

# Argentina between the wars

## Housing as *Style*, not a Typology

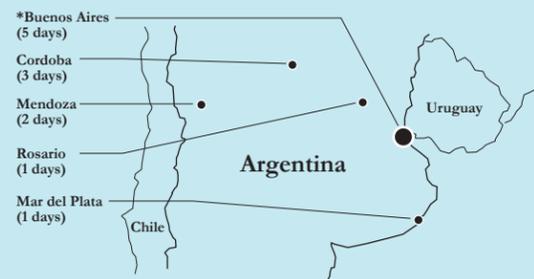
Argentina is home to an incredible diversity of architectural styles born from an economic boom at the turn of the twentieth century. Mass immigration and the rise of a wealthy middle class led to the need for housing in rapidly densifying cities. This attracted architects, domestic and foreign, to experiment at the 'end of the world.' **This project focuses on investigating the styles of residential buildings completed from 1920-40, a period that saw tremendous growth economically and culturally in the newly-independent country.** Designed for a wide swath of Argentinian society, architectural styles that were both familiar and inventive prevailed in residential buildings. In addition to a rigorous study of these buildings through sketch and photography, our research will culminate with a series of collages that represents the eclecticism of Argentinian architecture.

Following independence in 1880, Argentina rapidly became a global economic power, leading to the phrase 'rich as an Argentine.' An affluent middle class that traveled to Europe began to commission residential buildings based on the latest architectural fashions. Remarkably, removed from the 'schools' of architecture, these styles developed in an organic way in Argentina. As Art Nouveau architecture was waning in the late 1910s elsewhere, it was maturing in Argentina. Similarly, Art Deco ran longer, Neo-Classicism persisted up into the 1940s, and an early group of modernists worked on Rationalism. **Given the vast array of styles employed, the resulting cities can only be described as museums of architecture. At the center of the story are several key architects as diverse as Argentina itself (who's population was over 30% immigrant).** They were prolific in the largest cities of Argentina where entire neighborhoods of residential buildings arose. With such multiplicity, housing became less a typology and more a style. An Art Nouveau design would suggest a medium-rise apartment building, while Beaux-Arts palaces were designed for the single family and Rationalism was tested for social housing.

A sense of place in Argentina is dependent on these buildings. Distinguished by style, they collectively represent an Argentinian architecture known for eclecticism – suggesting that architecture can respond to and represent the fabric of its surrounds. A study of such original architects will provide clues on designing today. In this vein, a series of collages will be produced in hopes of illuminating those characteristics that are critical. Acting as a form of documentation, these drawings will serve to illustrate historically significant buildings – a way to sanctify the processes, realizations, and consequences of valuable examples of an Argentinian fabric.

### Budget

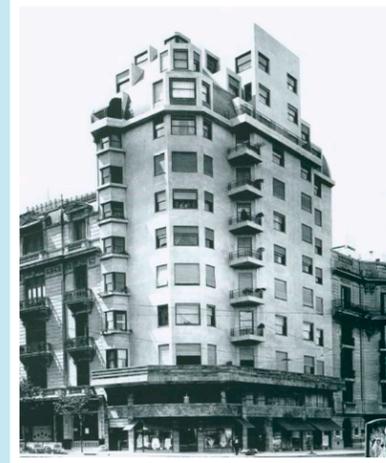
Airfare	\$2,400
Food / Lodging	\$2,500
Transport	\$400
Admission	\$400
Books/Supplies	\$300



## WHY



Sanchez, Lagos & de la Torre (1890-1977) - Art Deco Argentinian & Uruguayan



Jorge Kalnay (1884-1957) - Art Deco / Rationalist Hungarian Argentinian



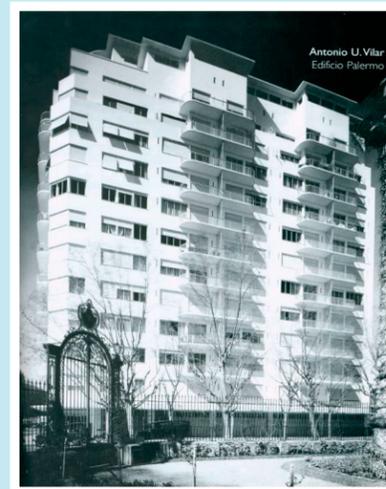
Alejandro Virasoro (1892-1978) - Beaux-Arts / Art Deco / Rationalist Italian Argentinian



Virgilio Colombo (1885-1927) - Art Nouveau Italian Argentinian



Francisco Gianotti (1881-1967) - Beaux-Arts / Art Nouveau Italian Argentinian

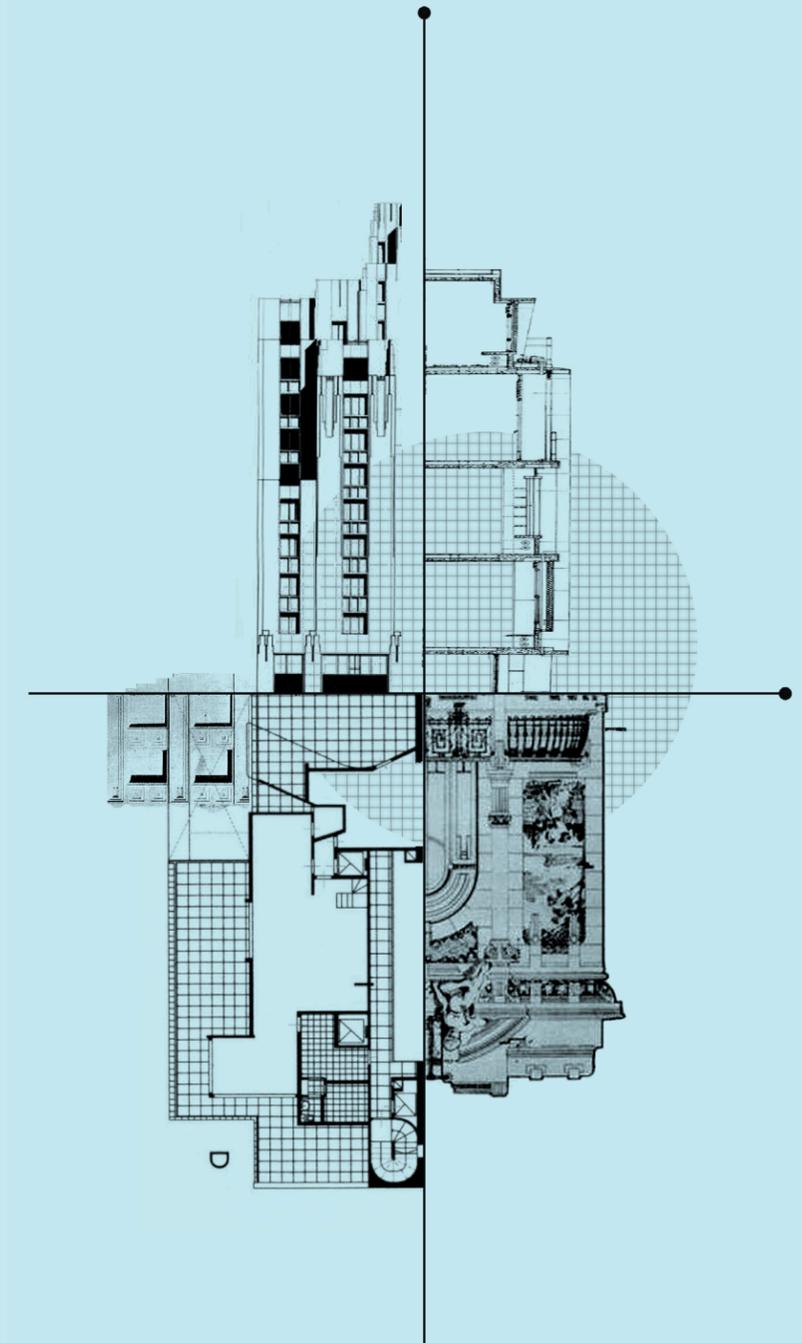


Antonio Ubaldo Vilar (1887-1966) - Rationalist Argentinian

## WHAT

# Study of Collages

## Example



## HOW

1

2

3