

Adv. Studio Proposal – Winter 2022

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Innovating and reconnecting the underserved city

Planning and designing health, social and mobility infrastructural nodes as second growth models in underserved communities in Buenos Aires, in order to organize the daily massive suburban migration, and through this, organize and define Buenos Aires as a Megalopolis.

This studio is a coordinated effort along the Department of Architecture at the University of Illinois and the Mayoral Office of City of Buenos Aires with the participation of its Secretary of Planning Alvaro Garcia Resta.



The global underserved migrate to rapidly growing cities in search of health and social needs and economic opportunities, they find unacceptable dwelling conditions paired with a lack services and mobility at the urban level. The cities that have the willingness to ameliorate these predicaments face huge challenges: how do you bring services and infrastructure in ways that are sanctioned by the local communities without disenfranchising and displacing sectors of these populations.

If we look at cities that have recently grown organically unplanned, e.g. Caracas and Medellin, there are distributive models and light infrastructure second growth models that have partially succeeded in ameliorating the lacking conditions of the underserved without the by-product of displacing communities. In contrast, when we look at the new planned cities of China, we observe other set of social and urban challenges that come with an extreme efficiency in the provision of social and mobility services to immigrant populations. If global cities are to prosper and compete, the question of an efficient and just distribution of services to its underserved populations and the multiplier effects to the wellbeing of the city are most critical. Buenos Aires would like to test how efficiently it may provide new networked nodes of services in a middle ground between highly distributive and centralized models while gaining the most support from the underserved communities they are meant to serve.

The studio will delve headlong into this inquiry and it will provide working methodologies, including urban anthropology, intertwining design and community inputs towards the design of a health, social and mobility infrastructural node.

