Border[Wall]; A Space For Play | Providing Moments Of Intimacy To An International Stage

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BORDER[Wall]; A SPACE FOR PLAY

Providing Moments of Intimacy to an International Stage
REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THESIS RESEARCH
PROJECT BOOK PRESENTED TO:

MICHAEL CARROLL

AND TO THE

FACULTY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE
COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

OF

JAMISON OWEN

IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

BACHELOR OF ARCHITECTURE

KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY
MARIETTA, GEORGIA

MAY 1, 2020
DEDICATION:

This Thesis is Dedicated to...

Hailey Wilkins | My Life Partner

For always pushing me to strive for greatness and to never settle for

mediocre. You inspire me to enjoy every moment I can while still keeping my feet

on the ground. You are my light.

Stan and Linette Owen | My Parents

For supporting me no matter the circumstances. You two are quick to

praise my accomplishments when they do not recognize your impact.

Avery, Peyton, Josh, & Wilder | My Family

For being the most willing siblings in times where I myself am selfish.

You are the pillars to my confidence. You build me up in times of stress and

empower me when I doubt. Thank you putting up with me.

Family & Friends

For offering me guidance and also reminding me that the sky is the limit. I

treasure my relationships and feel deeply supported throughout my journey in Architecture School.

Families Affected by the U.S.-Mexico Border

Lastly, for those impacted by the borders relations between the United

States and Mexico, whether it be separation from a loved one or through denial

of the government. This Thesis is meant to simply be a small story on how

the borders relations have improved in the future stages of the border wall.

This Thesis is an example of how a border wall can help shift change at an

international stage.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

This Thesis Would not be Possible Without the Counsel of my Thesis Advisor and Thesis Coordinator.

Michael Carroll | Thesis Advisor

For your patience and care. Your dedication to your students has been an

example of extraordinary passion and sacrifice for the well being of your

students. Your directness of professionalism is that I wish to embody as I

complete my first steps into the expanse of my future career. You have taught me that design must make a

statement; intention and clarity are keys to successful design. Thank you for putting up with me. Dr. Carroll.

Elizabeth Martin | Thesis Coordinator

For your friendship you have given me through my time in Architectural

Professional Program. You have been a professor I could talk to no matter the

circumstances. You truly care about your thesis students. Thank you for putting up with the hassle of coordinating our thesis courses. Your one of the few professors I wish to model myself after.
THESIS ABSTRACT | NEGOTIATING THE BORDERWALL

In high alert areas states began to erect barriers to separate areas adapted to the threat of Terrorism. With the Twin Towers falling from the sky on September eleventh, 2001 the United States Border Control procedures vastly changed and the moment the Twin Towers fell to the ground from a series of terrorist attacks the United States defense of Israel and disapproval of the Islamic Middle East. Terrorism resulted in great amount of fear mongering from governments and broadcast networks across the globe to pursue religious or political aims. Terrorism matters of national security were usually discussed upon the moment the Twin Towers fell to the ground from a series of terrorist attacks the United States defense of Israel and disapproval of the Islamic Middle East. Since the dawn of the Twenty-First Century acts of Terrorism have evolved highly delicate situations of international security into moments that structural barriers between enemies to neighbors? transborderistic Values in order to question the possibility of war or the exchange of territory, but there was never a threat of Terrorism was taking place due to religious debates amongst the Northern Triangle, has been terrorized by gang violence and organized crime in recent years. This thesis intends to investigate how the idea of a wall can begin to bridge gaps and start a dialogue for the future of the U.S.-Mexico's neighboring relationship. This thesis will question the intentions of the U.S. government to pursue religious or political aims. Terrorism resulted in great amount of fear mongering from governments and broadcast networks across the globe to pursue religious or political aims. Terrorism matters of national security were usually discussed upon the moment the Twin Towers fell to the ground from a series of terrorist attacks the United States defense of Israel and disapproval of the Islamic Middle East. Terrorism matters of national security were usually discussed upon the moment the Twin Towers fell to the ground from a series of terrorist attacks the United States defense of Israel and disapproval of the Islamic Middle East. Since the dawn of the Twenty-First Century acts of Terrorism have evolved highly delicate situations of international security into moments that structural barriers between enemies to neighbors? transborderistic Values in order to question the possibility of war or the exchange of territory, but there was never a threat of Terrorism was taking place due to religious debates amongst the Northern Triangle, has been terrorized by gang violence and organized crime in recent years. This thesis intends to investigate how the idea of a wall can begin to bridge gaps and start a dialogue for the future of the U.S.-Mexico's neighboring relationship. This thesis will question the intentions of the U.S. government to pursue religious or political aims. Terrorism resulted in great amount of fear mongering from governments and broadcast networks across the globe to pursue religious or political aims. Terrorism matters of national security were usually discussed upon the moment the Twin Towers fell to the ground from a series of terrorist attacks the United States defense of Israel and disapproval of the Islamic Middle East. Terrorism matters of national security were usually discussed upon the moment the Twin Towers fell to the ground from a series of terrorist attacks the United States defense of Israel and disapproval of the Islamic Middle East. Since the dawn of the Twenty-First Century acts of Terrorism have evolved highly delicate situations of international security into moments that structural barriers between enemies to neighbors?
As discussed, national security is an issue every government faces a challenge with. Our government tries to prevent the illegal activities of criminals, terrorists, and other criminals by creating a barrier to stop human traffickers and other criminals. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and other agencies work together to stop illegal immigration.

There are different reasons why people come to the United States to seek asylum. They might come to escape war, persecution, or economic hardship. However, the number of people seeking asylum in the United States has increased significantly in recent years.

The United States has a long history of immigration. In the 19th and 20th centuries, millions of people came to the United States seeking a better life. However, in recent years, the number of people seeking asylum has increased significantly.

The government has tried to prevent illegal immigration by building walls along the border. The Trump administration built a wall along the border to stop illegal immigration. However, the wall has not been effective. The number of people seeking asylum has increased significantly.

The government needs to find a way to control illegal immigration. One way is to find a way to reduce the number of people seeking asylum.

The government also needs to find a way to stop human traffickers. One way is to increase the number of border agents. The government needs to increase the number of border agents to stop illegal immigration.

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A SHIFTP IN MIGRATION | CREATING THE MIGRANT CARAVANS

CHAOS IN THE NORTHERN TRIANGLE LED TO GROUPS OF THOUSANDS TRAVELING TO THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER:

While the entirety of the Bogotá barrio approaches it as one of the loner ever recurred by lander. Central Zones of the image or are approximately other than Mexico relatively has not surpassed the amount of Mexico citizens approached by the U.S. over the last seven years. With this change, more estimators are requiring supplies than Mexico citizens there is a major increase in both with a result of national identity relations to race and politics. 

A Shift in migration | Creating the Migrant Caravans

The Central American migrant caravans travel from the Guatemala-Mexico border to the Mexican-Illinois border. Numerous human rights organizations document the increase in violence and abuse in recent years in Central American countries. A report by the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, cited by Amnesty International, noted that between 2010 and 2015, some Central American countries had the highest average annual female homicide rates in the world, although the average annual male homicide rates rank in the lower third quartile of the world’s GDP.

There is some disagreement as to whether the migrant caravans are primarily composed of refugees seeking asylum or are merely large concentrations of traditional economic migrants. Numerous human rights organizations document the increase in violence and abuse in recent years in Central American countries. A report by the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, cited by Amnesty International, noted that between 2010 and 2015, some Central American countries had the highest average annual female homicide rates in the world, although the average annual male homicide rates rank in the lower third quartile of the world’s GDP.

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The U.S.-Mexico Border-Wall is a symbol of National exclusion instead of Cultural exchange. The U.S.-Mexico Border runs the length of 2,000 miles crossing a vast amounts of mountain ranges and desert scattered with various border crossing stations and currently has just under 700 miles constructed of the U.S.-Mexico Border-Wall yet in further examination it is intriguing to see the two completely contrasting approaches to architectural design when approaching the Wall. This strip of land connecting the United States and Mexico has potential to act as a symbol of unification during times of need but instead the U.S. focuses their efforts on issues dealing with oil in the Middle East. This lack of execution is shameful in a way to join the countries of North America together yet still we seal off borders in hope to seclude the enemy; our neighboring countries should exhaust themselves in negotiations in how to program and use the border as a tool to unite and support border-cities instead of regulate and consistently pressuring surveillance upon them.

The initiative is now well under way with his administration planning for the rest of the 2020. As of April 2017, 156 miles of new primary and secondary border wall were completed. Of that, in lieu of what CBP calls dilapidated or obsolete designs, 140 miles of modern wall. There were two miles constructed where there had been no barriers before. Meanwhile, 11 miles of a secondary grid were designed in place of old ones, and 5 miles where none existed before. The present wall is 30 foot high, consisting of large metal bollards at the top of which is the anti-climb system. Officials also note that there are also surrounding lights, highways, and secondary barriers — which make it radically different from other structures. ‘If you cut it down and bring in what is being constructed now — that’s a new wall,’ one official said last year at a conference. ‘The foundation is extremely solid, its equipped with anti-climbing techniques, its also equipped with additional infrastructure — lighting, access roads, etc. Its a new wall everywhere the wall is being constructed.’

The current climate of the border is viewed as the divide in North America but views can be shifted if this wall can enable transnational interactions and emotional collaboration. Why do we attempt to create the vision of this wall as a space of separation when it is evident through history of the natural intrigue of speaking to others of different experience? This great divided will like the examples of historic barriers; once again be broken down.

The future development of the remaining 1,300 miles of the U.S.-Mexico Border-Wall can still challenge the stigma that boundaries are meant to solely separate. This thesis intends on creating an artifact aimed to use this line on a page as a way for cultural exchange across national borders to become the norm; through activating the Wall with programs of Play and Display.
How Can deliberately undermining the Border-line help change the conception of "Our Space" and "Theirs"? Using Architectural Form as a means of representing the promising future of exchange this border holds; it shall be reflective as a whimsical negotiation of territory.

United States Territory

Mexico Territory

Thesis Question | Re-branding The Wall As Public Space

How Can Activation of this Threshold change the Perception of Our Border Relations?

When analyzing the Border-Wall one immediately thinks of the contradiction against nature that the harsh brass and metal structure impose upon the environment. With the chaos in Central America the United States and Mexico need to come together and produce an artifact or monument to help provide as a precursor of how Border Design can re-establish the imagery of line on the page. Where would you think the most dangerous point in the world is located? You'd probably guess, in communist North Korea or amongst the Oil Wars in the Middle East. What if I told you it was actually less than 1200 miles away in the heart of Central America? Consider the most dangerous place on earth to be the borders of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. The chaos of the Northern Triangle has led to the creation of Migrant Caravans, where thousands of people travel through Central America up through Mexico to seek political asylum at border crossings along the US Mexico border; deliberately sacrificing their visibility for safety in numbers. The conclusion of these journeys often times result in homelessness waiting at the border or being detained by law enforcement. How can our border become a more inviting space for immigrants? Is our border a symbol of hope or seclusion? Can this symbol change the systems at play at our border?

Friendship Park located on the San Diego border has been the first national park to propose tearing down the existing border fence in order to allow more exchange between the two countries. One door in this border fence opens for a few hours a year, allowing for families and friends to interact. How can scale transform the vision of the Border? Why do we attempt to create the vision of this wall as a space of separation when it is evident through history of the natural intrigue of speaking to others of different experience?

Thesis Proposal | Section 1.5 | Page 10
Inserting Moments of Intimacy in The Border-Wall to Contrast The Stigma of National importance with daily use:
The Creation of Public Space to be shared across the threshold of the Border between The American and Mexican People. The Border needs habitation. This Thesis will use artifacts symbolizing transborderistic Values in order to question the current climate of our present 650 mile long Border-Wall's true sociocultural implications on the civilians of North America. How can Activating this taboo threshold with playful interactions change the image of the United States and Mexico from enemies to neighbors?

United States
Mexico

United States Territory
Mexico Territory

Thesis Intent
An Intrepid investigation into Transborderism Negotiating The Border as an Architectural Device: Allowing Play to transcend This Line On A Page

I would like to investigate how the United States and Mexico can re-envision the relationship of our border in order to create a collaborative space for cultural emergence. Currently our Southern border is perceived as a place of security and protection; which are important design considerations, but I intend to interrogate how play fully activates play elements into our border thus changing the identity of a nation. What is the role of the architect in border design? Are we simply two draftsman separated by a line on a page? Or are we the translators between two nations of different architectural language?

By no means am I saying architecture can solve the humanitarian issues that our border burden but I do welcome change and efficiencies in communication between complexed people. We need to keep proposing this in a stage on a page or a wall but instead a space for discussion to be an option for dialogue, a space for play.

Play is an act of engagement. Play is also so as negotiation. When comparing the components of play, one sees the action of negotiation as a set of rules that define the procedures of the game itself. When comparing the act of play to the play of negotiating border design it is quite clear our two countries do not play by the same rules. Our two separate approaches are drastically different; presenting an image of indifference instead of unity. Experiencing a seesaw is produced through the efforts of two parties; imagine a soccer pitch with unequal sides. Agreeing on terms of play is crucial to clarity of outcome. I plan to design moments along the border in which interfaces allow for playful interactions for citizens of both countries to experience as a celebration of binational efforts. Through re-opening the closed dialogue of the border I intend on leveling the playing field.

I want to propose architecture as a form of advocacy for the crisis at the border.

This thesis will question the intentions of the U.S. government in its future plan to develop a Border-Wall separating the United States from Mexico. Through analysis of the existing condition of the Border-Wall I intend to investigate how the idea of a wall can begin to bridge gaps and start discussion between neighbors instead of terminating the ability to interact with one another. This thesis intends to interrogate how play can activate and give meaning to the expansive condition of the U.S. government's proposed barrier in the spirit of the U.S.-Mexico’s neighboring atmosphere.

This thesis intends to use the Border-Wall as a spine of activity as a symbol of binational friendship.

Does a Wall Always Divide?

This Thesis Intents to use the Border-Wall as a spine of activity as a symbol of bi-National Friendship

Thesis Proposal | Section 1.6 | Page 12
"A Manifesto for the U.S.-Mexico Boundary"

Manifesto of The Border-Wall, [15]

Wall As Architecture:

Wall As Baseball Field:

Wall As Horse Drag Races:

Wall As Swings:

Wall As a Xylophone:

Wall As Dining Table:

Wall As Horse Races:

A Sketch Of The Teeter-totter Wall:

Section of Dining Table placed Along Border:

A Sketch of the Teeter-totter Wall:

Borderwall as Architecture is an imaginative and conceptual hand grenade of a novel, and a timely re-examination of what is, and might be, the 650-mile physical barrier that separates America from the United Mexican States. It is both a challenge to the wall and a prediction of its future.

Via a series of propositions that indicate that the nearly seven hundred miles of wall is an incentive for economic and social growth along the border that facilitates its conceptual and physical demolition, the book takes readers on a journey across a wall that slices across a "third world" — the Divided States of America.

On the way the wall's destructive impact on humans, animals, and the natural and built environment is re-moving and re-thinking through a new way of visual thinking to walk both sides of the wall, questioning the premises of an increasingly "ironic" wall, coupled with an account of a confrontation for and produced by both sides that challenges, questions, and questions the possibilities of the project by exploring the political, social, and natural dimensions of the wall and its interactions.

Rael indicates that, given the planned use of the wall to keep people down and out, the wall is simply an attractor and engages both sides in a shared conversation. This includes a series of reflections on the wall's effects by leading experts Michael Dear, Norma Iglesias-Prieto, Marcello Di Cintio, and Teddy Cruz.

This is a tale to be told as it is an account of the biggest building project in Usonia in the 21st century. This path extends along the southern frontier for 1,931 miles, almost exactly the span of the Grand Tour, the migratory route for upper class European men that went from London to Rome.

This Nuevo Grand Tour tracks the consequences of a defense system that is conceptually as well as physically perpendicular to human migration. Whereas Grand Tourists' objects will come back with symbols of wealth and independence, the border wall is a protective measure against Southern Grand Tourists.

On this journey, the recuerdos gathered are tragic, sublime and absurd, occasionally hyperbolized, but in all cases based on real experiences and events existing in the liminal space that defines the southern boundary of The Divided States of North America.

Refined to be viewed as a border wall manifesto separating the U.S. from Mexico in a collection of essays and counter-proposals designed to resolve the issues associated with the initiative, valued at $49 billion. Such counter ideas are presented as recuerdos, the Spanish word for souvenirs, gathered along the U.S.-Mexico Border Wall on a fictional trip recording a series of actual and imagined scenarios.
Generally speaking, when you say “border,” you mean “setting boundaries.” Setting boundaries between yourself and your neighbor lets both you know how to behave and value the space and privacy of one another. For example, if you know for certain where your yard ends and its starts, and your neighbor next door, then there would be no dispute over which of you is supposed to mow the bit in the middle. More importantly, if you’ve noticed it’s not appropriate for the kids of your neighbor to come play on your trampoline and make lots of noise whenever they want, then you’re both enjoying more harmony and less tension. Boundaries will allow for a stronger neighborly relationship.

The author calls this term in Robert Frost’s poem “Mending Wall,” as he and his neighbor work on repairing the broken wall that forms the boundary between their fields. The speaker asks why they still need the wall, since it’s easy to tell where the field of one neighbor ends and the other starts, but the neighbor keeps repeating the word thoughtlessly (“good fences make good neighbors”) without explaining it, as if it’s self-explanatory, or as if the neighbor does not know what it implies. The amusing thing you might find here, in the poem, is that the very action of each year repairing the fence is what brings these neighbours. This is why they spend time together; that is why they talk. These two men are probably better friends, by making the fence “nice” again, by repairing the holes and the places where it crumbles down.

In Good Neighbors, Nancy Rosenblum, Harvard University Professor of Ethics in Politics and Government, explores how neighborhood interactions represent what she calls “the democracy of everyday life in America.” Rosenblum maintains that neighborhood is a component of moral identity unfettered by contracts and commerce, rules and regulations in the workplace, and the common interest. Instead, it’s held together by decent people, ethics, and the values in practice, in characteristics by which we define our democracy. Roosevelt asserted, “You want to do well by your neighbor and do him good, and the neighbor will do the same.” If the neighbor wants to be friends, me too, or if I really don’t want to be friends, the two of us will do our best trying to build the fence even better. The meaning thing you might find here is that, in the very act of doing good to our nation, we are doing good to our neighbors.

How does our wall affect our relationship with our Neighbors?

Literature Analysis | “Do Good Fences Make Good Neighbors?” BY: Brent Sterling

MEXICO
UNITED STATES

What History Teaches Us About Strategic Barriers and International Security.

Generally speaking, when you say “border,” you mean “setting boundaries.” Setting boundaries between yourself and your neighbor lets both you know how to behave and value the space and privacy of one another. For example, if you know for certain where your yard ends and its starts, and your neighbor next door, then there would be no dispute over which of you is supposed to mow the bit in the middle. More importantly, if you’ve noticed it’s not appropriate for the kids of your neighbor to come play on your trampoline and make lots of noise whenever they want, then you’re both enjoying more harmony and less tension. Boundaries will allow for a stronger neighborly relationship.

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**TRANSBORDERISMS | THE TEETER-TOTTER WALL**

**BY: RONALD RAEI**

The years prior to this meeting – in 2009 the pair drew up conceptual drawings for the project - the work was inspired by the 2006 Secure Fence Act. It features three pink seesaws mounted between the slats on the border fence, which allow people to see each other on either side of the barrier. ‘Teeter-Totter Wall’ is a form of intervention that invokes the past and present, as well as the social and political issues surrounding the border fence.

**Significant Design Questions:**

Q: Is your new book about designing walls for Trump?
A: No. It is a field guide to the 650 miles of wall already in place, and proposes design solutions to healing along side, directly on, or in place of the existing wall, to help repair the damage caused by the wall.

Q: Does your book endorse the construction of new walls?
A: No. The book is a biography and history of the wall, and is hopeful that if we understand the decades of mistakes made by constructing walls along our southern border, then perhaps it will be clear why new walls should not be constructed.

Teeter-Totter Wall’s unveiling in Sunland Park’s El Paso suburb, New Mexico, was a joyful moment. Supervised by Mexican soldiers and agents of the U.S. Border Patrol, families on both sides gathered to play during the temporary deployment that lasted about half an hour.

"Art is such a strong tool for reform," Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES) wrote on Twitter calling the project "a stunning installation on our southern frontier."
In 1895, William G. Morgan invented the volleyball game, or "Mintonette," as it was originally called. Morgan noticed that basketball, a sport invented by his college classmate James Naismith just four years earlier, was much too challenging a sport for everybody and decided to create a sport that everyone could play—a sport in which everybody had the ability to participate on equal terms. It is no wonder that, 110 years since this egalitarian sport was invented, it will be used as an agent to illustrate the similarities and relationships that exist on both sides of the borderwall.

In 2006, Brent Hoff, who was the editor of the McSweeney's released DVD magazine, Wholphin, staged what he thought was the world's first international border volleyball game. Did Hoff answer several questions on the premise? A game like that’s illegal? Is the throwing back of a ball, and fourth, illegal trade? This iteration of the game was much more aggressive than the volleyball style. Since spikes are unlikely, only powerful hits will bring the ball up to 50 feet in the air as it sails across the wall back and forth.

In addition to creating quite a buzz in international media, there was something peculiar about the basic beach volleyball game over the borderwall too. More than an act of political theatre, the game conceptually undermined the wall’s purpose, dematerializing of the two story metal posts from an insurmountable barrier into nothing more than a line in the sand, where the players on both sides were keenly aware of the players on the other side and the wall was nothing more than a rule that could be negotiated by the players’ mind, body, and spirit, perhaps turning the act conceptually more into the ritualistic ulama game that William G. Morgan possibly did not know about.

Ulama is a ball game that is still played by a few Mexican families and is one of the world’s oldest continuously played games, as well as the oldest recognized rubber ball sport. The sport could be represented as a wallless volleyball, where players from each side seek to hold a ball of rubber in their hands, throwing the ball over a line drawn in the sand, using only their hips. Pain and misery, freedom, friendship, rivalry, and the ability to overcome barriers are all present in the rules of the game and in those who approach the wall on a daily basis in the everyday lives of others.
Projector Light Displays Art Along the Border-Wall:

AN International Art Festival: Transborderisms | “The Border-Wall As Art” Displaying The Wall

How can this barrier become a space to curate voices of both nations? It takes a creative eye and courage to draw beyond the lines to turn a divisive symbol into a message of unity. Whether in Cold War Berlin or today’s West Bank, border walls have long been used to block out people whose ethnicity, religion, economic status, or philosophy has been considered unwelcome by those in power or simply to “keep peace.” But wherever anti-immigration politicians see a threat, artists see canvas. “The wall has been a virtual fulcrum for relations between the U.S. and Mexico,” Rael said. “Children and adults on both sides have been associated in significant ways with the understanding that the acts taking place on one side have a direct impact on the other.” The “Teeter-Totter Wall” is one of many instances where artists co-opted border walls that deliberately stanched the free flow of individuals, thoughts, and inspirations and turned them into protest art about our collective humanity. Below are a few more interesting examples.

The enigmatic London street artist Banksy opened The Walled Off Hotel in West Bank, a quarter mile from the Palestinian checkpoint to mark the British’ 100th anniversary of taking control of Palestine. The property makes an artistic comment about the alienation of the Palestinian territories in its name and in its dystopian décor. It’s also a completely functioning hotel complete with key fobs designed to look like parts of the 400-mile separation wall and a gift shop that sells rugs and T-shirts of an enlarged photograph of a one-year-old Dreamer peeking over the border fence illustrated elegantly what was at stake in the U.S. immigration reform debate: the lives and hopes of immigrants brought to the United States as babies.

Art Along Friendship Park’s Border-Wall:

The iconic Canadian street artist美观 used the Walled Off Hotel in West Bank, a quarter mile from the Palestinian checkpoint, to mark the British 100th anniversary of taking control of Palestine. The property makes an artistic comment about the alienation of the Palestinian territories in its name and in its dystopian décor. It’s also a completely functioning hotel complete with key fobs designed to look like parts of the 400-mile separation wall and a gift shop that sells rugs and T-shirts of an enlarged photograph of a one-year-old Dreamer peeking over the border fence illustrated elegantly what was at stake in the U.S. immigration reform debate: the lives and hopes of immigrants brought to the United States as babies.

A month after the temporary installation, JR held a binational picnic for the subject of the photo, Kikito, and the children’s families.
Friendship Park is a half-acre binational park located in the San Diego–Tijuana area along the U.S.-Mexico border. Located within California’s San Diego county in the Border Field State Park, the park contains the border fence separating the two countries where citizens of both countries can meet in person. On the U.S. side, the park used to be part of the Monument Mesa picnic area but is now entirely located under the Department of Homeland Security on federal property, and is heavily controlled by the U.S. Border Patrols round the clock.

The Playas de Tijuana, Baja California, lies to the south of this location. First Lady Pat Nixon inaugurated Friendship Park on 18 August 1971 as a sign of binational friendship, when it was declared a national monument. There was not a simple barbed wire fence until 1994, and under US control, Americans and Mexicans could meet at the border.

巡逻 on the Frontier. There have been numerous social activities in this park including yoga courses, worship ceremonies, weddings, dances, and baptisms. In 1994, amid widespread fear of illegal immigration in the area, a 14-mile fence was installed as part of Operation Gatekeeper on the border between San Diego and Tijuana, including one in Friendship Park. Border security was tightened in the 1990s and again after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. During that time people were still able to reach and move objects across the barrier on opposite sides of the border.

The U.S. In 2009 Department of Homeland Security declared Friendship Park a national security zone, and thus the park’s access was restricted to the public and only allowed by the U.S. Border Patrol. The U.S. government is now authorizing a door in the fence at Friendship Park to be opened briefly on Children’s Day, a holiday celebrated in April in Mexico, owing to the work of the charitable group Border Angels and its founder Enrique Morones. The first such occurrence happened in 2013, and repeated in 2015 and 2016. When it’s opened, officers from Border Patrol raise a steel girder from the U.S. side that locks a single gate in the fence. Children and adults from pre-selected divided-by-frontier families are permitted to meet and embrace briefly. In an April 2018 meeting with the new San Diego Customs Border Protection (CBP) Sector Chief Rodney Scott, the Friends of Friendship Park, a local neighborhood group calling for more public access to the park, was told that the door opening event will no longer be able to take place and this has not occurred since November 2017.

Transborderisms | Friendship Park: an International Symbol of Bi-National Friendship

Transborderisms | Friendship Park: an International Symbol of Bi-National Friendship

The Opportunity to Expand on This Transnational Agenda

Friendship Park’s Imagery of the “Door of Hope”:

Friendship Park is a half-acre binational park located in the San Diego–Tijuana area along the U.S.-Mexico border. Located within California’s San Diego county in the Border Field State Park, the park contains the border fence separating the two countries where citizens of both countries can meet in person. On the U.S. side, the park used to be part of the Monument Mesa picnic area but is now entirely located under the Department of Homeland Security on federal property, and is heavily controlled by the U.S. Border Patrols round the clock.

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Images of “Door of hope”:

There is a giant steel gate in Friendship Park, near San Diego. It swings open twice a year to encourage families separated by immigration status to reunite in person for a short time. The event is named The Door of Hope to Open. When they were teenagers, their mom self-deported for fear of being physically deported, which made it difficult for her to re-renter the US. In 2017, she sent her children to Los Angeles. They returned to the US and the gate was open. It was the first time that the siblings saw their mom in the flesh, outside of a glass. She was happy to be here, but it was a sobering moment. We can’t really cross the line, the gate just sends you back to your side.

Rodney Scott was appointed Chief Agent of Border Patrol for the San Diego sector in December. Scott did not mention the wedding in a statement but said “the maintenance gate will only be used for maintenance purposes.”

WITH THE DOOR OF HOPE PRESENTING A NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS TO INTERACT THROUGH THE BORDER-WALL, HOW CAN DESIGNERS USE THIS AS A PRECEDENT OF TRANSBORDERISM AND ELEVATE THE PREMISE OF ACTIVATING THIS WALL WITH COLLABORATIVE INTERACTION?
Can Whimsical Form De-escalate Tension at the Border-Wall? THE architect's OF border design HOW THE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO relieve the pressure of constant surveillance with Architectural Intrigue, YETI EM.

Elements of a Border | The Sarpi Watchtower by: J. Mayer H. Architects

The art of restful surveillance

Perhaps the least inspired buildings possible are usually national checkpoints at land border crossings around the world. The lack of imagination at border checkpoints is very surprising given that a land border often gives tourists their first impression of a country, with an architectural style that marks its territorial identity.

Although architects around the globe are swift to transform air and sea borders into radical showcases, land frontiers have been largely excluded from this phenomenon. A refreshing exception to this rule is the border checkpoint at Sarpi village which marks the boundaries between Georgia and Turkey. The Sarpi Border Checkpoint, designed by J. Mayer H. Architects and completed in 2011, offers tourists a first look at the modern booming country that is bursting with energy and imagination.

The Sarpi Border Checkpoint is altogether the ideal alternative to the well-known, sometimes gloomy border checkpoint buildings found elsewhere on Earth. The building welcomes tourists to Georgia, which reflects the country's democratic upsurge.

A gleaming white, ondulating tower marks the Georgia-Turkey frontier. Drivers crossing the coastal border between Turkey and Georgia now pass under a knobbly observation tower. The bumpy tower, which sits atop the Sarpi Border Checkpoint site, houses within its folds a series of elevated terraces. Beneath the black, cantilevering building, customs containers, cantilevered with a sleek, ghost-like structure, are elevated on large wheels which are then disconnected. The building also contains a restaurant, staff quarters and a conference room. The building welcomes tourists to Georgia, which reflects the country's democratic upsurge.

Section Cutting Through Border Crossing:

Site Plan of Vehicular Border Crossing:

Tower's Facade:
How can Architects shape the landscape of the U.S.-Mexico Border to represent the past and symbolize a promising future?

In 1987, an anonymous competition was organized by the Berlin government in order to extend the original Jewish Museum in Berlin opened in 1933.

In 1988, among many other internationally renowned architects, Daniel Libeskind was chosen as the winner; his design was the first project to incorporate a revolutionary, formal design as a conceptually expressive tool to reflect how Jews were forced to leave Berlin in 1938 but were not allowed to return. In 1999, the Berlin Jewish Museum was completed. Since then, the museum has aimed to bring a Jewish presence back to Berlin and has become a significant cultural and social symbol of the city.

In order to understand the impact of the Holocaust on Jewish culture and the city of Berlin, Libeskind sought to express feelings of loss, loneliness, and invisibility through his design. The project begins by inviting travelers to explore the interior through a three-way crossroads, each offering opportunities to observe the Jewish experience by continuity with German history, German emigration, and the Holocaust.

Building's Site Plan Shows Irregular Shape:

Sections Showing Circulation Forced Underground:

The Jewish Museum is conceived as an emblem in which the Invisible and the Visible are the structural features which have been gathered in this space of Berlin and laid bare in an architecture where the unnamed remains the name which keeps still. - Daniel Libeskind

How Can Architects shape the landscape of the U.S.-Mexico Border to represent the past and symbolize a promising future?
A place specifically designed to separate Jewish families on their travels from Berlin to concentration camp. Yet with this cruelty, the current structure acts as a symbol of change and a place to teach users of the barbaric systems meant to separate us.

The Tränenpalast, “Palace of Tears,” is a former border crossing point between West and East Berlin. Once known as the Berlin Wall crossing, it was in service between 1962 and 1989, between East and West Berlin. The Tränenpalast was designed as a memorial to the millions of tears shed by East Germans at the crossing as they left Berlin for West Germany. The Tränenpalast was designed as a memorial to the millions of tears shed by East Germans at the crossing as they left Berlin for West Germany. The Tränenpalast, which is now a museum, was opened in 2011.

While the Tränenpalast was designed to memorialize the millions of tears shed by East Germans at the crossing as they left Berlin for West Germany, it was also used for border crossings between East and West Germany. The building was originally designed as a nightclub and stage, and it was used as such until 2006. Today, the Tränenpalast is a museum dedicated to the history of Berlin and the Cold War.
Current State of San Diego & Tijuana

With such a crude divide placed in between neighboring cities how do civilians and immigrants imagine border relations between the U.S. and Mexico based off the border-wall? Through collaboration and negotiation of the future design of our country’s borders the U.S. and Mexico can create architecture that advocates for a more united future of the border.

Proposal for a “Green” Border:}

North View of Friendship Park:

Contrasting Approaches to Border Design:

Obviousl y, both the U.S. and Mexico have drastically different approaches to border design. The boundary between Mexico and the United States stretches from the Pacific Ocean in the west to the Mexico Gulf in the east. The border passes through a number of lands, from populated areas to deserts. The border between Mexico and the United States is the most frequently crossed border in the world, with approximately 350 million recorded annual crossings. In the mid-19th century, the frequent wars in the Texas area finally led to the Mexican-American War, which started in 1846 and ended with the Guadalupe-Hidalgo Treaty in 1848. In terms of the peace treaty, Mexico lost more than 2,500,000 square kilometers of land, 55 percent of its territory, including all of today’s California, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Nevada and parts of what is Colorado, Wyoming, Kansas, and Oklahoma. Additionally, all conflicts between Rio Grande and Rio Nueces over Texas and the disputed territories were abandoned. The boundary, which is 1,954 miles long per year has a very high rate of recorded and illegal migrant crossings. With such a high number of citizens traversing the United States annually, the nation has invested in many distinct security measures. In 2006, under the Bush administration, the U.S. government had proposals to erect a border barrier along U.S.-Mexico land. The controversial plan included the construction of multiple individual fences. The U.S. government has spent a lot of millions of dollars in border protection, but this has not stopped illegal immigration in the United States.

In 2010, after completing 640 miles of either a barrier fence or a vehicle barrier, either new or repaired over existing, lower fencing, the program was terminated due to costs. The Boeing-built SBI-net systems for using radar, watchtowers and sensors (without a fence or physical barrier) were scrapped because they were over-budget, full of glitches and far behind schedule. With border relations between the U.S. and Mexico already on high alert; what is the future of the Border-Wall? Do we simply continue to construct the static condition of the Border-Wall costing almost $3 Million per Mile? How could our border become re-imagined if the architecture reflected that of interaction and communication between neighboring border cities like San Diego and Tijuana?
Palestinian West Bank's Separation Barrier, Does The Future of our U.S.-Mexico Border look Similar to this one in Israel? Currently viewed as Enemies this is the only future possible for the Border-wall. The future development of our wall must change to reflect the values our Countries; the land of the free.

West Bank's Controversial Separation Barrier:

The Separation Barrier transformed as art:

The vast span of the militarized barrier:

Scale of the barrier:

The Potential Future | The Palestinian Barrier est. since 2002

Will the West Bank Separation Barrier Become the Future for the U.S.-Mexican Border? A Militarized Extreme

The barrier or wall of Israel’s West Bank is a barrier of separation in the West Bank along the Green Line. It is known officially as the Israeli West Bank Barrier, and by Palestinians as the Barrier or the Apartheid Wall. The barrier runs from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea, a total length of 708 kilometers. The path followed by the barrier is more than twice the length of the Green Line, with 10 percent of the length of the barrier running along the Green Line itself. With a width of up to 30 meters, the barrier is five times wider than the Green Line.

Israel calls it a barrier to defense against terrorism, while Palestinians call it a pillar of racial discrimination or apartheid. Sound like a similar situation? The barrier was constructed during the Second Intifada, which started in September 2000, and was established as a temporary security measure by the Israeli government to prevent the mass of Palestinian political resistance from being brought up by the uprising.

The Israeli government plans to construct the barrier as a combination of five of the following features: gates, checkpoints, roadblocks, walls, or fencing. The barrier serves as a combination of five of the following features: gates, checkpoints, roadblocks, walls, or fencing. The barrier is designed to prevent the spread of violence from the West Bank to Israel. It is planned to be 50% completed by 2008, and 100% completed by 2010. The barrier is intended to reduce the number of attacks on Israelis from the West Bank, and to reduce the number of attacks on Palestinians from Israelis.

Barrier opponents argue that the barrier is a violation of international law. The International Court of Justice has ruled that the barrier is illegal, and that Israel must remove it. The United Nations has also called for the barrier to be removed. The barrier has many consequences on Palestinians including reduced freedoms, reduced checkpoints and road closures for the Israeli Defense Forces, land loss, increased difficulty in accessing medical and educational facilities in Israel, limited access to water supplies, and economic impacts.

The barrier has many consequences on Palestinians: restricted movement, restricted movement across the Green Line, restricted movement within the West Bank, restricted movement between the West Bank and Gaza, increased difficulty in accessing medical and educational facilities in Israel, limited access to water supplies, and economic impacts.

The Separation Barrier was constructed in a time of heightened tensions as a temporary security measure. It has since been quickly connected to a potential diplomatic boundary between Israel and Palestine.

Barrier opponents argue that they attempt to seize Palestinian land under the cover of security and disrupt peace talks by arbitrarily defining new frontiers. Opponents object to a path that in some cases greatly diverges eastward from the Green Line, seriously restricting the movement of many Palestinians and refusing their basic human rights. The barrier has many consequences on Palestinians, including reduced freedoms, reduced checkpoints and road closures for the Israeli Defense Forces, land loss, increased difficulty in accessing medical and educational facilities in Israel, limited access to water supplies, and economic impacts.

The Palestinian Barrier est. since 2002

West Bank's Intrusive Separation Barrier:
The U.S.-Canadian Border is marked as Twenty Feet of Space.

The U.S.-Canada border peacefully runs through the middle of a neighborhood: The Canada–U.S. Border is the longest undefended border in the world, between two countries, officially known as the International Boundary. The border is shared between Canada and the United States, and belongs to each for the second- and third-largest nations. The terrestrial boundary (including parts of water borders in both the Great Lakes and the Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic coasts) is 5,525 miles wide, 1,538 miles of which is the Alaska-Yukon frontier. Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) is the agency primarily responsible for promoting legal travel across the international boundary.

The International Boundary is generally referred to as the “longest undefended border in the world,” but this is only valid in the military context, because civil law enforcement is present. Crossing the border without border controls is illegal, as anyone who crosses the border must be checked by Immigration and Customs laws. The comparatively low level of security controls compares with that of the United States–Mexico border (one-third length of Canada–United States border), which is vigorously patrolled by the United States. Personnel from Customs and Border Control to deter illegal immigration and drug trafficking.

The U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) describes the main border problems as domestic and international terrorism; drug trafficking and commodity smuggling (such as tobacco) to circumvent customs duties; and illegal immigration. Following the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, security along the border in both populated and rural areas was significantly tightened by the two countries. Both nations also engage regularly to begin to the war on terrorism, officially known as the International Border War. The border is a symbol between Canada and the United States, and belongs to each for the second- and third-largest nations. The territorial boundary (including parts of water borders in both the Great Lakes and the Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic coasts) is 5,525 miles wide, 1,538 miles of which is the Alaska-Yukon frontier. Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) is the agency primarily responsible for promoting legal travel across the international boundary.

The U.S. Custom and Border Protection (CBP) regularly establish checkpoints into U.S. territory up to 100 miles. The irony of the United States border relationship with Canada is appalling. In the south civilians plea and peg for open borders and to practice transborderistic values. Yet the U.S. Continues to reply, “You are our enemies! Be more friendly like our neighbors to the North.” Simply a line on a Page | Section 2.2.7 | Page 42

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The U.S.-Canada Border: A Space to Traverse

The U.S.-Canada Border A Space to Traverse

The Potential Future

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The U.S.-Canada Border A Space to Traverse
The potential future | COVID-19: The invisible barrier

With this Global Pandemic, everyone is sympathizing with the inability to break past the barrier of isolation. As the physical coronavirus pandemic keeps spreading, an emotional pandemic is quickly following in its wake.

It’s terribly hard for the human mind when the entire world falls to bits. In the best of times, a delicate thing—to cope with, and increasingly, doctors report the spread of distress, concern, and depression among their patients, particularly those already suffering from some sort of anxiety disorder.

The US had been a psychologically nervous environment even before COVID-19 reached its shores. Just over 19 per cent of all American adults would experience at least one anxiety disorder during any 12-month period, according to the National Institute of Mental Health. The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual, the fifth edition, describes a dozen different anxieties and associated conditions. Not all are likely to be especially affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, but a number are generalized anxiety disorder, social anxiety disorder, agoraphobia, acute stress disorder, separation anxiety disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), panic disorder, and major depressive disorder. While most people who have been diagnosed with one or more of these conditions have been able to manage them well, the pandemic has created new stressors for those who already suffer from anxiety.

Given that public health and government leaders are warning people around the world not to come within six feet of each other, this last one hits especially hard. “Patients with PTSD may be lonely and sometimes schedule people to come over to check them out,” McGrath says. “No one knocks on the door now.” People with OCD might be the most vulnerable to a viral outbreak. Definitionally, the condition entails anxiety over germs, illness, and social interactions. “The condition with coronavirus is a horrible formula for some men,” Sugar says. “Tolerance to ambiguity is a central component to OCD. It’s difficult to know which news outlets to trust and which figures to trust. People with PTSD may be lonely and sometimes schedule people to come over to check them out,” McGrath says. “No one knocks on the door now.” People with OCD might be the most vulnerable to a viral outbreak. Definitionally, the condition entails anxiety over germs, illness, and social interactions. “The condition with coronavirus is a horrible formula for some men,” Sugar says. “Tolerance to ambiguity is a central component to OCD. It’s difficult to know which news outlets to trust and which figures to trust. The irony of this global pandemic is the consistent protest arising across the United States during the governmental ‘lock-down’ periods in a deliberate attempt to undermine the rights of US citizens. It is quite ironic the perspective change of American citizens when they are placed on the other side of separation. While this separation period continues in the hopes to help the human race defend against this global pandemic (a truly just cause), why are Americans so quick to defend the construction of the Border-Wall? Are the security issues at our border equivalent to the issues of COVID-19? We as designers are responsible for practicing architectural ethics at our international borders; if we continue to allow politicians to dictate the architectural language of our border we can never expect a new image of the border.
A Prescription for Cultural Exchange

San Diego, U.S.

Tijuana, Mexico
## Daily Entry into U.S.-Mexico Border Stations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Border Station</th>
<th>Daily Entries</th>
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<tr>
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<td>4,814</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laredo</td>
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<td>Brownsville</td>
<td>35,546</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Diego / San Ysidro</td>
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</table>

### Map Legend:
- 100,000 Daily Entries
- 25,000 Daily Entries

### Migrant Apprehensions in U.S.-Mexico Border Sectors:

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<th>Sector</th>
<th>Change Per Sector From 2018 to 2019</th>
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<td>+20%</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Big Bend</td>
<td>+20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Del Rio</td>
<td>+262%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rio Grande</td>
<td>+160%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yuma</td>
<td>+152%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Site Selection | The History of Friendship Park

Friendship Park is a half-acre bi-national park located in the San Diego–Tijuana area along the US-Mexico border. The park contains the border fence separating the two countries where citizens of both countries can meet in person. In 1994, amid widespread fear of illegal immigration in the area, a 14-mile fence was installed as part of Operation Gatekeeper on the border between San Diego and Tijuana, including one in Friendship Park.

There's a giant steel gate in Friendship Park, that swings open twice a year to encourage families separated by immigration status to reunite in person for a short time. There have been numerous social activities in this park including yoga courses, worship ceremonies, weddings, dances, and baptisms. Members that participated in the opening of the Door of Hope stated this about being about to embrace separated loved ones, “We got to hold her, you know, and we got to see her. It was a little sad in that it was only a few minutes.’ After their three minutes together, families walked through the thick metal mesh to the portion of the fence in Friendship Park where you can chat. It appeared as if they were talking through jail bars. How can creative and cohesive architecture at this section of the Border-Wall spanning Friendship Park create space where embrace is the priority of design?

After issues facing the opening of this international door, the U.S. Border Patrol stated that the gate would no longer open due to threat and security liability. The Border Patrol closed this section of the border fence to prevent illegal immigration. The gate was replaced by a 18-foot-tall, 3-mile-long fence that stretched from the Pacific Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico. The gate was intended to prevent illegal immigration, but it also prevented families from reuniting in person. The gate was closed in 2008 due to high rates of smuggled and illegal migrant crossings. This decision was made in response to threats from criminal organizations that had gained control of the border region.

The gate was eventually replaced by a new fence that was more secure and allowed families to reconnect in person. The new fence is made of metal and is taller than the original fence, providing increased security to the area.

## Site Analysis | Section 3.1.2 | Page 48

When analyzing the U.S.-Mexico Border region, it was immediately noticeable that the Pacific Ocean is one of the most frequented border cities. San Diego is on the east coast of the San Diego Bay, and the city of Tijuana is on the west coast. The city of Tijuana is the second-largest city in Mexico, with a population of over 2 million. This area has a diverse culture and is known for its vibrant nightlife and cuisine.

The border fence running through the city of Tijuana separates the United States from Mexico. This fence is one of the longest border fences in the world, stretching for over 10 miles. The fence is made of metal and is topped with barbed wire, providing increased security to the area.

The fence is not only a physical barrier, but it also serves as a cultural barrier, preventing families from reuniting in person. Despite these challenges, Friendship Park remains a symbol of hope and reconciliation for those separated by immigration status.
When analyzing the negotiation of U.S. and Mexico’s border design in the context of importing and exporting goods, it is clear our two countries do not play by the same rules. Our separate approaches are drastically different, presenting an image of contradiction instead of unity. Mexico’s border crossing with San Diego is an example of an unequal relationship, with Mexico allowing for easier and more frequent movement across the border, which indicates a lack of playful interactions as a result of the various legal barriers.

Experiencing a seesaw is produced through the efforts of two, imagine a soccer pitch with unequal sides. Agreeing on terms of play is crucial to the clarity of the outcome. I plan to design moments along the border in which interfaces allow for playful interactions for citizens of both countries to experience as a symbol of bi-national efforts.

It is obvious from the contrasting figure-ground images of the U.S. and Mexico’s architecture approaching the Border. Instead of this state of indifference, this case study will display unity of nations. Through re-opening the closed dialogue of the border; I intend on leveling the playing field. I want to propose architecture as a form of advocacy for the crisis at the border.

With such a successful economy, why does the border-wall barricading San Diego from Tijuana not personify the codependent relation mentioned earlier? Yet our economies say otherwise.

End of Document
Celebrating The Border-City | Agency For The Disadvantaged

How Could Better Architecture Of The Border-Wall Help Become A Symbol Of Acceptance?

Interactions and emotional collaboration. Why do we attempt to create the vision of this wall as a space of separation when it is evident through history of the natural intrigue of speaking to others of different experience? This great divided will like the examples of historic barriers be broken down. As this line on a map continues to create political and economic issues for both nations neighboring it the border that divides us will continue if the future holds the ability to interact with our neighbors instead of shunning the people over the hedges.

Through using this unique opportunity of friendship parks relation to Mexico, this design intends on creating an artifact aimed to use this line on a page as a way for cultural exchange across national borders to become the norm; through activating the wall with programs of play and display.

It is eye catching to say the least to see the two completely contrasting approaches to architectural design when approaching the border wall. It is significant to celebrate the successful border cities that exist of precedents of how communication across this line on a page can positively impact the citizens of said area. This strip of land connecting the United States and Mexico has potential to act as a symbol of unification during times of desperation. This lack of execution is shameful; to join the countries of North America together through physical representation yet still we seal off borders in hope to segregate the people of this line on a page.

The current climate of the border is viewed as the divide in North America but views can be shifted if this wall can enable transnational interactions and emotional collaboration. Why do we attempt to create the vision of this wall as a space of separation when it is evident through history of the natural intrigue of speaking to others of different experience? This great divided will like the examples of historic barriers once again be broken down.

To create political and economic issues for both nations neighboring it the border that divides us will continue if the future holds the ability to interact with our neighbors instead of shunning the people over the hedges.

Through using this unique opportunity of friendship parks relation to Mexico, this design intends on creating an artifact aimed to use this line on a page as a way for cultural exchange across national borders to become the norm; through activating the wall with programs of play and display.
Friendship Park is a half-acre bi-national park located in the San Diego–Tijuana area along the US-Mexico border. Located within California’s San Diego County’s larger Border Field State Park, the park contains the border fence separating the two countries, which separates the United States from Mexico. The site was inaugurated on August 18, 1971, as a sign of bi-national friendship, when it was declared a national monument.

There was not a simple barbed wire fence until 1994, and under US control, Americans and Mexicans could meet at the border. Since then, the border fence was extended and modernized with more control points, making it more secure.

The concept of Friendship Park is a complete shift in thinking when discussing the topic of border security, yet the park’s physical state symbolizes a message of exclusion. How can architecture transcend this fractured cultural difference in border relations?
Materiality of the Site | The Current State

Clarity into Priorities in Border-Wall Design

This artifact symbolizing transborderism will question the existing materiality of the Border-Wall:

Does our Border-Wall consist of materials that provide for intimate and safe materials?

Is our choice of materiality for this endlessly traversing Wall cost effective or choose for a specific aesthetic? Raw and Un-groomed

How would you perceive the Border if the Wall was made up of luxurious and welcoming materials? Would our identification of our neighbors change to a welcoming one?

Materiality of Door of Hope

Transparency Through The Door:

Visibility, A Priority?

There is a giant steel gate in Friendship Park, near San Diego. It swings open twice a year to encourage families separated by immigration status to reunite in person for a short time.

The present wall is 30 feet high, consisting of steel planks behave like the long bollards for the main wall system. Off-shoulder plates, metal plates, and an anti-climbing system, also surrounding lights, highways, and secondary barriers— which make it difficult to cross the border.

If you cut it down it will only cut what is being constructed now— that’s a new wall,” one official said last year at a conference. “This 30 foot tall, it’s embedded in concrete. The foundation is extremely solid, it’s equipped with additional infrastructure— lighting, access roads, etc. It’s new and expensive. The anti-climbing system, it’s hard to cross. And it’s embedded in concrete, the foundation is extremely solid, it’s equipped with additional infrastructure— lighting, access roads, etc. It’s new and expensive.”

On the funding issue, CBP says it has found a total of $15 billion to install a total of 753 miles of border wall system through a combination of funding from the Pentagon and Homeland Security, and the Treasury Forfeiture Fund.

Border-Wall’s Transition to the Pacific Shore:

There’s a giant steel gate in Friendship Park, near San Diego. It swings open twice a year to encourage families separated by immigration status to reunite in person for a short time.
Design Methodology | Design Narrative

Creating a Barrier That Unites
How can both play and display de-stigmatize the perception of nationality?

The amusing thing you might find here, in the poem, is that the very action of each year repairing the fence is what brings these neighbors together. This is why they spend time together; that is why they talk. These two men are probably better friends, by making the fence “nice” again, by repairing the holes and the places where it crumbles down. That is, they spend time doing something constructive together, and not just avoiding each other.

The experience of this national monument will be of one of constant communication and open dialogue for neighbors to do something constructive to bond their relationship deeper in meaning. The existing Border-Wall screams to civilians to avoid their neighbors, but the proposed artifact will be a relationship of friendly neighbors exercising the free use of Play and Display. Because it will be a good wall, therefore producing in good neighbors.

What Is our Wall’s Future?

Generally speaking, when you say “Border,” you mean setting boundaries between yourself and your neighbor lets both you know how to behave and value the space and privacy of one another. For example, if you know for certain where your yard ends and its starts, and your neighbor next door, then there would be no dispute over which of you is supposed to mow the bit in the middle. More importantly, if you’ve noticed it’s not appropriate for the kids of your neighbor to come play on your trampoline and make lots of noise whenever they want, then you both enjoy more harmony and less tension. Boundaries will allow for a stronger neighborly relationship. We must “Mend The Wall” as he and his neighbor work on repairing the broken wall that forms the boundary between their fields. The speaker asks why they still need the wall, since it’s easy to tell where the field of one neighbor ends and the other starts, but the neighbor keeps repeating the word thoughtlessly (“good fences make good neighbors”) without explaining it, as if it’s self-explanatory, or as if the neighbor doesn’t know what it implies.

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ARCHITECTURAL ADVOCACY FOR TRANSBORDERISM | COMPARISON TO RONALD RAEL’S MANIFESTO OF THE BORDER:

The Wall is Wrong

The Wall exists

The same design intent

Materiality of The Border-Wall | Transparency is key

By changing the border-wall from corrugated metal to varying opacities of glass, sight becomes more meaningful.

The New Materiality of the Border-Wall will address:

1. Through flipping the existing materiality of the Border-Wall on its axis, the proposed spaces will extenuate the new image of the Border through unifying material choice.

2. The necessary need for glorifying intimacy at the Border-Wall to contradict the existing materiality of the wall and the international imagery of the wall.

3. The Border-Wall will become a curated space to collaborate and exchange culture as a somewhat culture-less threshold.

4. As this Line on a Map continues to create political and economic issues for both nations neighboring it, the Border that divides us will only continue if the future holds the ability to interact with our neighbors instead of shunning the people over the hedges. The current climate of the border is viewed as the divide in North America but views can be shifted if this wall can enable transnational interactions and emotional collaboration. Why do we attempt to create the vision of this wall as a space of separation when it is evident through history of the natural intrigue of speaking to others of different experience?

The future development of the remaining 1,300 miles of the U.S.-Mexico Border-Wall can still challenge the stigma that boundaries are meant to solely separate. This thesis intends on creating an artifact aimed to use this line on a page as a way for cultural exchange across national borders to become the norm; through activating the Wall with programs of Play and Display.

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Schematic Design | Dictating Circulation Paths

Through thoughtful consideration the design will circulate parallel to the national boundary. The border is a literal symbol for ties between the U.S. and Mexico, and building walls diverts such relationships. The wall, and the wall’s tragic politics, not just separate nations, but areas, towns, communities, and more recently, a separation of children from parents.

- San Fratello

“Art is such a strong tool for reform,” - Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES)

Through my schematic design I intend to program the border wall in such a manner to allow residents of the Mexican areas or visitors from the United States to experience this international stage in a unified manner. Having a structure span across the border line relying on the other nation’s soil to support the heavy concrete shed roofs that enclose this endless border to a intimate space that humanizes your neighbors instead of pitting one against each other.

Primary Moments of Design:

South Facade Terracing towards the Pacific Ocean:
The program of the building embodies the notion of a Spine. Deliberately following in a parallel motion the existing border wall to create organized spaces that are enclosed within a series of shed roof structures. The North American transnational monument hosts a plethora of programs that have been carefully dictated by the experience of play and display. The design intentionally places active play moments towards the west near the Pacific ocean and to the east in the exterior courtyards of the structure. Enclosed within the building is a re-creation of the door of hope surrounded by solid surfaces to give the user a more personal experience; comparatively contrasting the existing door that is open for all to see.

The building also hosts series of restrooms run themselves parallel with the border wall providing a shared hand-washing station for the US citizen and Mexican citizen experiences to be one of unification with normal hand-washing stations are private. In the exterior of the building there are multiple areas of urban setting that programs have been carefully dictated by the experience of play and display. The design intentionally places active play moments towards the west near the Pacific ocean and to the east in the exterior courtyards of the structure. Enclosed within the building is a re-creation of the door of hope surrounded by solid surfaces to give the user a more personal experience; comparatively contrasting the existing door that is open for all to see.

The Initial Allocation for Uses

By respecting the original location for the meeting area it is the definite area for the main congregation space.
Creating a Shed Roof Structure: The activities inside translate through the exterior structure.

The envelope of the North American transnational monument was developed to emphasize the use of a public space near the border and consolidate the moments of intimacy scattered throughout the site. The envelope originated as uniform sheds that practically cover the programs existing beneath. The shed roofs were then tilted to control light throughout certain times of the day to the site. Specifically, the sunset to the west in the volleyball, dining, and food truck spaces, and capturing the morning light from the east for the sporting areas both isolated and shared. Then the shed roofs form began to overlap to visually represent the points of entry and shelter the space as a private program. After designing an altered profile of the border wall and then overlaying it on the envelopes’ form, perforations were exported from this new whimsical border wall allowing light into dark spaces and applying a skin to shelter specific moments within the building.
Primary Moments of Interaction | Significant Moments

Through these four moments I intend to break down the stigma of the border by advocating humanity in design.

The North American transnational monument has been configured to emphasize four primary moments that aim to change the mindset of those utilizing the border. Through introducing programs of play and display to the border associated with a whimsical notion of design this new monument will completely contradict the existing personification of the US Mexico border.

While the crisis on the border is fact much moremanageable than the early 2000’s yet illegal migration will persist throughout all of the millions spent on the border wall to fortify access into the United States, what is the answer to changing this trend of design migration? Perhaps we continue to fortify and barricade but history always prevails and walls always fail. I believe through combining the construction of the border wall in a manner that attempts to transcend our country’s national identity we can begin the process of unlocking our emotions to our shared border.

Primary Moments of Interaction:

Moment 1 | Dining Across the Border

Moment 2 | Food Trucks Spanning the Border

Moment 3 | Sharing an Intimate Moment

Moment 4 | Playing with Your Neighbors

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The floor plan of the North American Trans National Monument is intentionally mirrored in order to reflect sameness in the users that inhabit it. With circulation paths mirrored in materials consistent on both sides of the border the only differentiation is contained in the form of the roofs in the natural state of the topography. The user first enters the building facing directly towards the newly designed door of hope; this act of exposing the user to the primary meeting point of the border wall is meant to reveal the primary moments that exhibited transborderism in the past. Symbolically propelling the user to the significant information present; allowing the inhabitants to see the full truth of the border wall. Simply a line on a page and nothing more. While the circulation paths of the building both run offset of the border wall this allows every intimate moment within the building to be directly accessed perpendicular to the path of circulation, forcing the user to make a prolific example of conscious intention to interact in attempt communication across this bared threshold.
With such a successful economy, why does the border-wall barricading San Diego from Tijuana not personify the codependent relationship present? Through figure-ground analysis, it is clear the United States’ approach to architecture at the border is “we want nothing to do with Mexico!” Yet, our economies say otherwise.

Revealing the exterior shed components

When beginning to un-layer this monument sitting on a border clarity is the key to speaking the message to the users of the space. For this reason, the entire pavilion is materialized as a curated space engulfed in white stucco, opaque glass, and light concrete, to provide a curated space where people can come to an open dialogue of the border.

In order to thoroughly present itself as a result of unified negotiations of nations, it must deliberately near the opposing side to reflect a sense of fairness and willingness to conform. Our current state of the border is rigid and hard; the wall bends for no one and never compromises.

For this reason, the North American transnational monument is designed in a twin-like skin that whimsically dressers the concrete structure on the interior of the building. The roof above uses natural daylight to provide one source of national uniqueness providing a few spaces being different for symbolic reasons.

UN-LAYERING THE BORDER-WALL | DESIGN COMPONENTS

EXTERIOR RENDER OF U.S. BASKETBALL COURT

ELEVATION OF SOUTH SIDE FACADE:
The Border-Wall as Public Space | Community Programs

By creating bi-national programmatic uses two nations share a moment of intimacy.

Finally I get to exclaim that the border wall shall be public space! The world is becoming overpopulated, and the tension between nations seems to be at the peak of existence. Why require the border wall to be a space of privacy in seclusion; almost alienating the border as a space where life should not be. I'm sure border control would love for the wall to continue onward with metal and ugliness but alas these walls will fall to. The new walls of the US-Mexico border will be made of life and thought to provide an example of our future to the youth that will build it. The border wall should exist as public space for people to understand that nations are welcoming and not afraid of newcomers.

The images below dictate that of experiencing a monument on the border from the beach and transitioning through its poorest nature in order to reflect the truly liquid state of the border; always changing and adapting to new problems or a new pandemic. How will our border control ever know that neighbors will hate us if we don’t give them the opportunity to experience? With a history of play being ever present at our international border; why do the creators of this wall insist that play does not proceed? I believe it’s because play humanizes the border; unlike rigid metals...
A moment to share a meal is with a loved one even more than an opportunity to communicate and exchange ideas. Dining tables are intimately connected, often bringing people together through shared food and drink. The dining table is a space where people come together for meals, to share stories, and to build relationships. However, the presence of the border wall creates a physical barrier that separates people who share a common history and culture. This wall has become a symbol of the divide between the United States and Mexico, and it serves as a reminder of the challenges faced by those on both sides. The dining table in this design is a place where strangers can come together to share a meal, breaking down barriers and fostering understanding and connection.
To the act of service the passion of individuals exfoliates into the lifestyle of others so why not put the agreement of the NAFTA to good use and allow the entrepreneurs in the food industry to try to transcend the border wall and accumulate new client across the wall. This food service area has been designed to allow for American and Mexican food trucks and food carts to pull up in a secluded area in the border wall, one stationary and in place ready to cook a meal for the other; with the help of food carts or windows on the border wall that can be closed behind them for privacy from the public users of the building. Perforations in the border wall have been made to allow for windows of exchange so that cooks can make money and habitus can experience a bit of contradictory culture.

The space is meant to be a transformational in Universal so the chefs and cooks of different trucks some courts can use the space in order to promote national dishes to the neighbors on the other side of the wall. This act of design is meant to promote the broadcasting of local business in both San Diego and Tijuana to allow for the growth of both economies and for the citizens to obtain cultural knowledge of their culinary practices.
A Moment of Co-Intimacy | International Restrooms

How Can a Seemingly Intimate Experience Change the Way We Experience the Border?

This moment of design is meant to be ironic. When individual uses the restroom it is quite obvious that contact is avoided in quietness is applauded in this private space where delicate intimacy exist. It is an irony of knowing that the user is in a border zone and yet is meant to show the invisibility and separateness. All users are separated, but not isolated. They may discover the things that make us similar. The moment you enter the restroom, you see a semi-transparent mirror which allows you to see the user on the other side of the border wall or a parent in a mirror, changing the typical connotation these restrooms are not public.

The bathroom stalls are designed to have no wall to divide the territories. Instead, the user is in the territory of one side and extended to the territory of the other side of the border wall; therefore allowing the user a private enclosed space where they inhabit the territory of the opposition allowing them a moment of self reflection in celebration.

This restroom is international.
A Moment of Co-intimacy | Playing on an International Stage

How Collaborating through Play Subverts the Intentions Behind the Border-wall?

The last moment of design is the moment of play. The space is designed from the user’s point of view to interact with their surroundings. Physical space through programmed play and sport. Sports have always existed on the border wall, dating back to 1979 when the first volleyball tournament was held in El Paso, Texas. The urge to interact with your neighbor, engage in a series of games or sports, is only human nature and then the future border wall architecture needs to embody this need of sport. This moment is carefully designed to engage users with areas of play in the play park and isolated/shared basketball courts and to allow users experience of displaying how the border wall crudely separates us from experiencing daily life with one another.

The border wall is whimsically formed throughout the play park. Some perforations have been performed with strategic openings so that children can see their neighbors on the opposite side of the border wall and parents can keep a watchful eye on their children as they interact with their neighbors. The basketball courts all have similar strategic openings that allow for the urban furniture to view the primary areas of the athletic courts. While the two basketball courts on the outside or isolated courts where Mexican citizens play on one side, American citizens play on the other in a court分离. The central court is a conjoined courtyard. This space can be freely used by allowing a mixture of both nations to use the same court and interact with their neighbors physically, although temporarily this is a key moment to symbolize the future engagement between our nations.
Reflections on the Border | A Potential for Change

Through designing this artifact, I subvert the connotation of the proposed border-wall; the wall will change. I would like to investigate how the United States and Mexico can re-envision the relationship of our border in order to create a collaborative space for cultural emergence. Currently, our Southern border is perceived as a place of security and protection, which are important design considerations, but I intend to interrogate how prioritizing interactive play elements to the act of negotiating border design can change the identity of a nation. What is the role of the architect in border design? Are we simply two draftsman separated by a line on a page, or are we the translators between two nations of different architectural languages?

By no means am I saying architecture can solve the humanitarian issues at our Southern border, but it can welcome change and influence communication between separated peoples. The act of designing this border wall is an exercise in enacting a space for a new act of engagement. Play is also an act of negotiation. When analyzing the components of play, we agree on a set of rules that define the procedures of the game itself. When comparing the act of play to the act of negotiating border design, it is quite clear our two countries do not play by the same rules. Our two separate approaches are dramatically different, presenting an image of indifference instead of unity. Think of a seesaw straddling the border wall. Through the efforts of two parties, this play set becomes displayed.
Reflections On The Border | A Potential for change

Through designing this artifact subverting the connotation of the Proposed Border-wall; The Wall will change

When analyzing the components of play, both sides competing to win agree to a set of rules that define the proceedings of the game itself. This set of negotiated rules constitutes the spatial arrangement of the field itself. Within the context of the proposal of the wall, the act of play to the play of negotiation border design is quite clear our two nations cannot play by the same rules. Our respective approaches see drastically different perspectives on the idea of differentiation instead of unity. Experiencing a seesaw is produced through the efforts of two, imagine a soccer pitch with unequal sides. Agreeing on terms of play is crucial to clarity of outcome. I plan to design moments along the border in which interfaces allow for playful interaction between citizens of both countries to experience a sharing of ideas.

I want to propose architecture as a form of advocacy for the crisis at the border.

This thesis will question the intentions of the U.S. government in its future plan to develop a Border-Wall separating the United States from Mexico. Through analysis of the existing condition of the Border-Wall I intend to investigate how the idea of a wall can begin to bridge gaps and start discussion between neighbors instead of terminating the ability to interact with each other.

This thesis intends to interrogate how a Border-Wall can transcend the expectations of simply a line on a page encouraging an active dialogue between people of different nations to act as a symbol of transnational friendship for the future of the U.S.-Mexico’s neighboring relationship.