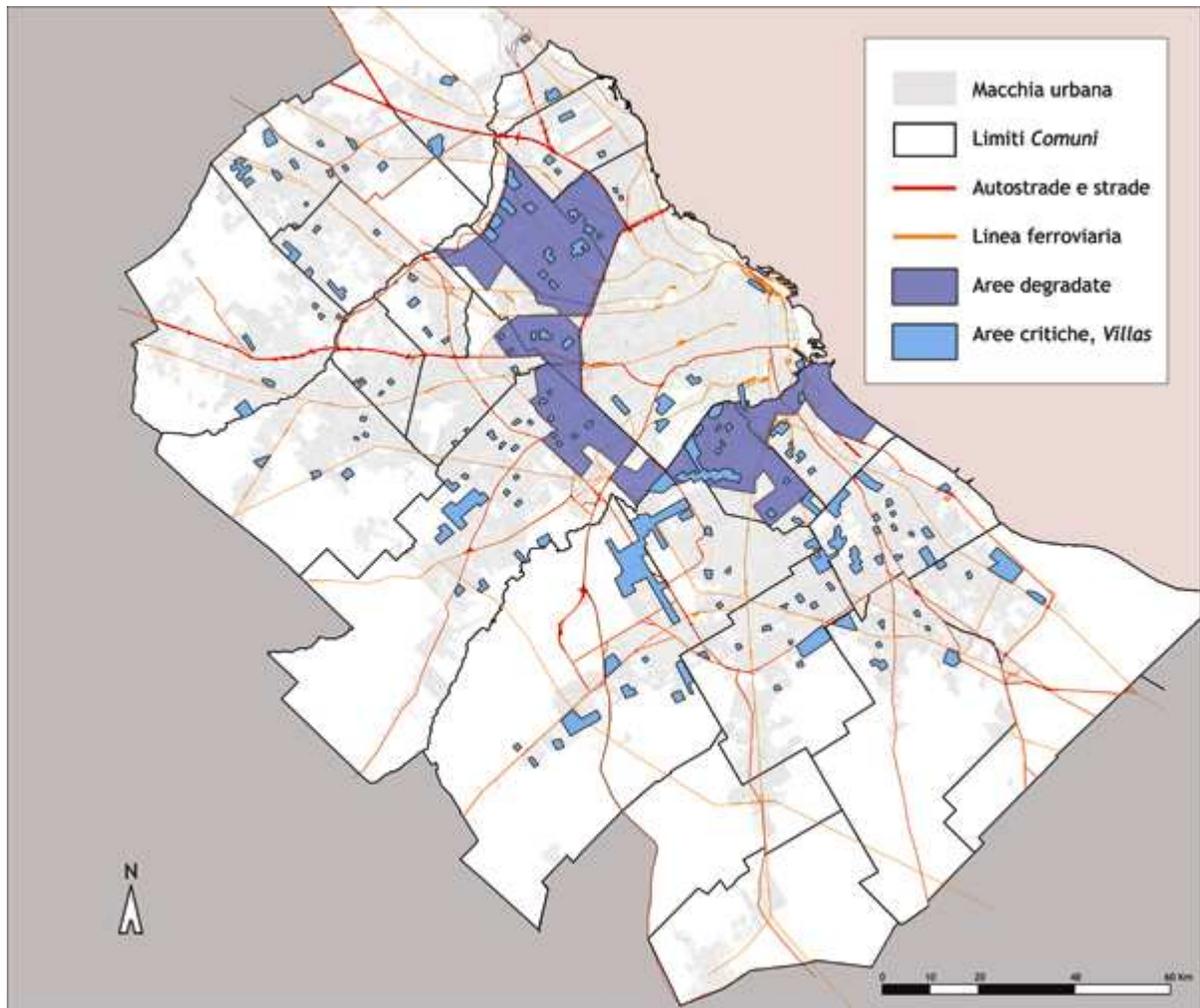
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The housing issue in Argentina's capital city, Buenos Aires, is far more complex and conflictual today than in the past. Extreme deprivation, accelerated informal urbanization and socioterritorial fragmentation are some aspects of present-day urban degradation. The persistent deficit in dwellings of reasonable quality stands in sharp contrast to the modern "Fist World" image of the city.



Contrast between Villa 31 and Buenos Aires downtown skyline

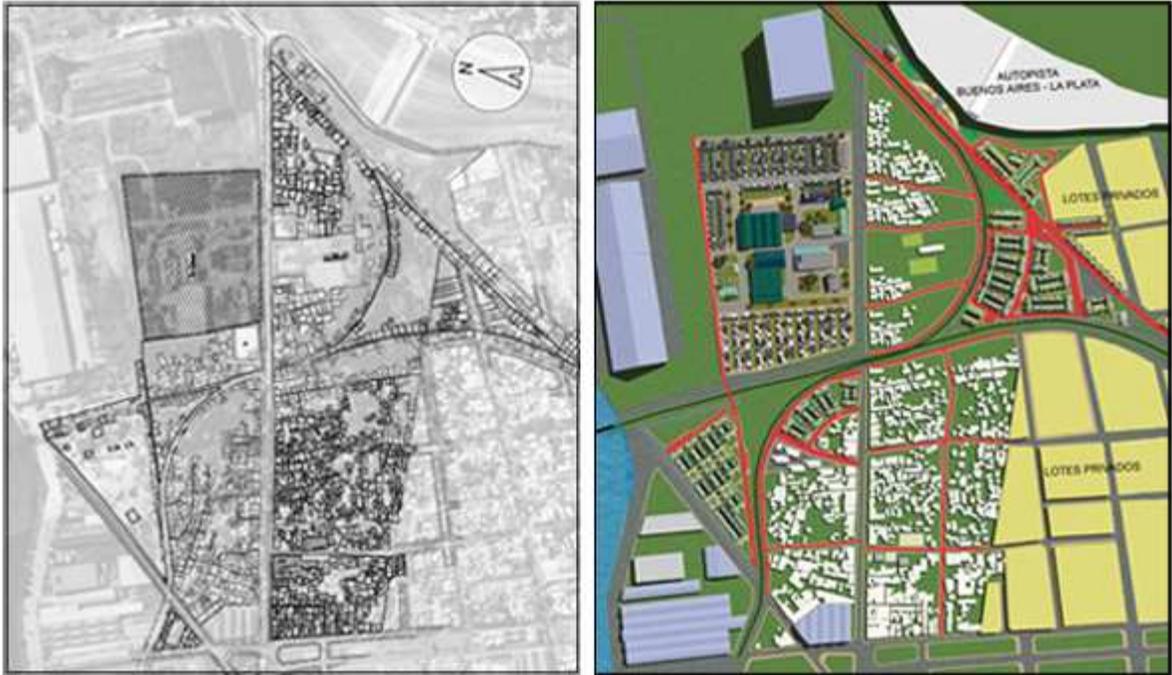
The *villas de emergencia* have officially become a typical and integral part of the city's conformation. Even if they occupy relatively small surfaces, and appear provisional, they are the permanent habitat of a significant percentage of the population as a result of their lack of resources. Considering them marginal within the city structure is senseless. The core issue is not about validation and legalization of their precariousness. It is, instead, about awareness of them as an urban problem in order to both physically and socially integrate both the legal and illegal city.



Critical areas of the Metropolitan Area of Buenos Aires

Which role should we play, as architects, regarding this kind of phenomena? Reaching a deeper social inclusion is a task of the society as a whole, involving all stakeholders. In order to achieve a democratic and active society, a national framework which integrates housing and social policies concerning habitat, jobs, social development, environment, health and education is required.

The aim of this work is to evaluate which factors housing policies should prioritize in order to guarantee effective and lasting solutions. First, the entire urban dimension needs to be considered. Beyond simply building houses, attention to planning public spaces is essential: these include educational, sanitary, cultural and recreational equipment to consolidate small centralities and their accessibility. In addition, planning employment generation strategies are needed, new residential areas are built according to a plan of urban development, residence typologies are studied in relation to the specific climatic, social and cultural conditions of their location.



Plan of *Villa Tranquila* and Masterplan of *Programa de Urbanización de Villa Tranquila*

Particular attention has been paid to the present and future role that competes with local governments. The work experience at the *Dirección de Planeamiento Urbano* of the *Municipalidad de Avellaneda* was an interesting opportunity to be involved in the elaboration and application of a specific government program, concerning the development of an informal slum: the "*Programa de Urbanización de Villa Tranquila*".

Social architecture does not merely aim to produce standardized and low cost dwellings for any geographical and social context. It implicates understanding , first, the population's life styles, traditions and real needs. Only through the cooperation of an interdisciplinary team working in social, technological, political and economic circles, as well as including the active participation of the beneficiary families, is it possible to achieve an understanding of the problem. In this way, the proposed solution could be a suitable one.

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http://www.architesi.polito.it/pdf/4037_uk_abs.pdf