



POLITECNICO  
DI TORINO

# Honors thesis

DEGREE IN MASTER OF  
ARCHITECTURE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

*Abstract*

**La Boca, Riachuelo, Isla Maciel: metadesign for a  
sustainable development.**

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The idea of this thesis was born during the course of the *Preservation of Heritage* held at the Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism at the University of Belgrano, Buenos Aires. I thought it interesting to focus my thesis on the mouth of the Riachuelo river as a place rich in history, charm and potential that, even today, do not emerge fully. A highly polluted river that divides the capital of the Province, abandoned industrial buildings that tell the progress of a bygone era, the crane Avellaneda as a National Monument, Caminito and houses sheet are what characterize the two banks of the Riachuelo today.

It is important to highlight the symbolic aspect of the study that led me to the choice of a sustainable development strategy of the banks; this part of the river is a key node on a double line of action.

Can be seen as a symbolic link, the fact of history, traditions, roots, common cultural identity, linking the capital to the South Province and thus breaks the barrier that has been created along the Matanza-Riachuelo Basin.

Also the mouth, receiving the product harmful than 10,000 industries, landfills and open sewers for over 60km, has still great potential, capable of triggering sustainable development "lift". Thanks to the visibility that owns this area that, with Caminito and Boca continues to be constantly tourist destination, the proposed new redevelopment projects sustainable, especially regarding the preservation of the natural heritage, could create a "chain reaction" since to the most difficult areas of the interior of the country.



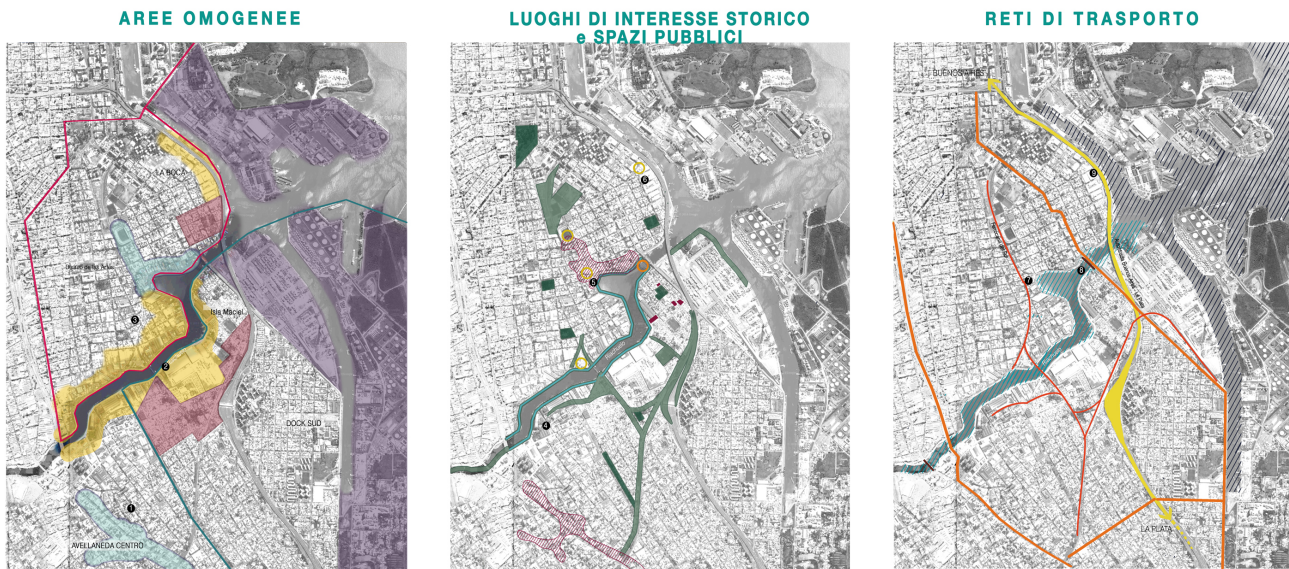
The thesis is structured into five chapters.

The first presents the city of Buenos Aires from the beginning until today and its urban evolution especially towards the south. It is made a general overview of the old port area of the river and its development over the centuries, intentionally omitting some salient passages of the history of the city or the country.

In the second chapter I worked out a critical analysis of the mouth of the river that includes the one hand the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires in the neighborhood of La Boca, on the other hand the Province with the district of Isla Maciel Municipality of Avellaneda. Following the historic to classification, I highlighted how the transit infrastructure and primarily the Riachuelo, despite links between cities, act as real barriers that fragment in homogeneous areas separate the two sides. The Riachuelo separates two different administrations, the capital of the province, while the connecting roads make the Isla Maciel a real island.

The third chapter talks about the places of attraction and cultural heritage present on both sides. While sharing the Ponte N. Avellaneda, industrial archeology, traditional architecture and a strong cultural identity, the two separate quarters from the river today have different

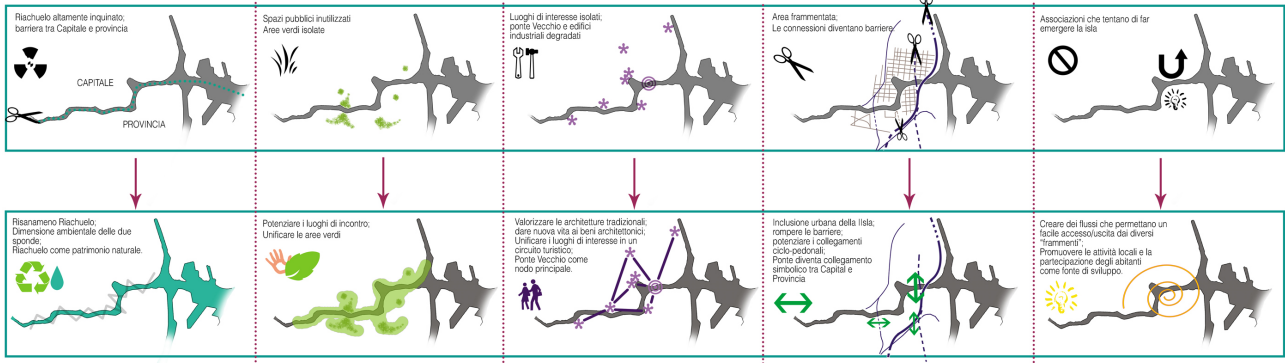
faces. La Boca has become a tourist destination par excellence, the Isla Maciel finds himself excluded both from the tourist circuits of Avellaneda and from that of La Boca. The fourth chapter presents the associations active in the field and the actions past, present and future that are carried out to improve the living conditions of citizens and the protection of the Riachuelo.



Following chapters of analysis, which capture the state of affairs of the study area, the fifth chapter suggests policy options for inclusive and sustainable development potential of this stretch of the river; "Inclusive" for the Isla Maciel, through bottom-up initiatives, new links and flows of people can generate changes that can insert at urban and social to all areas. "Sustainable" for preservation of customs and traditions of the area and to protect the environment and what comprises the natural heritage of the river mouth.



## LINEE GUIDA PER UNO SVILUPPO SOSTENIBILE E INCLUSIVO DELL'AREA



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