

MURERE ADAMO-FAIDEN

Adamo-Faiden's new approach to social housing in the suburban neighborhoods of Buenos Aires, Argentina, aims to reverse the commonly held perceptions that social housing is (1) a parasite, drawing resources from its host without offering anything in return; (2) an outcast, beginning in a state of crisis without the supporting infrastructure necessary for its survival; and (3) a force of depreciation, decreasing the value of its surroundings. In contrast, MuReRe houses offer a new covenant between social housing and its context. Embracing mutualism, regeneration, and densified residential infrastructure as their basis for design, MuReRe houses are simultaneously a new model for social hous-



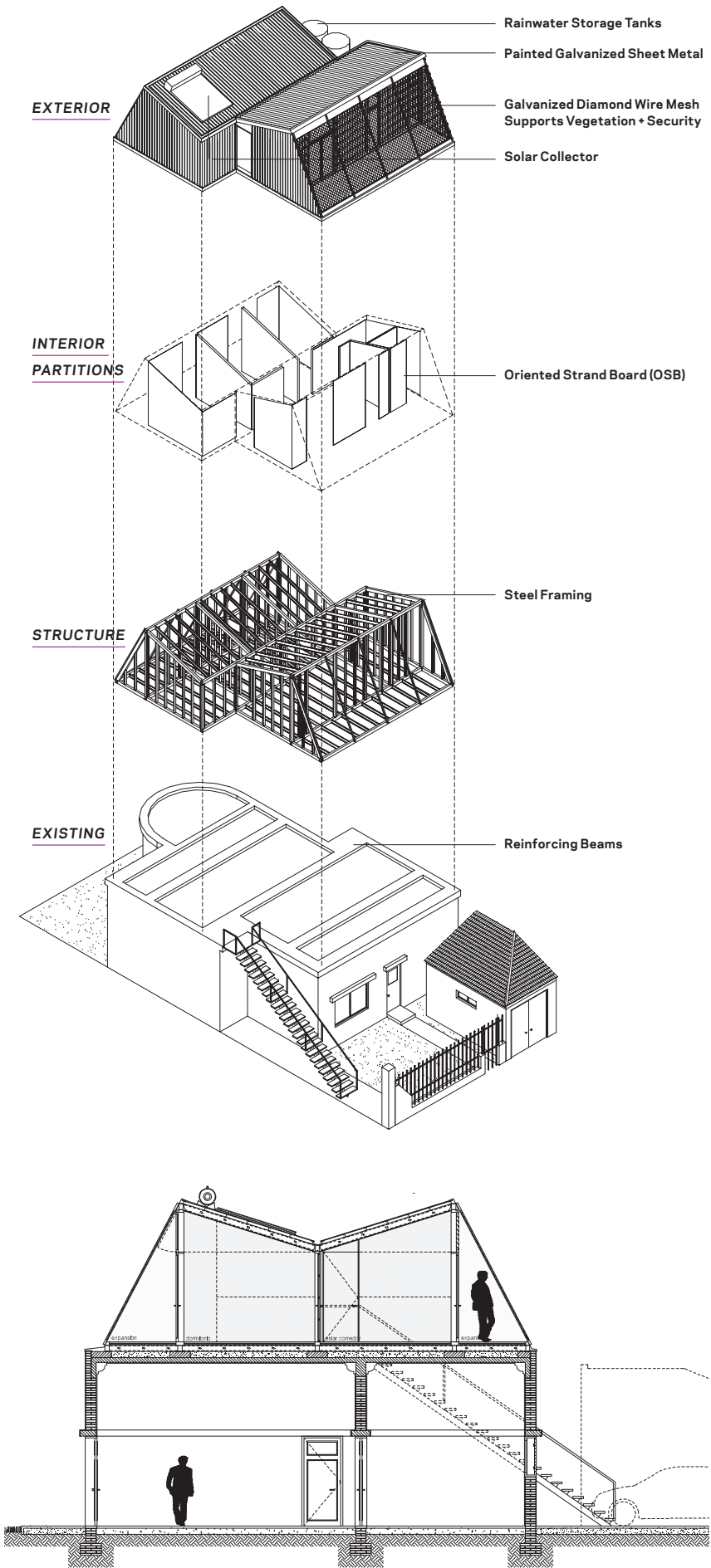


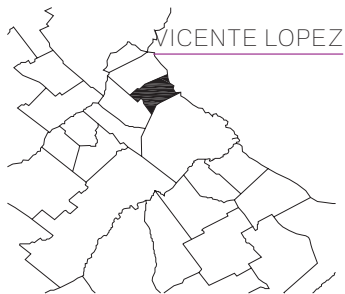
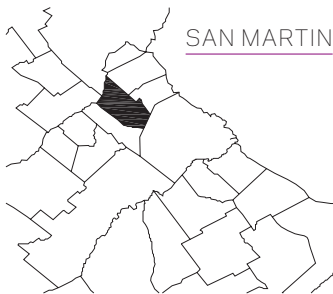
ing and a strategy for increasing the quality of existing neighborhoods by reactivating the latent potential of the Buenos Aires suburbs.

Rather than beginning with an empty site, Adamo-Faiden developed a means for inserting MuReRe houses on the top of existing buildings, effectively doubling the density of the lot and increasing the programmatic diversity of the neighborhood. By dispersing the MuReRe houses throughout the existing suburban fabric, gentrification is avoided. A MuReRe house is built by the owners of the host building with the financial help and general assistance of the family social services organization AMPF. The MuReRe house and respective residents receive a site within an existing and well-served neighborhood, immediate utility connections, and a welcoming downstairs neighbor. In return for offering their roof as a foundation, the host building, and its owner, receive rent from the MuReRe resident and benefit from lower energy bills as a consequence of increased roof insulation. Additionally, a MuReRe house supplements the site's infrastructure through a double peaked roof that is angled to best capture the sun for solar collectors that provide hot water for domestic use or hydronic heating, and functions to catch rainwater for the grey water storage tanks that can be used for watering the garden, washing cars, or flushing toilets.

Individually, MuReRe houses thrive on a unique social and economic equation created specifically by and for the host building/family and the newly inserted building/family. At the urban scale, MuReRe houses transform an outdated urban fabric and simultaneously provide a supply of social services for low-income housing locally and tactically so as to avoid straining the existing infrastructure. —ALAYNA FRASER

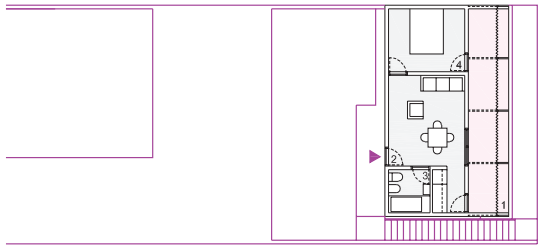
Project MuReRe Housing / **Architect** Sebastián Adamo, Marcelo Faiden / **Design Collaborators** Luís Hevia, Carolina Molinari, Arnau Andrés, Ainoa Mugetti, Juliana De Lojo, Natalia Castillo, Juliana Olarte, Ana Kreiman / **Sustainability Consultant** Carlos Grinberg / **Client** Asociación Mutual de Protección Familiar / **Sq ft** 50-100 m² / **Year Completed** Concept completed in 2009 (unbuilt)





AREA : 31 M2

- 1 Expansion
- 2 Living Dining
- 3 Bathroom
- 4 Bedroom



Before there were no houses for us. I thought about going to a foundation for single mothers, but I didn't want that for Lucia, my daughter. The assistant explained that most of the social housing was being built for families with a mother and father. In the end it seems this was the right house for us, it's beautiful and we live close to my uncles.

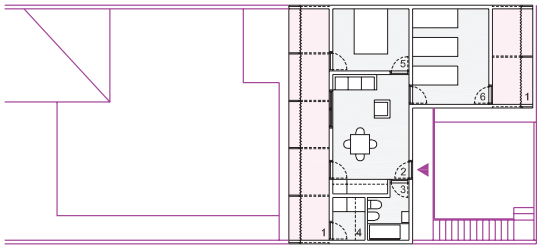


After three years of marriage, Mabel and I decided to have our first child. It worried us financially that she would need to leave work until the baby is old enough for school. On my birthday, we decided to enroll in the MuReRe program. Through them we met Alicia and her daughter, three months later we were neighbors.



AREA : 48 M2

- 1 Expansion
- 2 Living Dining
- 3 Bathroom
- 4 Laundry Room
- 5 Bedroom
- 6 Bedroom



There are a lot of us at home, five plus Osvaldo's mother and Osvaldito, my newest grandson. In the new house we have a lot of space and it's a great place for us to be together. The older couple who live downstairs are great; sometimes Mrs. Nelly comes up and gives me a hand with the younger ones.



When we moved into the neighborhood there was almost nothing. Over the years we put together the house little by little. As we did the family grew, and we enlarged the living room and I took the ground floor as my workshop. Then of course, everyone grew up and moved away, the house was empty and too big. It was becoming difficult to maintain but we resisted the idea of letting it go. Since the Osvaldo's family moved the house is filled with life again.

