

Destination Home

A Retrofitting Model for Buenos Aires' Immigrant Community

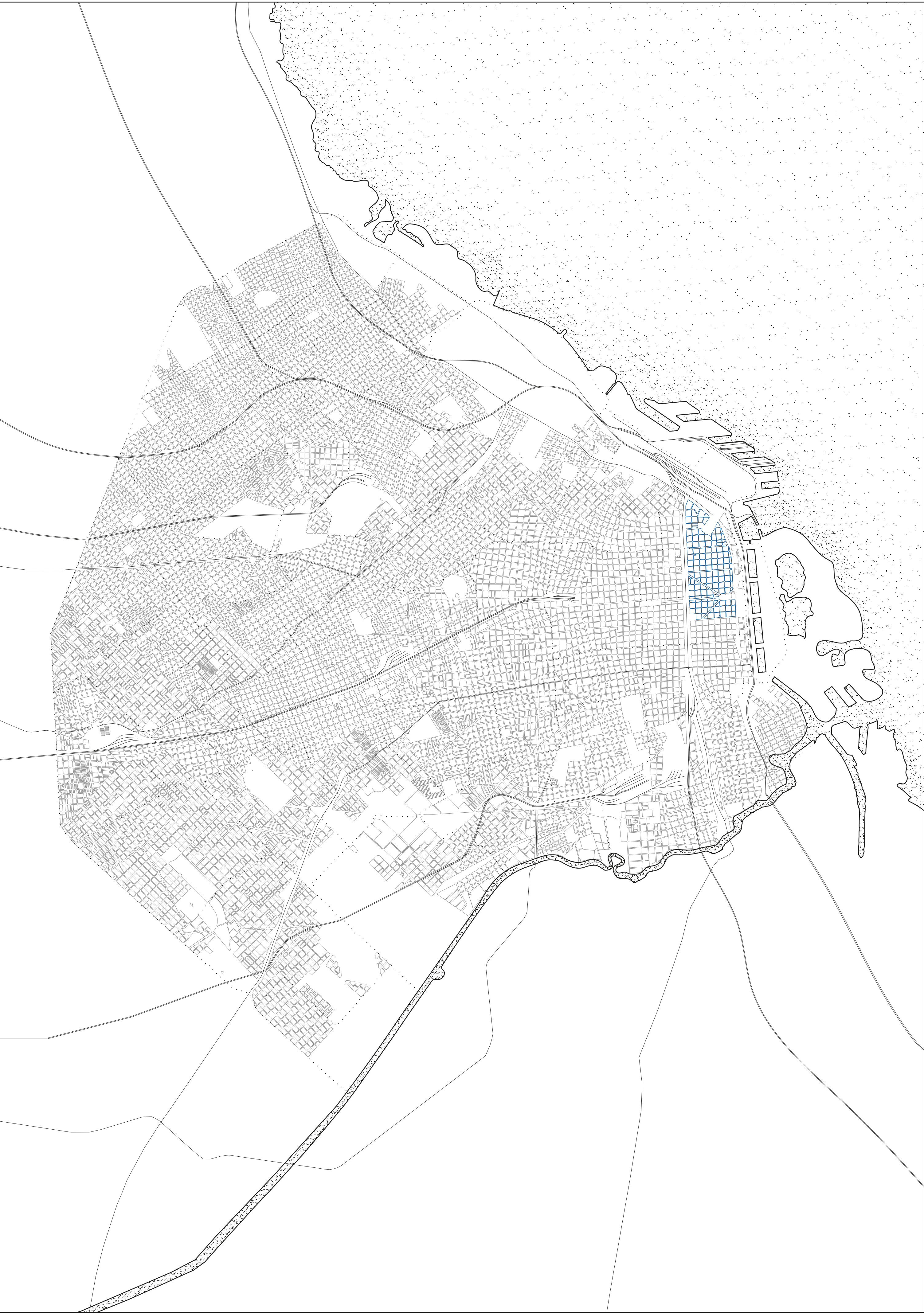
The fragmented urban landscape of Buenos Aires reflects its migration history. This condition, accentuated by current international and urban migration patterns, has led to a contradictory occupation of the city centre: densely overcrowded conventillos are juxtaposed with vacant neoclassical office buildings.

In response to the crucial 'problema de la vivienda,' or housing question, a specific legal framework is being employed to convert Microcentro into a mixed-use neighbourhood through the formal and informal introduction of residential units.

However, the speculative demand for luxury housing or Airbnb is leading this transformation process, ignoring the pressing needs of those requiring affordable housing.

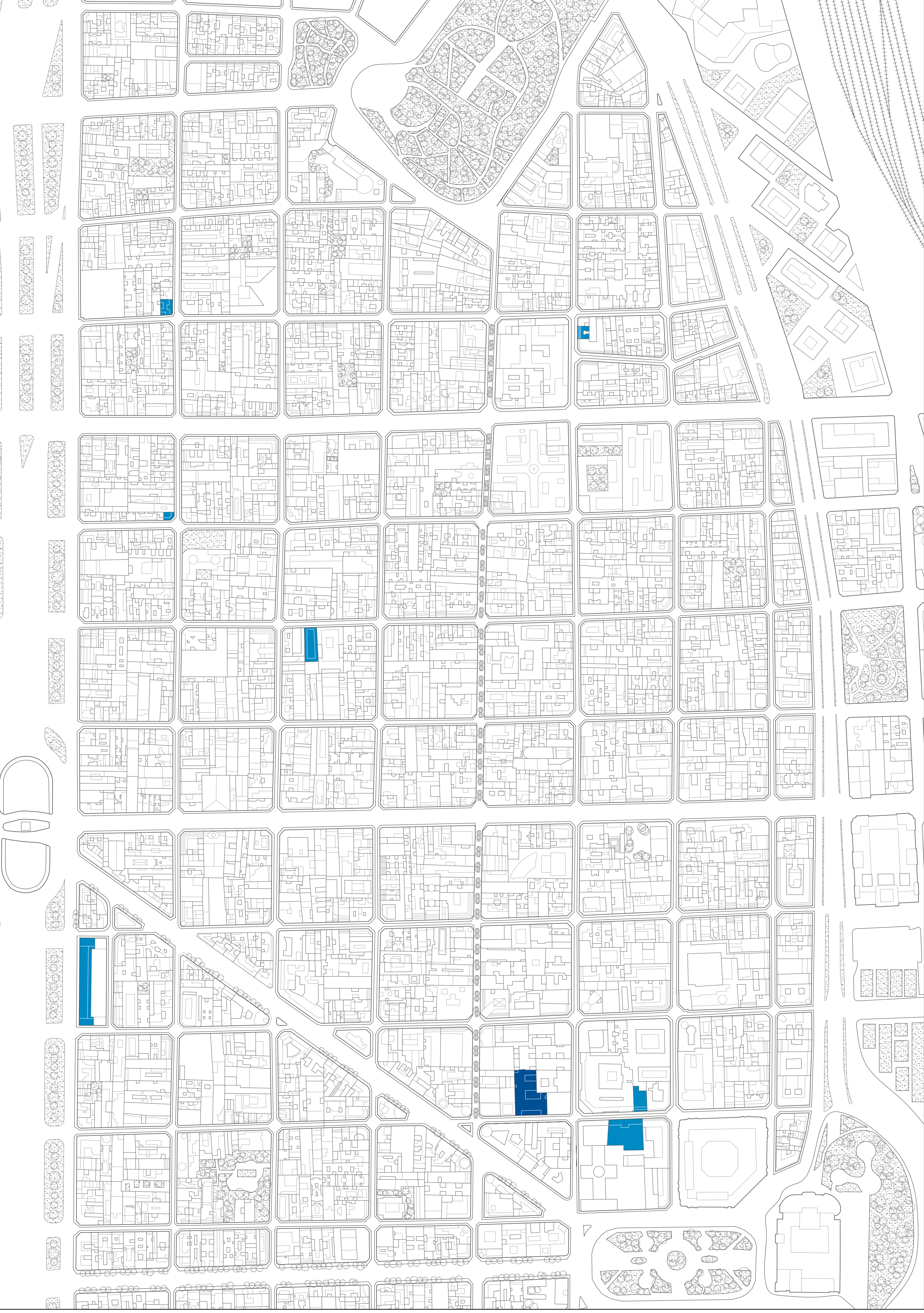
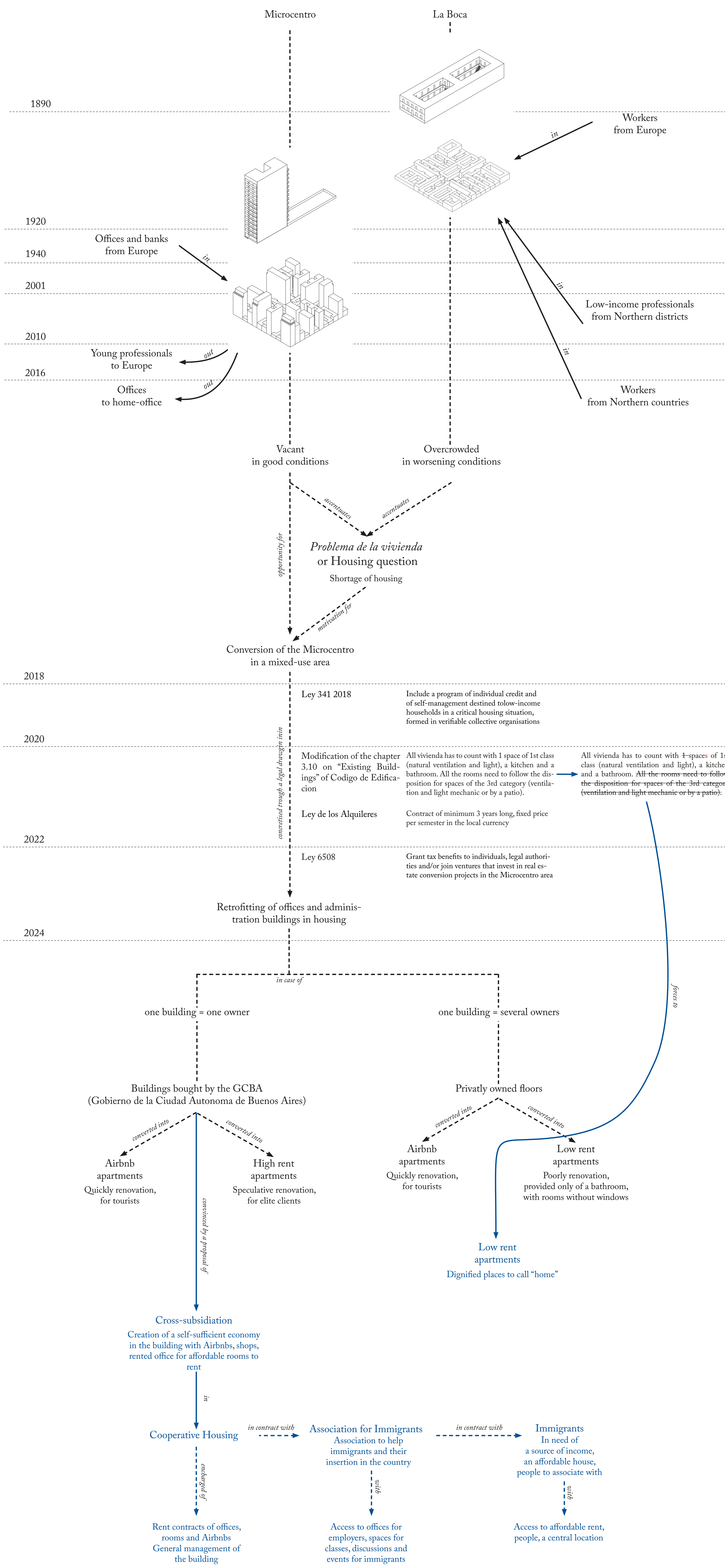
By recognising and analysing the immigrants' necessities and priorities, the built environment and the typical collective housing types (conventillos), 'Destination Home' proposes a tailored strategy to rehabilitate state-owned historical buildings in Microcentro into cooperative housing alternatives for urban and international immigrants. Centrality, affordability, and the notion of community are key themes of this transformation.

The project aims to provide a dignified place to call home based on immigrants' desires and needs, by promoting co-operation between the government, non-profit organizations, and users as a viable policy approach to address the 'problema de la vivienda,' urban vacancy and to practically answer to immigrants' constitutional rights.



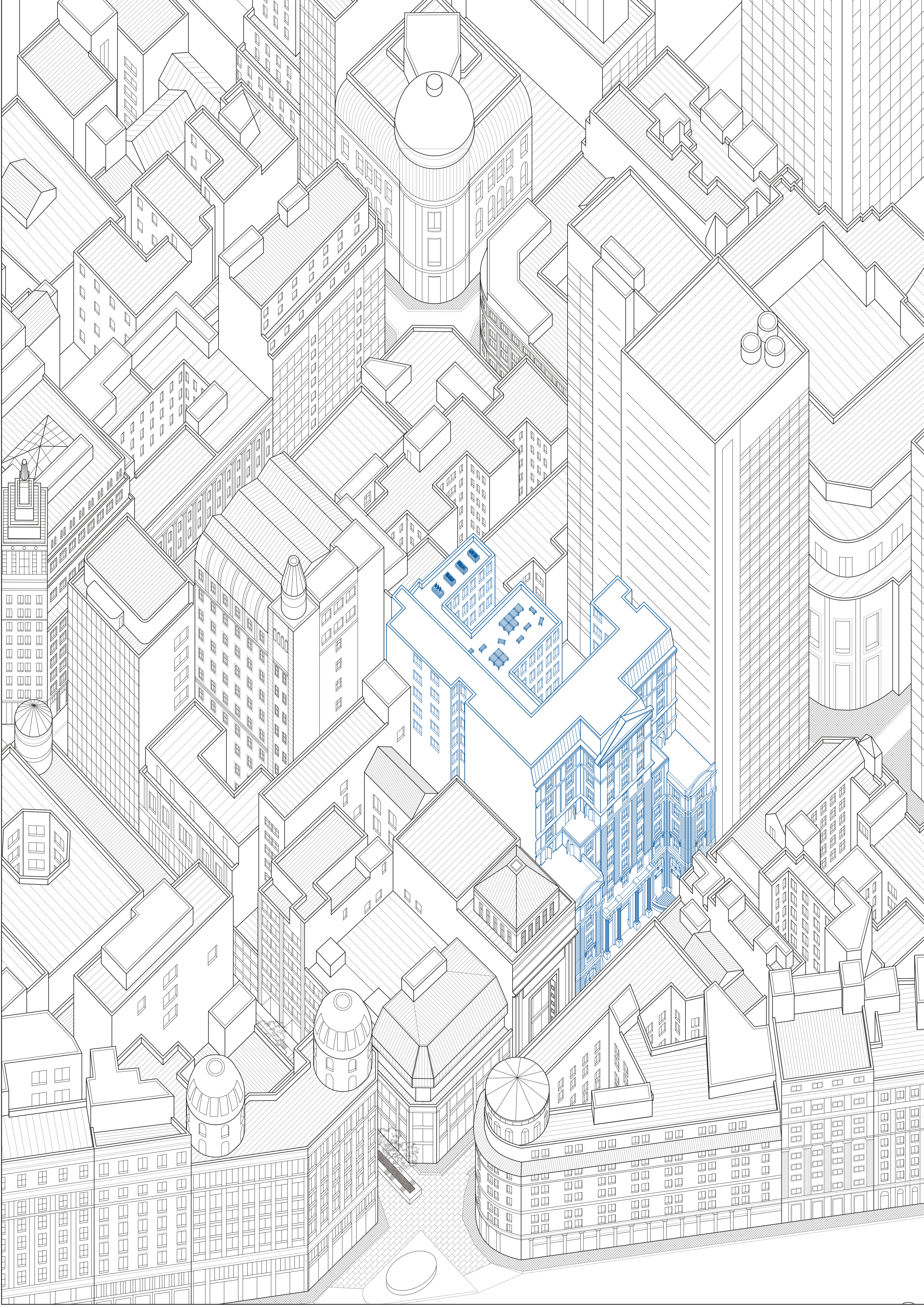
Ciudad Autonoma de Buenos Aires (CABA), the area of Microcentro, the harbor and the train station of Retiro as the epicenter of the city
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Overbuilt manzanas in Microcentro, between Avenida 9 de Julio (left) and Retiro train station (top right) with the buildings of the program "Mudate al Microcentro", with ex-Banco Tornquist
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Manzanas composed by modern and neoclassical office buildings with the vacant ex-Banco Tornquist (Mitre 523) in the manzana between Calle Mitre, Avenida Florida, Avenida Person and Calle San Martin
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