

JUAN ARIAS-HERNANDEZ



# CICATRIZ

SPATIAL ANALYSIS INTO THE MEX-US BORDER



# CICATRIZ

The word Cicatriz is Spanish for scar. A wound that has not yet fully healed, but is in the process of healing. While scars take time to heal, the more you abuse it, the bigger the scar and longer it takes to heal. It is said a scar although a mark of mistake and misfortune teaches a lesson and we grow from it. I do believe the aftermath of the Mexican American War produced a scar marked by the treat of Guadalupe Hidalgo as the 1848 border line between Mexico and the United States. 171 years later that scar is still visible and it seems to only be getting worse. Both sides have not yet come to terms with what that really means. It seems to only emphasize the scar between two nations and the constant tension located on the border. This thesis helps understand how architecture can potentially play a role in re-imagining how borders are experienced.

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# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

## WLADYSLAW FUCHS

Professor at the University of Detroit Mercy, Wladek Fuchs was my thesis advisor for this Masters of Architecture thesis on the border between the United States and Mexico. Wladek asked the graduate students to pick something that is constantly on our minds, something keeps us awake at night. This drove me in the direction of immigration and Architecture. A huge topic at the time and also very controversial was the MEX-US Border, which is why Wladek pushed in that direction. He saw my enthusiasm and my passion to learn about this topic. He was able to open my eyes passed the current state of the border and how a border could be re-imagined into something welcoming and even open.

## EMILY KUTIL

Adjunct Professor and Mentor, who worked at University of Detroit Mercy and was my third year Vertical Studio Professor. She helped with my development and growth as an architect and designer while I was in her studio. A key concept I will never forget is that our designs and drawings tell a story. We as architects communicate our design ideas visually into graphics and those graphics should express a narrative of our design intentions. This helped me envision how a space on the border could be utilized by people on both sides and tell the story of what a church acting as a hub and gateway could look and come alive at the border.

## FR. TOM FLOREK

Jesuit priest who recently taught at the University of Detroit Mercy, currently working in Mexico. His influenced during my time at the University, helped not only be proud of my heritage as a Mexican-American, but embrace it. He motivated as well as supported me during difficult times at Mercy, but this allowed me to grow my passion about my thesis topic. While researching about the border, I knew that if I truly wanted to learn about what is actually happening at the border, I had to experience it first hand. When I approached Fr. Tom Florek about this he quickly got me in contact with important people and organizations who were doing mission work at the Border in San Diego and El Paso. His support allowed me to get a better understanding on the MEX-US Border conditions.

## OLGA "PATY" HERNANDEZ

Hard working and supportive mother, who made my dream of become an architecture graduate student a reality. While being an immigrant family from Mexico, there are a lot of obstacles that made my future as an architecture student unclear, but she made it her mission to get me into college. I would not be in the position I am today, finishing my graduate thesis and receiving my M. Arch degree at the UDM, without her support. She is the reason, I never gave up and my motivation throughout these years at UDM.

This Thesis is dedicated to you Mamá. Por todo tu esfuerzo y sacrificios. Espero que estés orgullosa de mi. Te amo.

Gracias.

## **JUAN ARIAS-HERNANDEZ**

The Author of this thesis is a Mexican-American immigrant named Juan Arias-Hernandez, who was born in Puebla, Mexico. He came to Detroit, MI at the age of three. He has lived in Michigan since, working toward becoming a licensed architect in the state of Michigan. While the author is able to live and work legally in the U.S. as a DACA recipient, many students who are currently undocumented and were not able to benefit from DACA have a different reality. The author was faced with many obstacles especially when it came to attending college and learned of the limitations of what a student who is undocumented really are. Despite that he was able to succeed and excel in a system that does really benefit some like him. The inspiration to research on immigration and the current border conditions are a response to learn more of the history that resulted in the scar that currently separates the United States and Mexico and how that has led to the idea of a physical border wall is the only we as citizens feel safe from what is on the other side of that (in)visible line.





Graduate Thesis Presentation

## WHY THE BORDER?

When I first came to picking a topic for this thesis, I originally had no idea what to do it on. Even when it came down to starting my graduate year I never thought I would be doing it on the MEX-US Border. The idea first sparked by a statement my thesis advisor Wladek told us: "Pick a topic that keeps you up at night." I immediately thought about immigration issues and problems I have seen in my community and some I had experienced first hand. While I couldn't yet fully see how that can be incorporated into architecture, the passion was there and that laid the first seed for this thesis.

It just so happened a new piece of infrastructure was being proposed. A new border wall running along the entire border separating the United States and Mexico. Something that huge and although impractical will have detrimental impacts not only on those living in the border communities but everyone on both sides. So, how can architecture play a role in this? It is almost simple, but entirely complex. While someone has to design this, architecture also focuses on the built environment and how that affects the space people inhabit. But architecture alone can't solve all the socio-political issues revolving around the current border and even the issues with

immigration which is major reason the border currently exists. In its most simple form, a border is meant to keep people from crossing and regulate those coming in and coming out. The immigration system in the US is broken. Only temporary fixes have been proposed and border security has been debated for years, especially on our southern borders.

What we tend to forget is that the border is a type of architecture. Someone had to design the wall, surveyed the border and came up for a solution for how the physical line between US and Mexico will look. I believe the enhancing of a fence and increase in taller barriers was an immediate and temporary response to an issue between two nations. The current border has outlived its purpose and is no longer performing how it was intended to be. Architects, designers, planners and engineers all have a role in problem solving issues like the barrier between the US and Mexico, no matter how controversial. Architecture can begin finding a solution to the unique condition between US and Mexico. It can begin analyzing how and what a barrier between two nations can look like. We are talking about to nations at peace, yet we are building walls as if



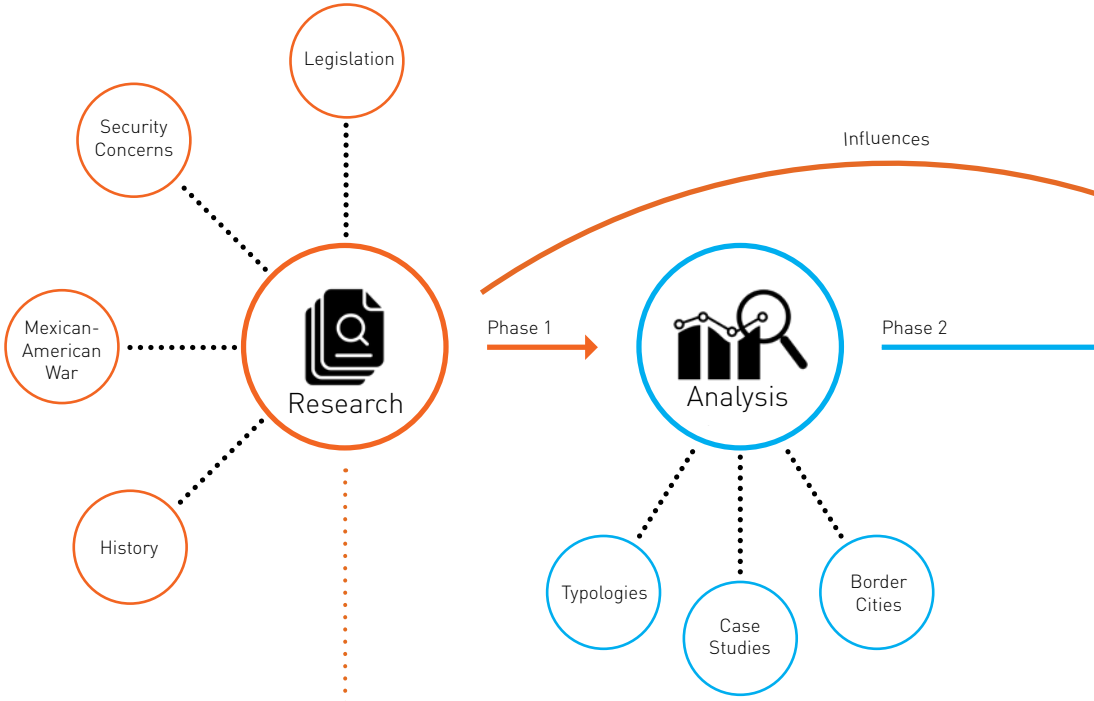
Photograph of San Ysidro Border

we are preparing for war. We as architects have an ethical duty to our community and to the profession, and a border wall should not separate our ideas into two sides. This Thesis is meant to give a general overview and brief history of the border wall as well as give examples of current borders around the world as well as borders that have come down. It will provide an architectural analyze the border at two sites and propose a solution based on the needs of the users and provide a model of what an intervention at the border can look like. This design intervention can then be applied along the border and start a discussion of what the border could look and should look like in the near future.



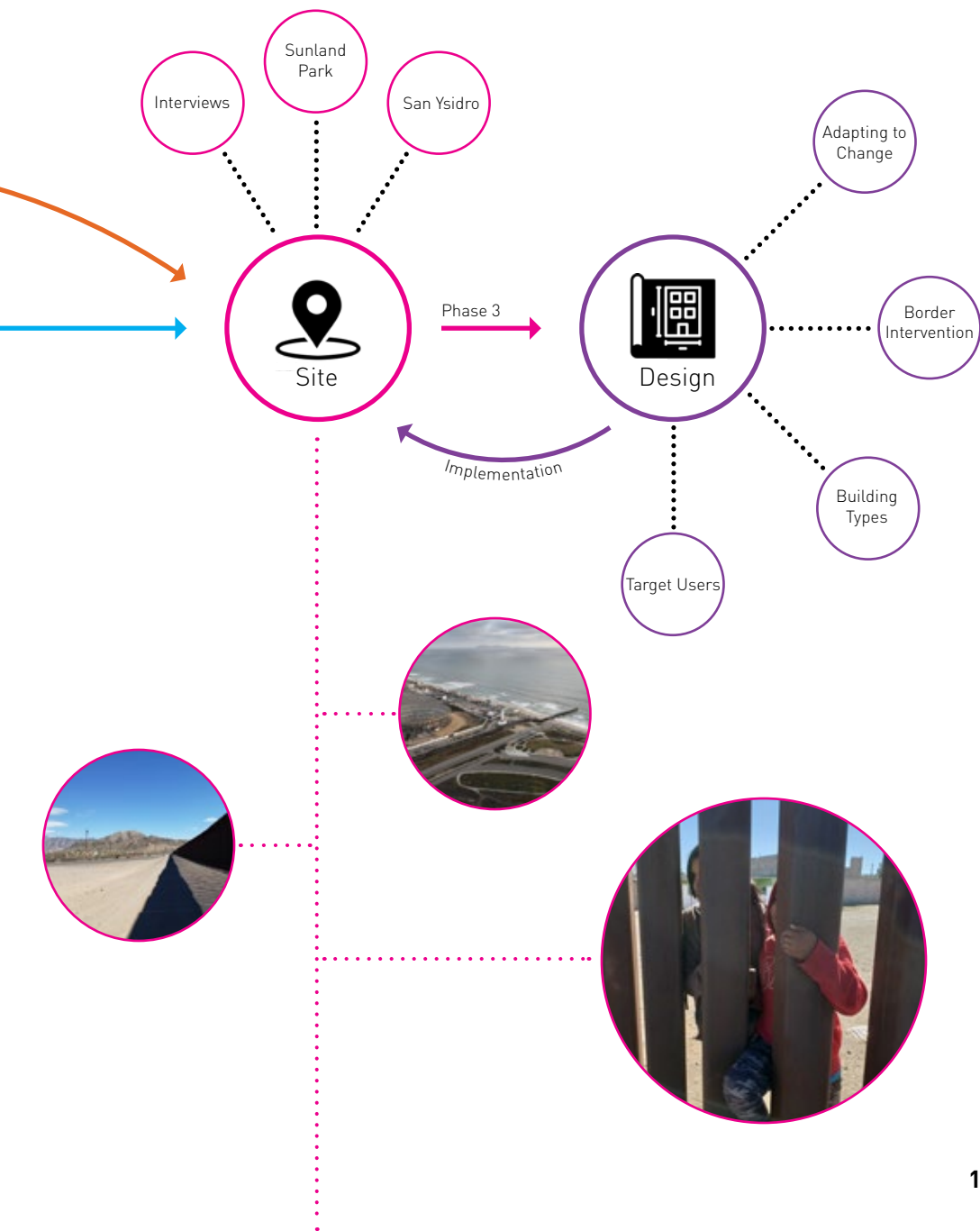
Photograph of Sunland Park Border

# PROCESS



## Initial Questions

- Why was a physical border built?
- What will happen if the border was taken down?
- What will happen if the border stays up?
- What would a building on our Southern Border look like?
- What role do Architects play on issues such as this?
- Should Architects get involved on political issues?









## HISTORY

“Al contemplar el estado de abatimiento y ruina & que ta funesta guerra con los Estados Unidos del Norte ha reducido á la República Mexicana doloroso... Es de esperarse por otra parte que la dura leccion que hemos recibido nos sirva para reformar nuestra conducta obligándonos á tomar las precauciones necesarias para que no se repitan las desgracias acaecidas y no olvidar los errores que hemos cometido y prepararnos á parar con tiempo los golpes con que nos amagan la ambicion y la perfidia.”

To contemplate the state of degradation and ruin to which the mournful war with the United States has reduced the Republic is painful... But without some explanation of the circumstances which brought on hostilities our work would be imperfect. It is to be hoped that the hard lesson which we have received will teach us to reform our conduct oblige us to adopt the obvious precautions against its repetition and induce us not to forget the mistakes we have committed and prepare us to stay the impending blows with which ambition and treachery threaten us.”

- Ramon Alcaraz

## MEXICAN EMPIRE

Mexico won its independence from Spain on September 27, 1821. The war started on September 16, 1810 with the famous Grito de Dolores. While awaiting word from Jose Bernardo Gutierrez de Lara to confirm United States army support for the liberation of what was known as New Spain at the time, Father Miguel Hidalgo rang the infamous church bells of his parish in Dolores. Following the ringing of the church bells, the congregation gathered and Miguel gave a moving speech calling his people and this nation to take up arms and revolt against the Spanish control. This was known as the start of the war for independence. Grito de Dolores translates as Cry of Dolores. What is interesting of the name of the city of Dolores is that its origins came from the catholic epithet of the Virgin Mary being referred to as Our Lady of Sorrows. Dolores translates to sorrow, so while the city is called Dolores, the literal translation of the cry of sorrows can represent the nations pain at the time of the start of the war for independence. The fighting ended with the signing of the Treaty of Cordoba, in Veracruz. The victory came from the unification of the revolting army calling for the Plan of Iguala which established that Mexico would be

officially a Roman Catholic Constitutional Monarchy. Once the plan was decided the Army of the Three Guarantees was created to be a symbol of the end of the war for independence. After a few battles and once the treaty was signed, the army marched into the capital of Mexico City officially ending the war and claiming its Independence.

Once New Spain claimed its independence, the Mexican Empire was created as the first territorial organization of the 24 territories of Mexico as newly independent nation. During the drafting of the constitution, there was another territorial re-organization of the Mexican Territories due to the separation of the Central American Territories from Mexico in 1823. This Monarchy only lasted for 3 years until the First Constitution was signed in 1824 of what is officially the United Mexican States. The following 24 years we see some re-organization of the states of Mexico and its territories. We also see the border shift from various years into its current state.



Left: Miguel Hidalgo, Right: Augustin de Iturbide, Down: Mural of independence by O'Gorman

## MANIFEST DESTINY

Manifest Destiny was seen as the driving force to the imperialistic expansion and territorial growth of the United States. Some have even been so boldly to argue that without the doctrine of Manifest Destiny the United States would not have had a future. But contrary to popular belief I disagree with that notion. This ideology is nothing new. It is what drove lands to be discovery, empires to be conquered and revolutions to take place. Many nations including the developing United States at that time had taken land that was controlled by another group of people. Upon the discovery of the already inhabited content of America, did the indigenous people of this land not suffer at the hands of the Europeans. Was there land not taken away by force, for the simple reason that it was their destiny to conquer these people and their land for their own benefit. It seem to have a strong rebirth in the United States, but in reality the idea of imperialistic expansion just took on another identity. The use of that phrase sparked an immediate interest across the nation during the early 1850's. All of sudden the ideals and beliefs of Imperialism could be rationalized with just one phrase. It was now Gods will for the United States to extend its reach to new frontiers. The word

was being used everywhere and all of a sudden words like frontiers and border had no limit, the reach the United States could extend seemed endless. While the idea of a nation being able to expand and grow is not a bad thing. The cost of acquiring those goals is what caused a lot of conflict especially between the United States and Mexico. The word originated in 1845 in an editorial by John Louis O'Sullivan about the decision to annex Texas into the United States. Since 1836 the Republic of Texas has asked to be annexed into the United States, but because of the issue of slave states versus free states it was not ideal to be added as a state. It was not until James K. Polk took office that in 1844 that Texas was finally annexed in an effort to push the philosophy of Manifest Destiny that President Polk supported. He the dispute between Mexico and the Republic of Texas as a chance to begin expanding its borders. When the United States proposed buying all the land acquired after their independence and Mexico refused the US saw no other way than through force with an altercation know as the Mexican-American War.

“It was the philosophy that created a nation”  
- Michael T. Lubragge

## MEXICAN-AMERICAN WAR

The Mexican American War was a result of the territorial dispute between what (in) visible line separated and established the Republic of Texas and its legal boundaries. The Mexican states of Coahuila y Texas was admitted on May 07, 1824. Its boundary to the United States made it a threshold between those nations and the United States offered to buy the land of Texas on a couple occasions which Mexico refused. On April 21, 1836 Texas declared its independence from Mexico forming the Republic of Texas after the signing of the treaties of Velasco. The problem with this treaty is that it was not really a treaty. The signing of these documents were between Texas and captured Mexican president and general Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna. While Mexico lost the short battle for Texas the Mexican Government never ratified or reached an agreement to the level of legitimacy of the boundaries that would mark the newly formed Republic of Texas. Since Santa Anna was only given a freedom if he signed the documents acknowledging Texas independence. While the document was signed by Santa Anna as an opportunity for the fighting to stop and to formally start the separation of Texas by the Mexican government. Talks never really happened

after that except Texas in 1837 declaring its boundary to that of the Rio Grande River. Its boundary as a states only included the Nueces river, but saw it as an opportunity to expand. Its expansion and territorial dispute took out part of the territory of New Mexico and states of Chihuahua, Coahuila and Tamaulipas which the Rio Grande river passed through. The Mexican government never ratified this boundary or their treaty acknowledging their Independence and continue to argue the Nueces River as there boundary.

When the Republic of Texas was formed they quickly requested it admitted to the union. If it were annexed it would become a slave state and was not favored by the U.S. Current President, Andrew Jackson, which denied its annexation in 1836 when it formed the Republic of Texas. Following the election of 1844, newly elected President James Polk favored the annexation of Texas. He believed in westward expansion and the idea of Manifest Destiny for the United States to fulfill its dream of expanding to the western coast. In November of 1845 President Polk offered 45 million for the territories of Alta California and New Mexico, which Mexico declined. In December of 1845 the U.S. decided to



Up: Winfield Scott entering Plaza de la Constitución after the Fall of Mexico City, Left: Captain Charles A. May's squadron, Resaca de la Palma, Texas, Right: Battle of Churubusco by J. Cameron

annex the newly formed Republic of Texas into the union. Since no official documents exist claiming the boundary and formation of Texas as an independent entity, Mexico did not accept the annexation of Texas nor its unofficial boundary. Thus dispute and conflict between the areas of the Rio Grand and Nueces river led U.S. to take military action. While it is uncertain if James Polk reasoning for sending troops south to the Rio Grande river was to establish their territory dominance over Texas or to provoke a almost certain war with Mexico, one thing is certain their relationship was greatly hurt by this incident. President Jame K. Polk officially declared war on April 25, 1846.

During the first stage of the war the United States had to mobilize as quickly and efficiently as possible to get the upper hand. The Mexican government was not stable during the initial start of the war and their army was not ready for a war between the growing power of the United States. As the map on the right shows the United States fought Mexico on two main fronts. The first was the western most territories of Mexico utilizing its northern border and pacific to engage and overwhelm the northwestern territory. The second front was fought along the southern eastern areas of Mexico. The Gulf of Mexico was used by the navy with an interesting and risky invasion of it southern gulf coast border. This proved to pay of as they began winning various battles and getting closer and closer to Mexico's capital

of Mexico City. Half way through the war the United States had breached Mexico's southern front and invaded its central states. By September of 1847 the United States had finally captured the capital of Mexico City. The Treaty of Guadalupe which officially ended the war between the United States and Mexico was signed on February 2, 1848. It ended the war through peaceful negotiations and only allowed Mexico to receive 15 million in compensation for the war.

The treaty did two things to Mexico, first it acquired all the land that was disputed and the land the United States had previously tried to buy. With the loss of land the people living in those territories were given a choice of American Citizenship or relocation to Mexico. The second thing it did was destroy Mexico's spirits as a nation as culture and even as a race. It was left in a state of "abatimiento y ruina" (Alcaraz).





Up: Map showing the United States strategic flow of forces quickly moving through the Mexican territories and eventually moving south along the Gulf of Mexico to capture the capital of Mexico City.

## NAFTA

The North American Free Trade Agreement was established in 1992, but it was not until 1994 that it was signed into a law by President Bill Clinton. What is interesting about this agreement was the fact that it included Mexico, a developing nation among two well developed nations, the United States and Canada. This allowed for a better trade integration, increased economic relations and cross-border investment between these three nations. This trade agreement brought Mexico to the level of United States and Canada with the hope of Mexico being able to benefit tremendously to the freer trade as well as benefit the already developed nations with a new market avenue for exports. The idea was simple: If our neighbors are doing good, we are doing good. Although arguments stating the agreement will raise the unemployment rate and lose thousands of auto industry jobs, as well the mixed track record of how it has affected the United States so far with an almost no increase of average GDP growth since it was ratified, this agreement was a step in the right direction. Treating Mexico as a promising new developing nation. Another major influence was illegal immigration. While illegal immigration was an issue

during that time, with various government operations established to stop immigration and enhancing the border fence between these nations, NAFTA changed the narrative and talked more about the exporting and importing of goods, instead of importing of people. While bringing manufacturing plants to Mexico was seen as a threat to American jobs, it would allow for jobs to open up in Mexico and cause new jobs to be created in the United States. More opportunity in Mexico the less likely people would migrate illegally. Initially it seemed to work, but because of the lack of domestic control in terms of poorly run credit markets, low productivity informal sector and dysfunctional regulation caused huge economic disparities. While overall the economies of these nations were growing, the issue of illegal and even legal immigration was still on the rise. Currently, NAFTA is due for some serious renegotiations for the evolving issue with trade among these three nations. The new deal sometimes referred to the US Mexico Canada Agreement or USMCA by the United States is said to have several revisions and changes that would address the ever growing and evolving trade and economies of these 3 nations.



NAFTA created the world's largest free trade area of **450 million** people.



During 1993-2015, trade between the three members quadrupled

### North American Trade in 2015



**Canadian Exports**  
74% of all Canadian exports go to the U.S.



**U.S. Exports**  
30% of all U.S. exports go to Canada and Mexico



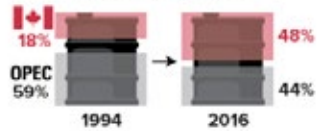
**Mexican Exports**  
75% of all Mexican exports go to the U.S.



NAFTA lowered prices for consumers, especially for food, automobiles, clothing, and electronics

NAFTA reduced U.S. reliance on oil from less friendly regimes

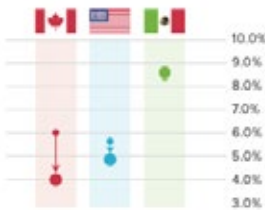
U.S. Oil Imports (Share)



### Pre vs Post-NAFTA

The following charts compare economic indicators for periods before (1980-1994) and after (1995-2016) the trade agreement came into effect.

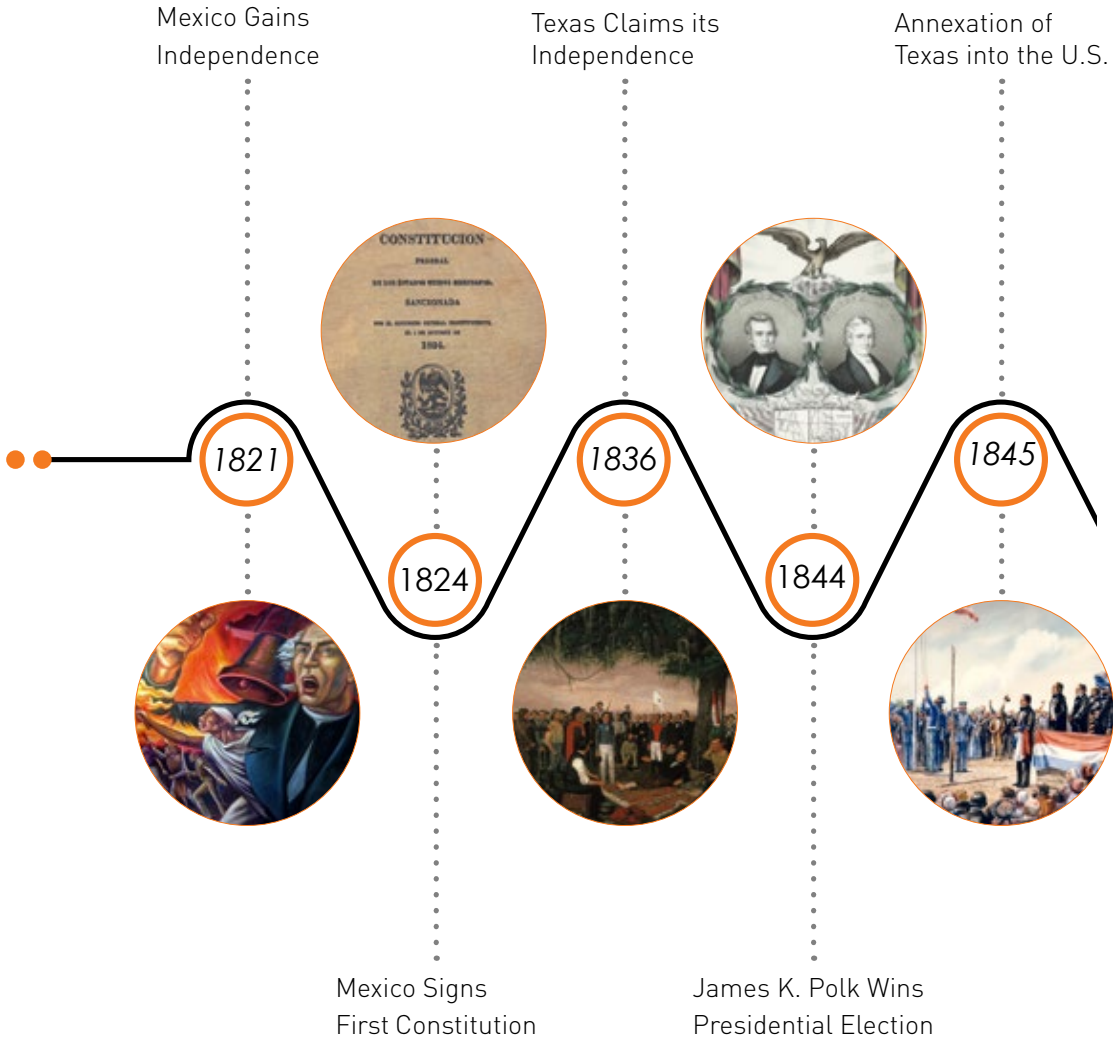
● Pre-NAFTA  
● Post-NAFTA



Top: Graph and Map by IMF, LIS, Mackinac Center, IEA, WardsAuto, about the overall outcome of NAFTA

# TIME LINE 1821-1994

## Significant Events



Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Ends War

Final Mapping of the Borderline



1848

1896

1846

1853

1994



Mexican-American War Begins

The Gadsden Purchase, Changes Border Line

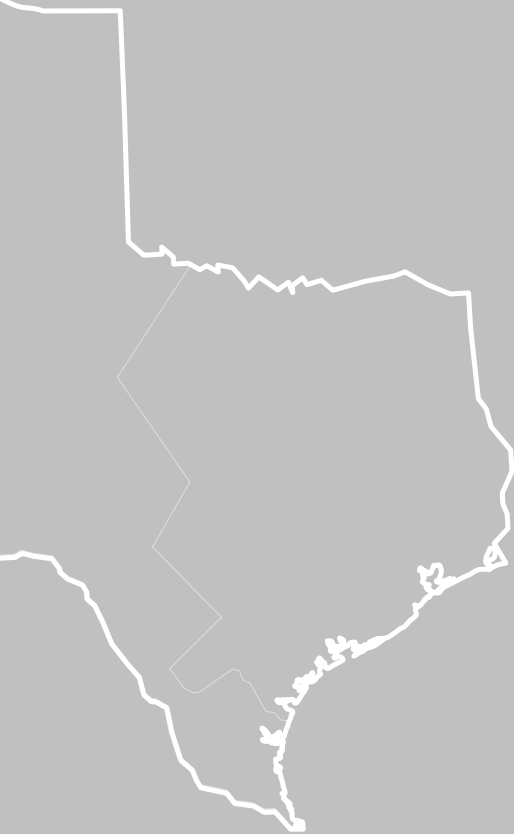
North American Free Trade Agreement is Ratified



## SECURITY

Borders? I have never seen one. But I have heard they exist in the minds of people.

- Thor Heyerdahl



## **(IL)LEGAL IMMIGRATION**

Immigration is a huge issue in the United States and it started right after the Mexican-American War. Once the United States acquired all that land, it allowed those who live their to either remain Mexican citizens or become American citizens. Those who still viewed that land as their home and stayed were by default given American citizenship. This laid the groundwork as to why people immigrate into the United States, because of family and opportunity. If someone has ties to someone living in the United States that is their network and path into the United States. It helps maneuver the unfamiliar and allows those who are refugees or those seeking asylum maneuver the tough immigration process. As the United States acquired all that land it produced a lot of opportunity for those living or immigrating into the area. As the map on the next page illustrates the population of Mexican-origin is very obvious as where the old border line used to be. The next few decades has seen some rough waves of deportation, migration and tougher immigration reform. Today the immigration process seems to be getting hard to obtain residency and the ultimate goal of getting a green card to become a citizen. The narrative about immigration changed prior

to the early 1990's from mainly focusing on mass deportations within illegal immigrants living in the United States to mainly focusing on border security and stopping illegal immigrants from coming into the country. There has to be a balance between these two narratives. If the government focuses only on protecting their borders the immigrants living in the United States suffer from a lack of better immigration reform, while those who migrate to work and provide their family might have to make a tough decision to either remain in the United States illegally or bring their whole family with them. If they focus only on dealing with illegal immigrants as a burden and deporting those who they see fit it causes families who are struggling to survive have to break the law to get back into the country and also continue that trend of re-entering the United States illegally. It also creates instances when large groups of migrants arrive seeking asylum difficult as tougher immigration laws the longer it is to seek help and the more desperate people are at crossing illegally.

Some common misconceptions about immigration is the difference between the words immigrant and migrant. These words sometimes seem interchangeable, but





have context associated with them. When someone is an immigrant they are entering a country with the intention of becoming a citizen and permanently settling there. A migrant is a more broader term that refers to someone who is either permanently or temporarily moving (not always from another country) but based on a specific reason whether it be for economic reasons, seasonal reasons, political or those escaping violence or prosecution. We tend to see those living in the United States as immigrants since they've already entered as opposed to those who will be leaving their country or migrating.

Another set of words that get misinterpreted are Undocumented Immigrant versus Illegal immigrant. First of all, no one is illegal. Illegal is a title labeled to those who have entered the United States illegally. So, when referring to an illegal immigrant that person is believed to not be authorized to be in the country. The term then undocumented immigrant means the same as an unauthorized immigrant.

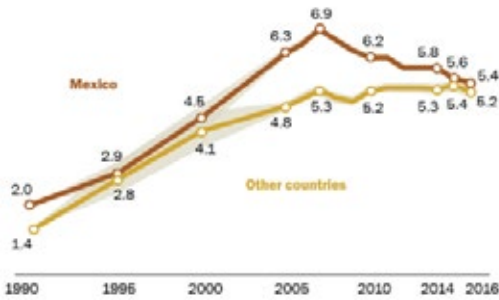
The final misunderstanding is that just because someone is an immigrant and also not a citizen, they are not necessarily here undocumented. There are generally four types of immigrants: Lawful Citizen, Temporary Resident, Permanent Resident, and Unauthorized. The graph on the next page illustrates the four main groups and percentages of foreign population, but despite the high percentage of

unauthorized immigrants compared to the U.S. population it is only 0.03% of the entire United States Population.

So, we understand why people are immigrating into the United States, but now we will talk about how they get into the United States which will inform under what immigrant category type they fall into. There are generally three ways to get to the United States, either by land, sea or air. Undocumented immigrants are sometimes seen or portrayed as people who cross the physical border illegally either on foot or by car, but many actually come either by planes or arrive by ship. Those who are able to get visas or some kind of permit to be in the United States are Temporary Residents of the United States, but while many hope to become citizens, it is becoming harder to get to the next level of becoming a permanent resident and eventually becoming a citizen.

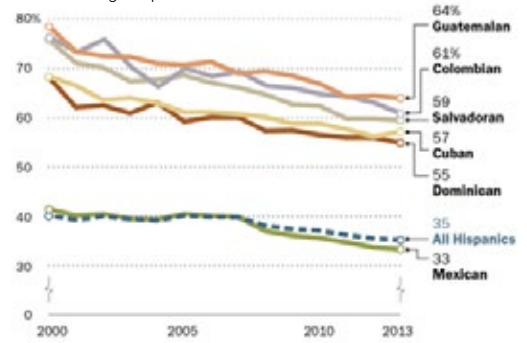
## U.S. Unauthorized Immigrant Total Declines from Mexico

In Millions



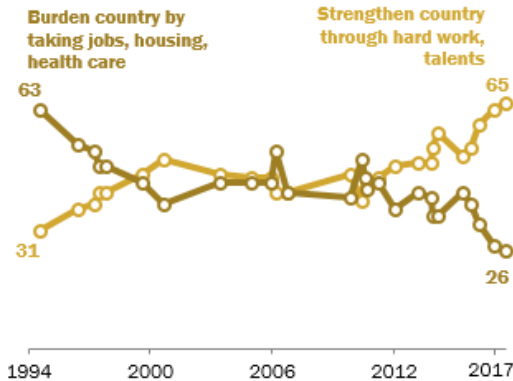
## Immigrant Share Falls Among Hispanic Origin

% of each group born outside of the U.S.



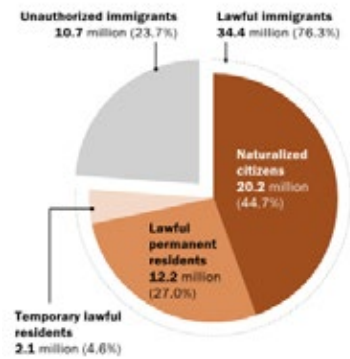
## U.S. Immigrants: Strength vs Burden

% who say immigrants today...



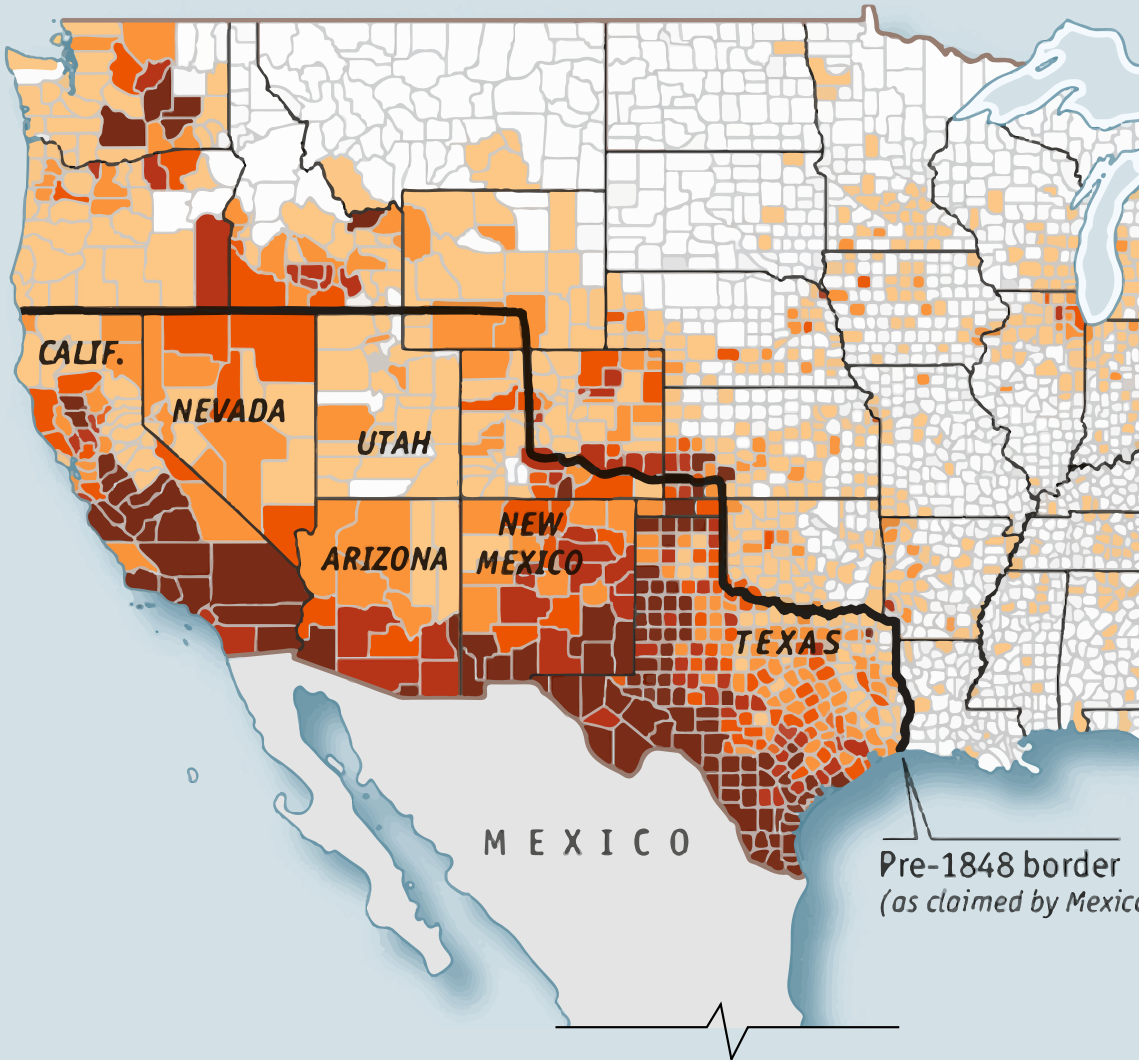
## U.S. Immigrants Foreign Born Population Breakdown

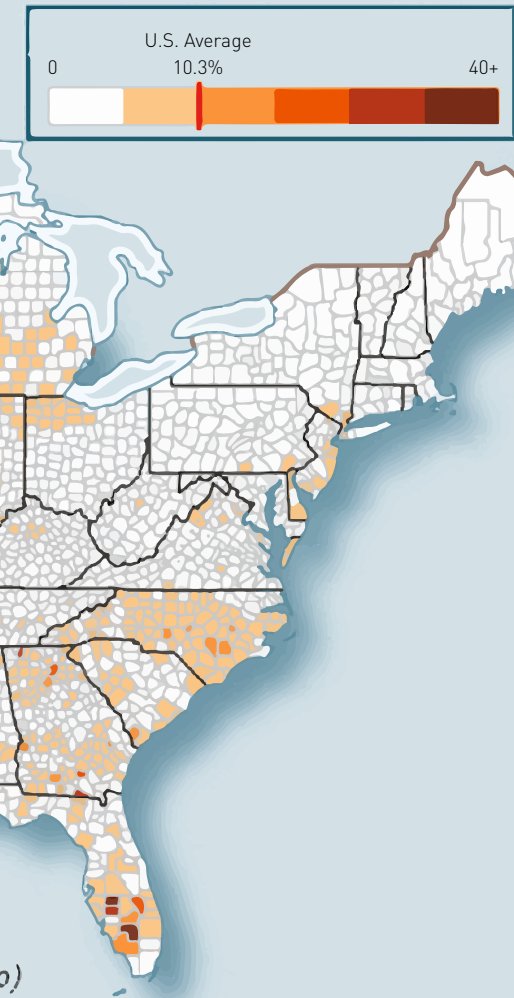
Foreign-born population estimates, 2016



Top: Graphs provided by the PEW Research Center

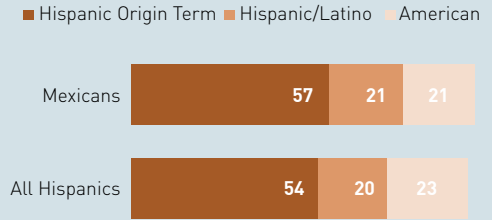
## Mexican-Origin Population by County



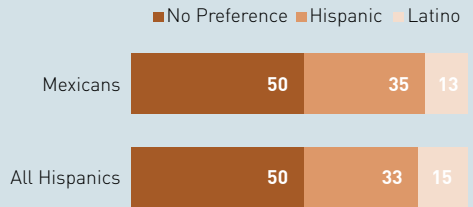


## Mexican Views of Identity

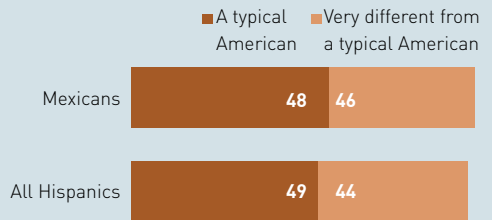
% saying they most often describe themselves as...



% saying they prefer the term...



% saying they think of themselves as...



## LEGISLATIVE ACTION

On the same topic of Immigration, there was a shift from the focusing efforts on deportations to focusing efforts in border security. This is a more in depth summary of the government actions that happened during those shifts in focus.

The first wave of mass deportations happened during the Great Depression. At the start of the 1929 the Stock Market crashed which is what textbook say started the depression which took place from 1930-1939. Immigrants at least in some textbooks don't put immigrants as the main cause. However, in 1930 as panic begin to spread, President Herbert Hoover publicly blamed Mexican Immigrants for the Great Depression and started a period known as the Repatriation Campaign. This caused for the deportation of more than 2 million Mexicans living in the United States. Of the 2 million, more than 60% of those deported were United States citizens. People who looked Hispanic were persecuted and deported to Mexico.

The second wave of deportations happened during World War II. There was a lack of people working in the agricultural and manufacturer business so enacted the Bracero Program which began in 1942 and lated almost 20 years before its end in the

early 60's. The bracero program allowed migrant workers from Mexico to come work in the United States under specific working conditions to work in factories and also in the fields. This program lead to the Mexican Farm Labor Agreement of 1942, the Agricultural Act of 1949 and the Migrant Labor Agreement of 1951. What this essentially did is open the borders once again as a circular flow of people and goods coming between both nations. The program allowed the United States to grow agriculturally and economically, but because of the unfair wages and working conditions migrants were forced to endure, made it difficult for United States farmers to hire native born workers. The program also encouraged illegal waves of immigration to work for cheaper wages, but some what better conditions outside the program itself. The work still needed to be done. In 1954, the United States economy was on the rise and the government no longer needed Mexican workers so they initiated Operation Wetback. During its first year 1.1 million Migrant workers were deported inhumanely either by ship, trucks, or through the dessert on foot. It documented that 88 deported workers died of heat stroke in the dessert. Since the year it was initiated

**2 Million** Immigrants were **deported** during the **Repatriation**

**60%** of those **deported** during the **Repatriation** were **American Citizens**

**1.1 Million** Immigrants were **deported** during **Operation Wetback**

**88 Migrants** deported **died** in the desert during **Opt. Wetback**

**19,555** border patrol **agents** are currently deployed **Nationwide in 2018**

**16,608** border patrol **agents** are currently staffed at the **Southern Border**

**\$19 Billion** are already **spent** on **maintaining** the **Southern Border**

**\$25 Billion** is the estimated **cost** of Trump's **Proposed Wall**

\*Please see references page for sources

it received backlash by the media and the numbers of deported immigrants dropped tremendous after the first year.

We would see small percentages of deportations as the nations border security began to be discussed as an important measure to help regulate immigration in the United States. Now, the United States had an open border policy up until the early 1900's, but had always had strict Naturalization laws and requirements. It was not until the creation of the U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform that border security was beginning to be looked at. The United States Border Patrol was established in 1924, but the United States Customs and Border Protection was not created until 2003. The Department of Homeland Security who oversee the CBP was formed five months prior.

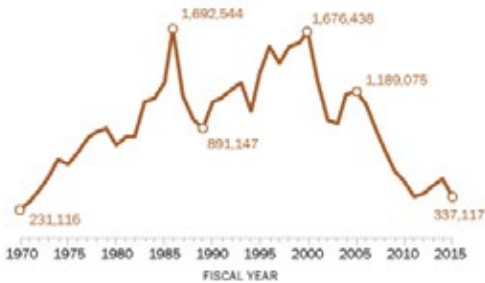
A major agency formed in 1933 with the efforts to help with immigration and border security was the Immigration and Naturalization Services, which has since then been dissolved and superseded. This is the agency that helped initiate construction of barriers along the southern border. The first physical barriers constructed along the border began in San Diego. What allowed the construction of fencing as well as better over all border security was the Immigration and Nationality Act. It gave the INS a broad scope of what they can do and allow at the border to make decisions on border security. Another key events

were Operations happening in El Paso and San Diego between 1993-1994 known as Operations Hold the Line in El Paso and Operation Gatekeeper in San Diego. Of the two, Gatekeeper was a bigger success in bringing in more border patrol agents as well as new surveillance technology. This constructed the primary fencing which is the fencing closes to the actual border line. The Immigration Reform and Responsibility Act of 1996 is what was the outcome of these operations and it granted full support from Congress to enhance border security as well as new fencing on the southern border. Operation Safeguard in Arizona and Operation Rio Grande was another one of these efforts to enhance border security. The Real ID Act of 2005 was an interesting act that allowed the waiving of laws that would in anyway shape or form interfere with the construction of a physical barrier at the border. The Secure Fence Act of 2006 allowed the construction of 700 miles of new fencing along the border, that would include updated two-layered reinforced fencing, as well additional physical barriers. According to the CRS Report for Congress on border security, The INS and border patrol came to an important realization while undergoing all those operations which was the resilience of those trying to cross the border and their ability to move past barriers. They enacted the three tier border fence as a response to that finding, as a defensive measure to delay



the inevitable crossing of people, but the ability block most terrain vehicles. So, even in the beginning stages of constructed the border fencing, it was never meant to fully stop the flow of people. The actual outcome of creating these barriers was a lot more consequential than expected. With the difficulty of crossing the border increasing throughout the year data started showing a rise in increase of immigrant related death trying to cross the border under tougher conditions. It also encouraged those crossing the border to stay in the United States longer or indefinitely because of the lack of ability to go back and forth.

*Border Patrol apprehensions, by fiscal year*



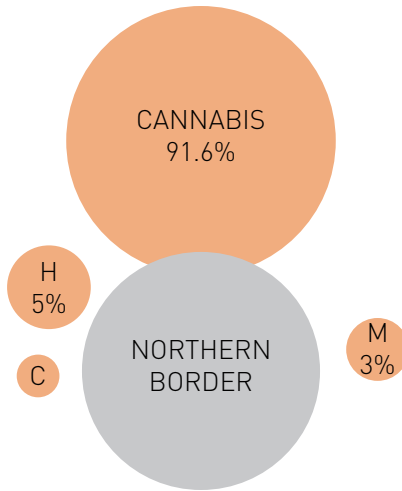
Top: Graphs provided by the PEW Research Center

## DRUG TRAFFICKING

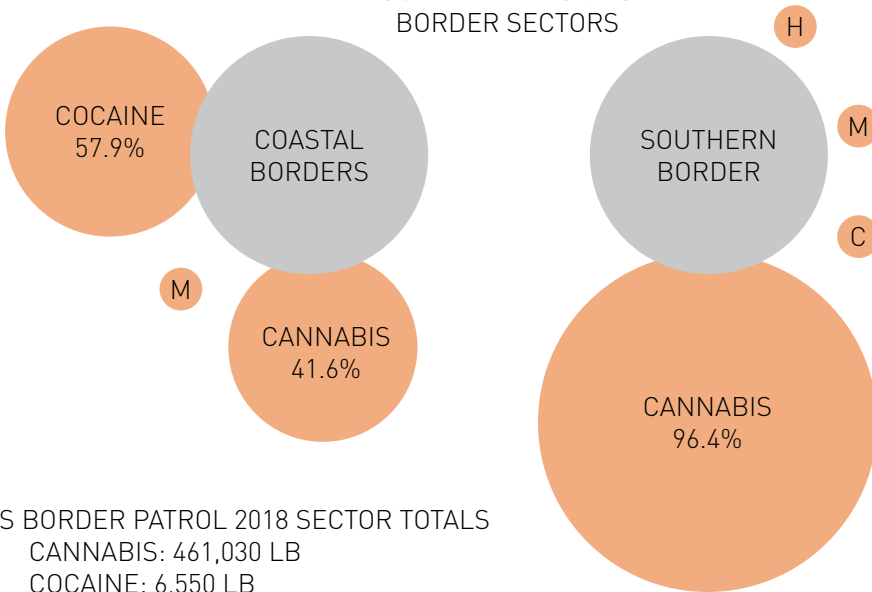
Trading is an essential way to form relationships between nations, but of the many types of trading that plague the border sectors are the illegal smuggling and trafficking of drugs. Drugs are a huge issue in North America and the market trends throughout our nations history has changed, but the southern border between the United States and Mexico has seen the most amount of discussion. Cannabis has always been the number one substance supplied by both the Northern and Southwestern Border to the United States, but has gradually declined in Border Patrol drug apprehension from 1.9 million pounds in 2014 to 461,030 pounds in 2018. Other drugs like Mathamphetamine and Heroin have been seen slowly rising within the last 4 years. The chart on the next page shows what substances are being smuggled within each border sector. Cannabis or Marijuana can be seen as the biggest substance within all three sectors. However, the southern border accounts for more than 90% of the Marijuana, Heroin and Meth being smuggled nationwide and Cocaine only more than 60% with the Coastal Border accounting for more than 30%.

A border wall has always been seen as an essential asset to stopping drugs at the

border, but even though with the recent decline that is not necessarily the case. While the argument is that the border allows for better apprehension of pedestrian and motor vehicle smuggling tactics, drugs can also be smuggled through aircrafts and watercraft methods. The decline in cannabis apprehension also is not linked to any new border wall legislation. Increase in technology has helped regulate and control drug trafficking at the border, but the organizations smuggling the drugs have also been able to still get their products passed the border. The main reason is because of supply and demand. The United States is a major market for many of these substances and therefor prove to be a more internal problem that just fortifying our borders to stop of the flow. These substances are being imported and exported from the United States and with Mexico being in between United States and South and Central America it is the bridge that connects these two markets and allows substances like Heroin and Cocaine to be imported. The sad truth is that drugs are still getting past our borders and they are only getting harder to apprehend, a border wall might provide some support for the war on drugs, but it is not the solution.



DRUG APPREHENSIONS BY BORDER SECTORS

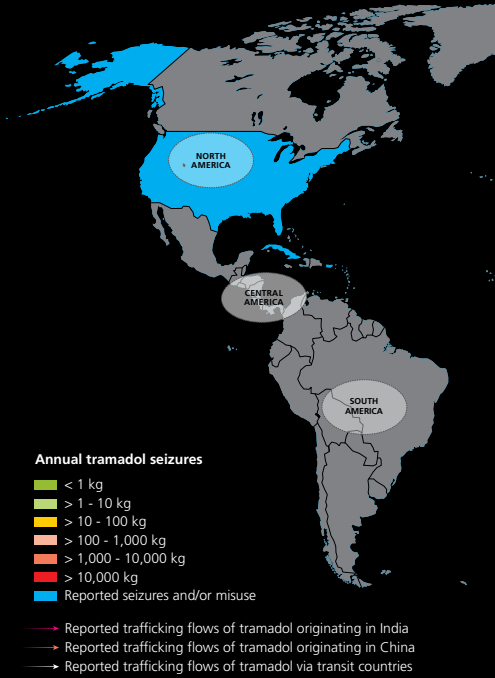


US BORDER PATROL 2018 SECTOR TOTALS

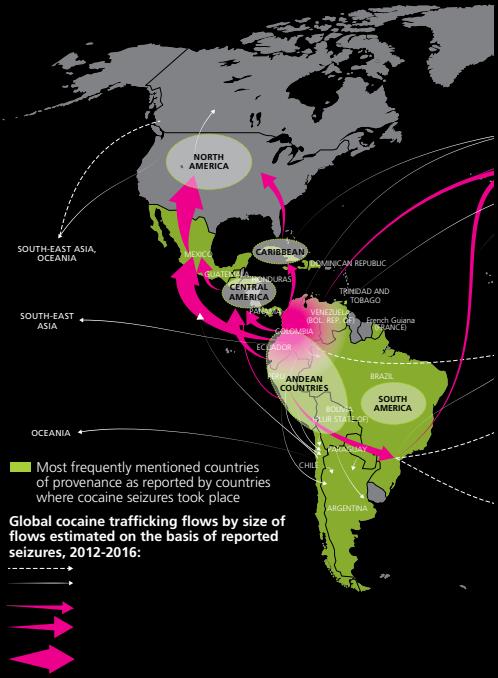
- CANNABIS: 461,030 LB
- COCAINE: 6,550 LB
- METH: 11,314 LB
- HEROIN: 568 LB

Top: Data from the Department of Homeland Security: CBP Enforcement Statistics FY 2018

## MAIN OPIOID TRAFFICKING FLOWS 2012-2016



## MAIN COCAINE TRAFFICKING FLOWS 2012-2016

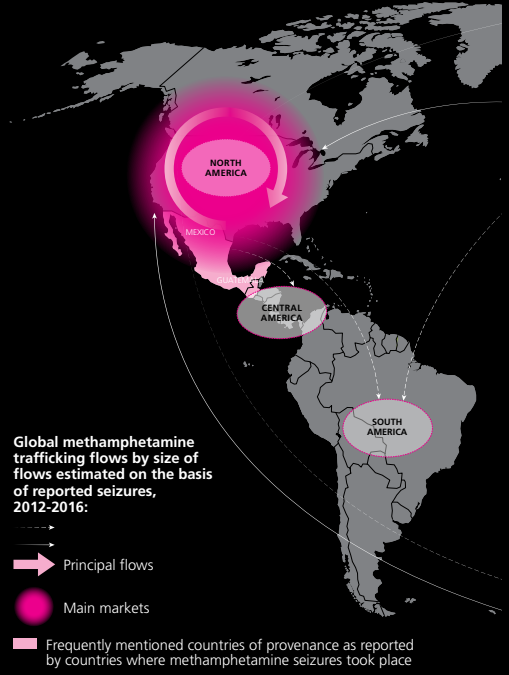


Data on Mexico influences with opioid is still being calculated and will be available on the The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime World Drug Report 2019, but the United States has risen within the last year and is becoming a major market for various types of opioid.

In 2016, the United States authorities reported, more cocaine was seized at sea (46%) than on land (41%) by comparison, in 2013, 81% of cocaine seized was being trafficked by land and 12% by sea. So, less cocaine was being trafficked overland via Mexico into the United States. In fact, the proportion of cocaine trafficked into the United States via Mexico fell from 70% of all cocaine inflows in 2013 to 39% in 2016.

## MAIN HEROIN TRAFFICKING FLOWS 2012-2016

## MAIN METH TRAFFICKING FLOWS 2012-2016



Heroin trafficking in the Americas is on the decrease, while the trafficking of synthetic opioid is on the increase. Most heroin (and morphine) trafficked in the Americas is smuggled from Mexico to the United States. According to the CBP, about 953 lbs of heroin was apprehended in 2017, but declined to 568 lbs in 2018. More than 90% of it was apprehended on the Southern Border.

Methamphetamine is synthesized and then converted into a liquid before it reaches the United States in Mexico. Methamphetamine is then trafficked in its liquid form across the Mexican border to the United States. Once it is able to be smuggled through the border, the methamphetamine is extracted and undergoes the crystallization process in the United States, which is then sold.

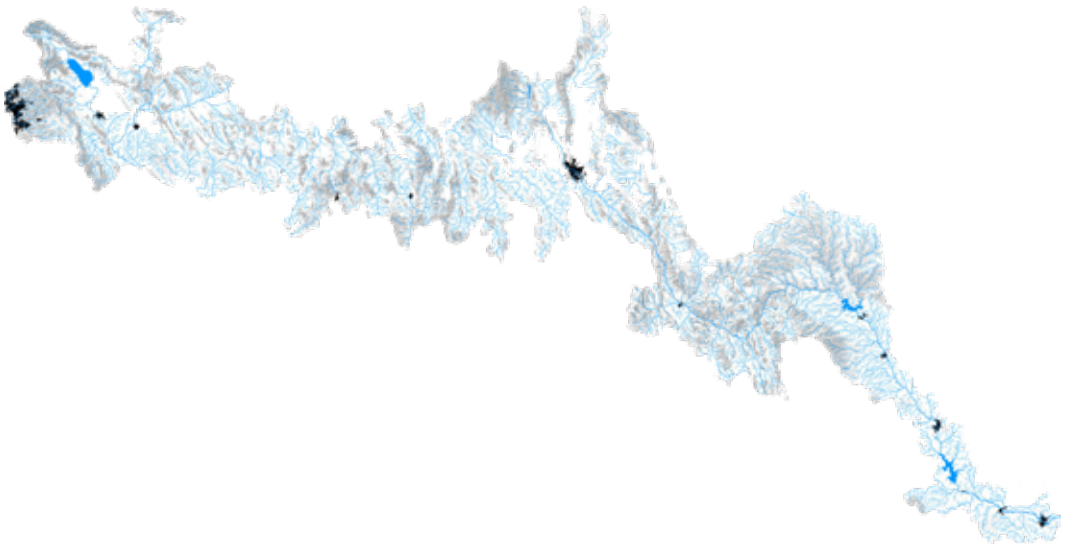
## ECOLOGICAL INFLUENCES

Besides the NAFTA, La Paz Agreement and the International Boundary and Water Commission are the two main bilateral agreements between the United States and Mexico aimed at lowering the negative environmental impacts the physical border has on the environment. La Paz agreement mainly focuses on air, water and land pollution on the border, while the IBWC focuses on the sanitation, distribution, and flood control of natural river, bodies of waters and the distribution of boundaries. These are some of the major environmental issues at the border:

Toxic Waste is an environmental issue with the border communities because of the highly industrialized cities right on the border on both the United States and Mexican sides as well as heavy military movement along the border. The factories/manufacturing plants known as Maquiladoras produce hazardous waste that gets dumped on the border. The EPA has been trying to work with both governments to minimize this issue. Water Pollution is also another issue with the lack of available water sources at the border. Aquifers are primary water sources for the Southern bordering states. There are around 16 to 36 aquifers between these bordering

countries. Due to mass climate change, droughts, and large population growths these aquifers are drying out. If the Bolson Hueco Aquifer, for example, is depleted, this would directly affect cities like El Paso and Ciudad Juarez who depend on this Aquifer daily. It would then leave the Rio Grande as the main source of water and would in turn, affect the residents living in the downriver cities east of El Paso who is affected by this new distributions of water. Air Pollution is also a major issue, with more vehicles crossing the border daily and construction on concrete border walls causing major carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases being released into the atmosphere. There are a variety of ecosystems along the United States Border ranging from deserts, mountains, natural waterways and coastal zones. These ecosystem are actually going through degradation along the border. The ecosystem fragmentation or decay can be linked by poor management of agricultural runoff, sewage waste contributing to coastal "dead zones", water withdrawals related to agriculture, mining, rapid urbanization, military activities, and border enforcement. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, more than 100 species between California and Texas are listed

as threatened and endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Scientists estimate, If new barriers are put in place almost 800 species, of which about 18% are endangered, would be adversely affected by a barrier was built on the entire border. It would disrupt patterns of migration and that would be catastrophic to the environment. Some species affected are the bald eagle, grey wolf, armadillo, erruginous pygmy owl, northern jaguar would be adversely affected.



Up: Watershed outlines across the Southern border by Estudio Teddy Cruz + FONNA Forman

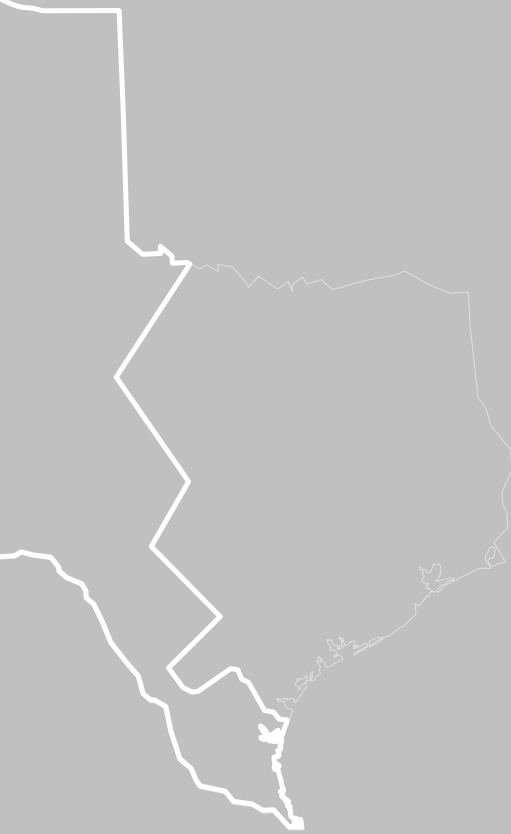




## BORDER ANALYSIS

“As time passes, things change everyday.  
But wounds, wounds heal, but scars still  
remain the same”

- Eminem



# BORDER TYPOLOGIES



## Frontier

- Region separating two countries
- A geographic zone where no states exercise power
- Lying beyond defined borders
- With no boundary



## Boundary

- A line that marks the limits of an area; a dividing line. Invisible line that differentiate places
- Bound: a territorial limit.
- Limitary: relating to or subject to restriction.
- Geometric, Physical (Natural), & Cultural



## Border

- The edge or boundary or the part near it
- A line separating two political or geographical area
- Physical barrier aspect of a boundary

## THE BORDER

**1954 Miles** make up the entire Southern Border.

**580 Miles** of the 1954 mile border have physical barriers.

**100 Miles** border zone width allows the CBP and ICE special jurisdiction.

**330** ports of entry for both vehicular non vehicular traffic exist on the border

**48** U.S. - Mexico border crossings exist on the border for pedestrians

There are 14 major border cities on each side with a population over **15,000**

**23 Counties** make up the United States border communities.

**39 Counties** make up the Mexican border communities.

\*Please see references page for sources

# TERRITORIAL CASE STUDIES

## Societal

### Segregation

Warsaw Ghetto Wall:  
1940 - 1943

### Separation

Belfast Peace Wall:  
1969 - Present

Berlin Wall:  
1961 - 1989

## National

### Regulated

CAN-US Border:  
1908 - Present

MEX-US Border:  
1853 - Present

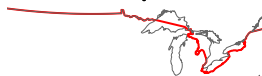
Syria-Turkey Border:  
2018 - Present

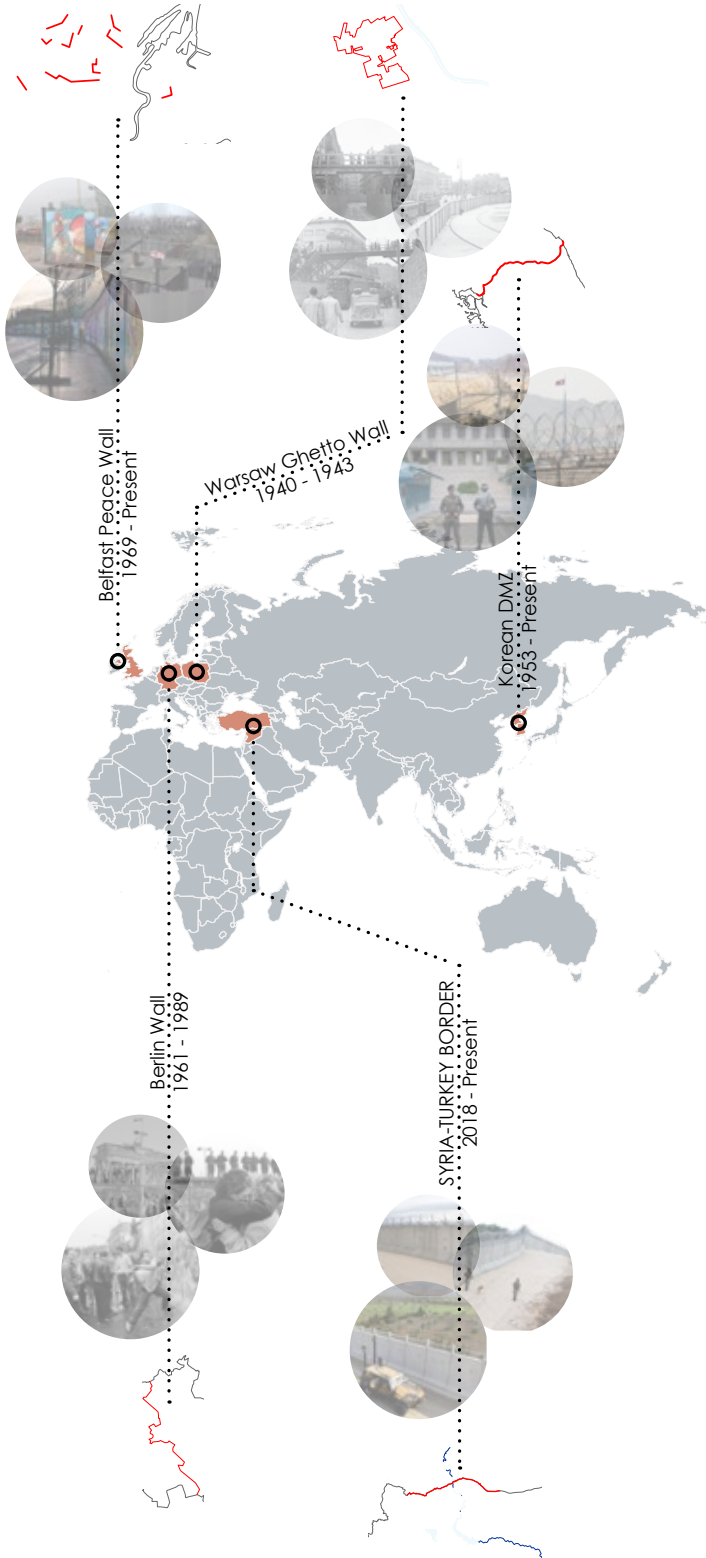
### Demilitarized

Korean DMZ:  
1953 - Present



CAN-US Border:  
1908 - Present





## CANADA - U.S. BORDER

The border between the United States and Canada is one of the longest borders shared between two nations in the world. While the U.S. shares a border between Canada and Mexico we tend to only hear about what is happening at our southern border. There are certain areas as the images on the right show, where a physical border between these two nations doesn't exist. In Michigan we see how in Windsor and Detroit are separated by a river, yet we don't see walls erected on either sides. In Texas, El Paso and Ciudad Juarez are separated by the Rio Grande which has been altered as a canal to control the flow and have physical border walls erected on both sides. It is interesting to see how a border on one side can be drastically different from the border on the other side of the nation.



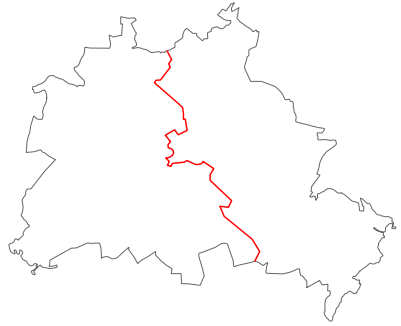
## BELFAST PEACE LINES

When Ireland first broke off from the United Kingdom part of Ireland wanted to remain within the U.K. This resulted in the separation of what is now the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. While a new line separated these countries the people still identified as either Irish or British, more commonly known as Nationalist Catholic or Unionist Protestant. But with the establishment of a line an era known as the Troubles plagued Northern Ireland, walls were erected between these two groups of people in the hopes of temporarily stopping conflict and violence to break out. After the violence that arose the harsh border between the Irelands disappeared and became open. Even after the treaty, Belfast a city in Northern Ireland decided to keep the Peace Walls and have left standing ever since. The walls are said to be about 25ft high made of concrete, iron and steel walls. There are also gates that close off sections of the city during the night. What is really interesting about this case study is the fact that the walls are still up today despite an open border between the Irelands and how closely the history related to these walls reflect what happened at the MEX-US Border.



## BERLIN WALL

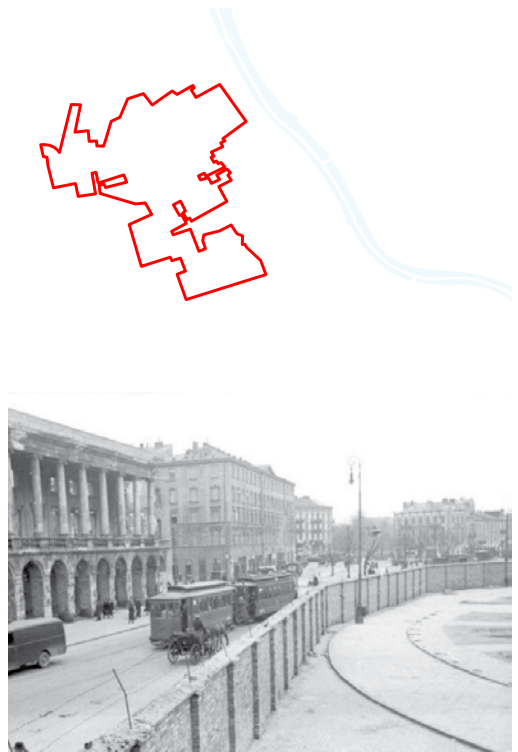
The Berlin Wall, was erected in 1961 and lasted 28 years. It was established to act as a physical separation of West Berlin acquired by the Allies after World War II from East Berlin and East Germany acquired by the Soviets. This wall tore Berlin in half and it separated families and communities. Like the Belfast Peace Lines, it cut a territory in half with the people being directly affected, but in this case they didn't choose sides, it was chosen for them. When the wall came down, it changed everything. It reunited families and it reunited Berlin. East Berlin had fallen behind where West Berlin was and it caused a disconnect in cultures for years to come. Despite the difficult road to reunification, It became one of the most significant events in history. This is one case study where a wall coming down marked a better outcome for the future of a territory and a nation.





## WARSAW GHETTO WALL

The Warsaw Ghetto was a devastating time in Polish history. It was during the time of Nazi occupied Poland with the segregation and deportation of hundreds of Jewish people to concentration camps. The Warsaw Ghetto Wall established the perimeter of the Warsaw Ghetto the largest Jewish Ghetto in Europe. Its history is only that of sorrow as the Ghetto marked the Jewish captives last stand in the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. While certain demise was certain, they knew being enclosed by those walls meant their fate was already sealed. Their demise caused the end to their revolt, but it also caused the city of Warsaw to be destroyed by the German forces. The walls in Warsaw were meant to segregate and also enclose the Jewish population against their will. The walls established here were of hate and fear of a specific group of people that were targeted for being different.



## SYRIA-TURKEY BORDER

Syria is currently having a civil war and the situation is horrible. It is extremely dangerous and the people in Syria are struggling to keep their nation from falling apart. Families are forced to flee or escape the conflicts in Syria. Unfortunately because of the conflict and the refugees seeking Asylum, new border fences have been erected to try and control the conflict. Turkey which border Syria on the North have began to erect concrete walls and these barriers are meant to try and hold the conflict at the border between Syria and Turkey. The conflict has escalated to the point where conflict has spilled over and even though walls don't help the situation it is an immediate response to the conflict, but refugees who are fleeing the conflict and are desperate are only forced to cross illegally under dangerous conditions.



## KOREAN DMZ

The Korean DMZ is another border between two nations and just like the MEX-US Border it has changed over time. During the Korean War the line establishing the borders between North and South Korea has been pushed back and forth. After the war an Agreement was strict and the current line has become a buffer zone to release tensions between these two nations. Although not at war, there are still threats to both sides. There have been many incidents on the DMZ, including casualties of people trying to flee North Korea and attacks made by both sides. This buffer zone is what allows some sort of peace to exist between the two Korea's. While there is no official DMZ at the MEX-US Border it is being constantly pushed out with various layers of barriers being placed to create that liminal space where people are not allowed cross over.



## DELIMITATIONS

2014, artists Marcos Ramírez ERRE and David Taylor set out to trace the historical 1821 border between Mexico and the western territories of the United States. That border stretched from the present-day Oregon/California state line to the Gulf of Mexico just west of Louisiana, and previously existed only as a reference on historic maps and treaty documents because it had never been surveyed or physically marked. For DeLIMITations, ERRE and Taylor asked the question, “what would Mexico and the United States look like if that boundary had been fully realized?” ERRE and Taylor, accompanied by filmmaker José Inerzia, who helped document the process, drove a van outfitted to serve as a mobile command center, fabrication space, and camper along the 1821 border. The artists marked the boundary by installing 47 sheet metal markers that mimic the stone and iron obelisks that delineate the current international border between the United States and Mexico.

DeLIMITations: A Survey of the 1821 United States-Mexico Border is organized by the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego.





## PICNIC ACROSS THE BORDER

In September, the French artist JR installed a monumental photograph of a curious toddler overlooking the border fence between Mexico and the U.S. Recently, on the last day of that installation, JR launched another site-specific project: an international picnic, with hundreds of people sharing a meal across the fence. JR took a photo of the eyes of a “Dreamer,” one of the young undocumented immigrants who falls under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. Then he turned the photo into a surface that visitors could eat off: one eye was on a table in Tecate, on the Mexican side of the border, while the other eye was on a tarp in Tecate, Calif. At first, JR thought nobody would show up to his picnic. He wasn’t able to publicize it online, since an advance announcement would have likely resulted in a shutdown by the U.S. Border Patrol, so he had to rely on word of mouth. At 12:30 p.m., nobody was there. “I thought, Oh, maybe it’s just going to be a few of us,” he says. By 1 p.m. there were dozens, and by 2 p.m. hundreds of people had shown up to share the meal.



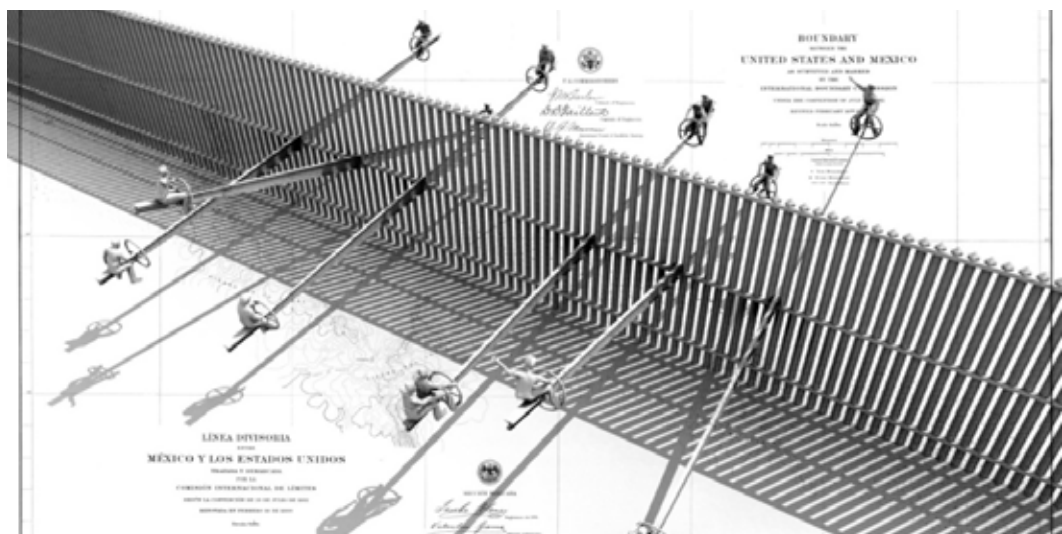
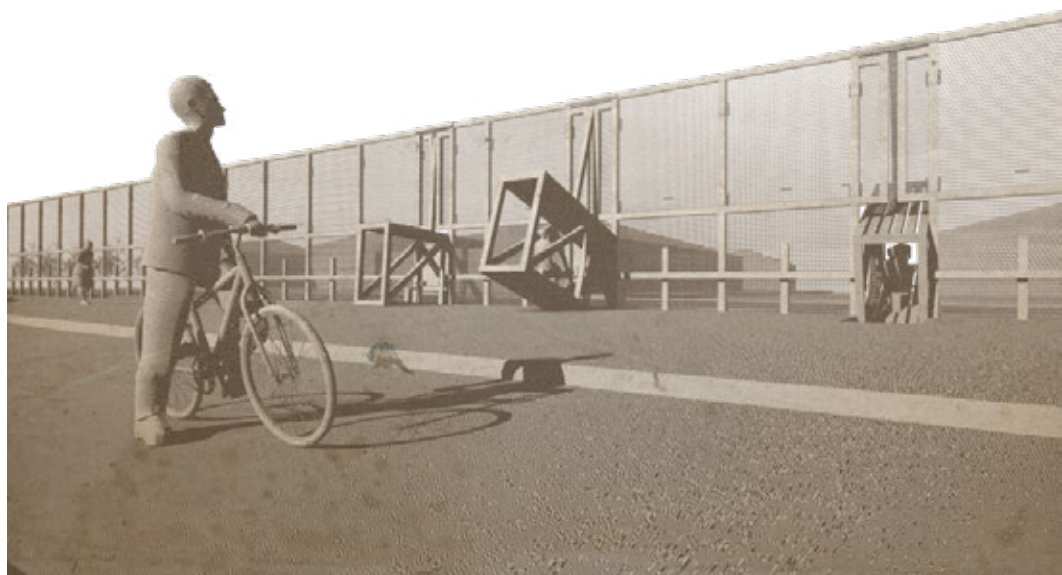


## SOUVENIR/INTERVENTIONS

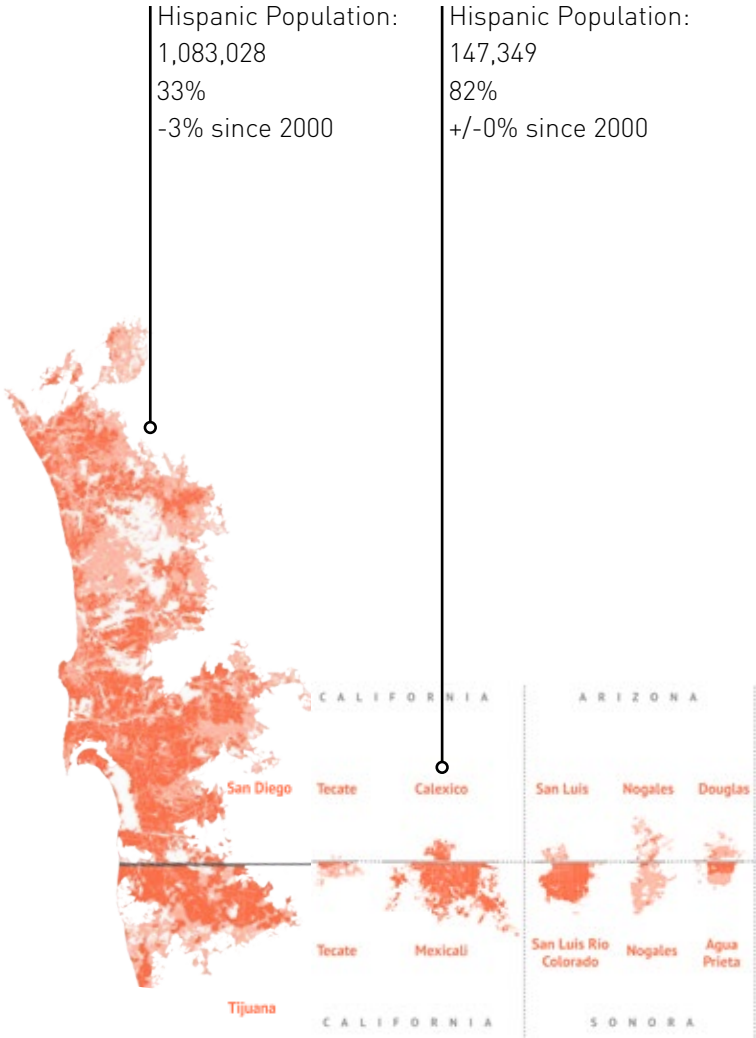
Border wall as Architecture began in 2009 as a graduate level architectural design studio taught at the University of California Berkeley led by Professor Ronald Rael, and later as a series of speculations by his creative practice, Rael San Fratello, who submitted a finalist entry in WPA 2.0, an open design competition seeking innovative, implementable proposals that place infrastructure at the heart of rebuilding our cities during this next era of metropolitan recovery. The competition, organized by UCLA's cityLAB, was inspired by the Depression-era Works Projects Administration and the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Given the \$150 billion dedicated to infrastructure—the largest investment in public works in the United States since the 1950s—designers were asked to envision a new legacy of publicly-supported infrastructure, projects that explore the value of infrastructure not only as an engineering endeavor but as a robust design opportunity to strengthen communities and revitalize cities. Nearly two hundred teams from 13 countries and 25 US states entered the professional competition.







# BORDER CITIES



Hispanic Population:  
676,926  
81%  
-2% since 2000

Hispanic Population:  
2254,006  
95.2%  
-6% since 2000



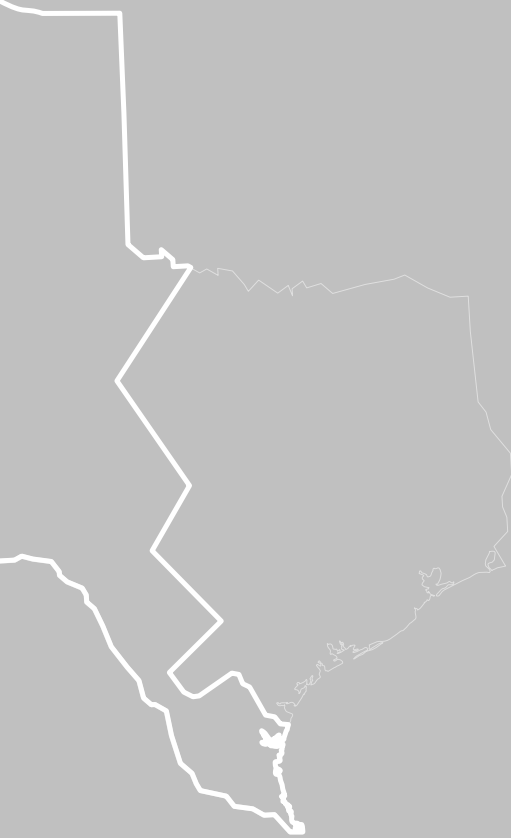
Up: Map Showing population density by Sasha Trubetsky



## SITE VISIT

They will neither hunger nor thirst, nor will the desert heat or the sun beat down on them. He who has compassion on them will guide them and lead them beside springs of water.

Isaiah 49:10



## CALIFORNIA

One of the sites I decided to choose was San Ysidro a community located in San Diego, California. It being one of the busiest ports of entry as well as the history associated with migrants in San Diego really drew my attention. It located right on the coast and the border weirdly ends a couple hundred feet past the shore. It also cuts between Friendship Park, a bi-national park that has since been regulated and pedestrians on the United States side have very minimal access to it. It was once a site where citizens from both sides could communicate and have events like mass and yoga on the beach. While it would be interesting to have an intervention at the park, I purposely choose to place my design at the end of the border on the ocean to create a boardwalk and docked church that can be a safe haven located on the ocean. At the end of the church a cross sits with a spiral staircase leading to the residential units on the intervention which sits on symbol of a sun which is connection to friendship park, since only half a sun is drawn under the border monument or obelisk on the Mexican side. The sun is drawn in full marking the unification of both sides, which Friendship Park was not able to do.



## TEXAS

The other site I choose was El Paso, Texas. While I spent most of my time in El Paso talking to the community members and visiting various organizations, my actual site is located in New Mexico. Given the shape of Texas, it being dived by the Rio Grande, a few minutes outside of El Paso hits a mountain range where the states of New Mexico, Texas and Chihuahua both meet. At the end of that on the border lies a town known as Sunland Park and there is a point where the road gets close enough where a person can physically touch the border. Words cannot describe how emotional and anxious I felt approaching the border, but it was one of the most influential moments of life as it was the closest Ive ever been the country and land I once knew as home. I was also able to talk to two kids who live in the house right next to the border and see how the felt about the border. While it make physically separated us they didn't feel that separation as I felt and was optimistic that these kids don't see this physical barrier as a symbol or anger or fear. They weren't really phased by it, they were conversing like young kids I grew up with in Detroit. They were just acting like human beings, like kids, nothing more and nothing less.



# TARGET USERS



## VOLUNTEERS

- NON-PROFITS
- UNIVERSITIES
- COMMUNITY



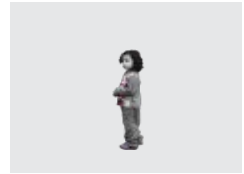
## STUDENTS

- UNIVERSITIES
- HIGH SCHOOLS
- VOLUNTEERS



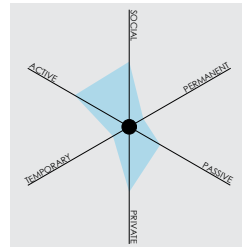
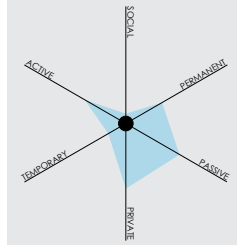
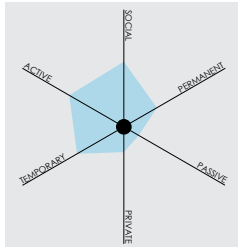
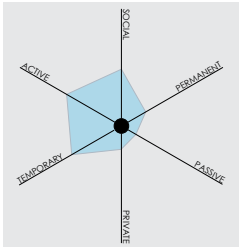
## MIGRANTS

- WORKERS
- REFUGEES
- ASYLUM SEEKER



## CHILDREN

- MIGRANTS
- DACA
- UNACCOMPANIED



Volunteers and Students were very involved in San Diego especially when it came to volunteering at the shelters whether it be in Tijuana or San Diego. The main target users for an intervention at the San Diego border would incorporate a non-profit component to allow volunteers the ability to quickly respond to the needs of the community as well as have a central location or base of operations.

Migrants and children were grouped together because of an incident that happened a few years ago where hundreds of children or unaccompanied minors from central America tried seeking asylum and were met with the same horrible conditions as migrants despite their age. A sheltered component would be useful to house immigrants and have a space where they can gather and feel welcomed.





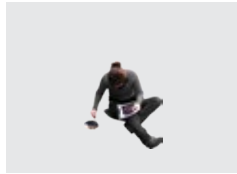
### RELIGIOUS

- VISITORS
- PRIESTS
- JESUITS



### FAMILIES

- DEPORTATIONS
- SEPERATIONS
- MIGRANTS



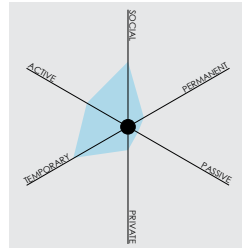
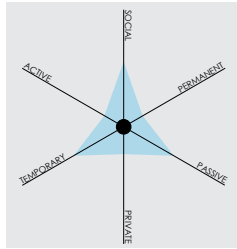
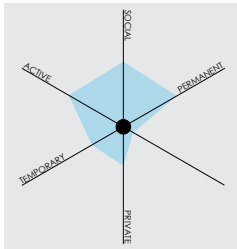
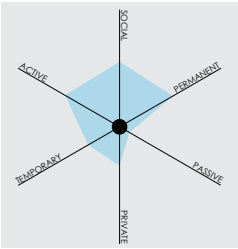
### ARTISTS

- INTERNATIONAL
- REGIONAL
- COMMUNITY



### MERCHANTS

- CROSSINGS
- BORDER
- MASS



In El Paso the church was a huge factor in the lives of the people there. As well as the family connections between both sides were very tight. If an intervention would happen on the border it would only strengthen the ties both sides have on each other as well as provide a community without the need of borders to feel secure.

The Merchant and Artist are two groups of people that are usually at the border. One to make a business and to provide for his family while another is there to make art and test the boundaries of what can happen at the border. If both of these users were to unite it would create a space with the use and the ability to make a change in the lives of those who live in that area. A design intervention should do just that.

## INTERVIEWS



Part of Border Angels, a nonprofit that does service work on both sides of the border told me that volunteering is big in San Diego and people are always making time to help. Definitely a sense of community. A location on the border for their organization would be interesting and be accessible to more migrants.



Joel Medina, a Jesuit doing mission work in San Diego, told me about his short experience in San Diego and the situation in terms of migrants who are seeking Asylum and shelters that are being closed down near the border and the lack of resources.



The border patrol wanted to remain anonymous, but he was very emphatic about migrants and their struggle and really see the border as directional/funneling tool to get people to a specific location to allow them to get into this country legally.



I was able to contact a border patrol agent and his thoughts were really 3 main points about how to keep our borders safe: Technology, Physical Barrier and Agents. Although he mentioned a brief comment about an idea of having a bi-national office building on the border.



Rafael Garcia is one of the priest at Sacred Heart, but also an architect and he told me about a project he designed for a group of nuns that was almost like a nursing home and in reality architecture that helps people and is accessible and safe is what is needed at the border.



A DACA recipient and active leader in his church, he told me about encounters he had with border patrol especially at the airport. His idea would be to have some sort of city municipal building on the border, but more people run where people are allowed to vote on laws affecting their border communities



He helps run a non-profit where groups of people are taken to the border and are able to witness first hand life on the border. He believes a spiritual space or natural space on the border would help make migrants feel more humane.

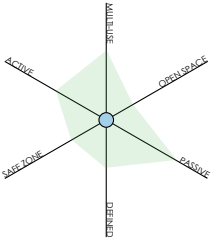


He is also a priest at the Sacred Heart church and he helped me talk to the church members and was able to not only get his input, but even kids and parents there. A church on the border would not only allow families to gather, but provide educational programs as well.

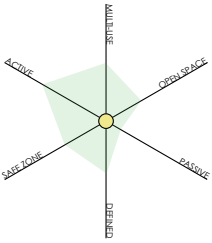
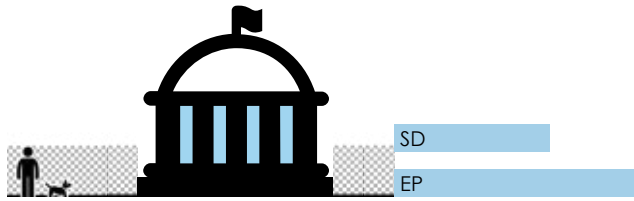
## CHURCH ON THE BORDER

The alternate solution other than another wall or fence at the border I am proposing is a Church on the Border. A key component to this idea is the removal of some of the current border fence as well as the creation of a new pedestrian port of entry that both communities and border towns will be able to access. I am not neglecting or ignoring the need for some security for this opening on the border. Guards, sensors and possible checkpoints within the areas perimeter are all possibilities for the security of this church that is not my overall goal. This architectural intervention will be trying to re-imagine what a border could become as well as the possibility of a future without a wall. The idea is rooted with the beliefs of the people who live in the area as well the border towns history with the Catholic church. While its immediate occupants and users will be those living in the border towns, if a church on the border which is a sacred and respected space is built it could allow for people living outside of that environment to change their perception of what a border wall actually does and how other methods of buffering can exist on the border. My proposal is not necessarily targeting a fix for the particular political circumstance addressed in this thesis,

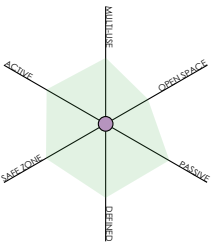
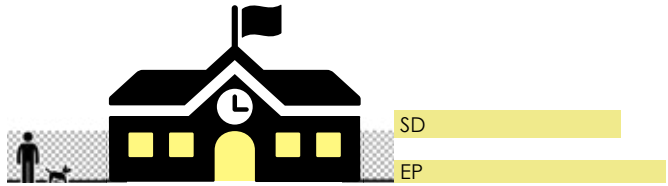
but rather a response to that problem. If their narrative of eventually reaching immigration reform by building a fence is their reasoning for it, then challenging that with a church on the border which will act as that buffer could achieve a better result. The church is considered a safe space and while it might make some nervous having an opening on our southern border could be possible. A church is also a respected sacred space, what that means is that religious people and even not so religious people in those areas tend to respect those spaces deemed religious and will respect those who are there. We tend to seem immigrants as number or inhumanly based on the picture the current administration has painted of them and seeing them in a place like church, we see them as humans and with some sort of respect for what they are going through. A church also can take many roles, I had previously mentioned religious space, safe space, shelter, it can also be a place for discourse and dissent where their voice can be heard. It can essentially take the form of what ever it is needed by the community.



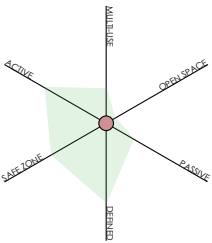
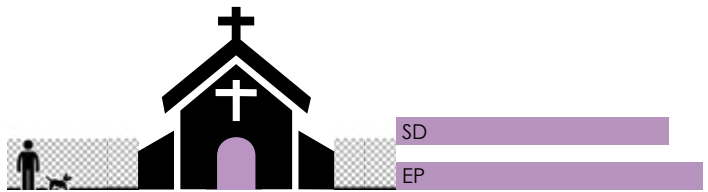
MUSEUM



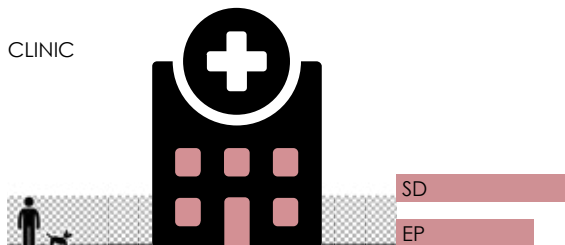
SCHOOL



CHURCH



CLINIC



Buildings examined and chosen by the community while on the site visit.



## DESIGN INTERVENTION

That is what people need "Un Encuentro" at  
the Border

Br. Todd Patenaude



# SAN YSIDRO

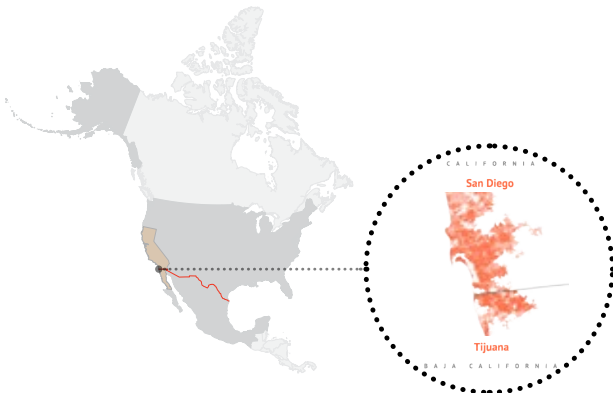






# SAN YSIDRO

San Ysidro is a community located in southern San Diego on the border between Tijuana and San Diego. I choose San Diego, based on it having one of the busiest border crossings on the Southern Border. Another reason was because of the Caravans the media has been following these last few months. While I did not know what building type I would be designing at the border, I did want it to be beneficial to the migrants who travel thousands of miles to arrive at a border seeking Asylum. Since upon reaching the border they must either turn themselves in or be detained, they are then transported into a holding facility to await the interview and screening process. These migrants need a safe and welcoming place, since these are people who risk their traveling to United States only to be received with violence and anger.





JOEL MEDINA



LETTY GUZMAN

20,000 DAILY FOOT TRAFFIC

70,000 DAILY VEHICLES TRAFFIC

SAN YSIDRO PORT OF ENTRY

102 CBP AGENTS ALONG CALIFORNIA BORDER





Thorncrowne Chapel

- ..... Structural Design
- ..... Open/Glass



Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe

- ..... Open Form
- ..... Multi-Purpose



Church of the Water

- ..... View of Landscape
- ..... Framed Views



Cerro del Obispo

- ..... Monumental Form
- ..... Simplicity



VOLUNTEERS

- NON-PROFITS
- UNIVERSITIES
- COMMUNITY



STUDENTS

- UNIVERSITIES
- HIGH SCHOOLS
- VOLUNTEERS



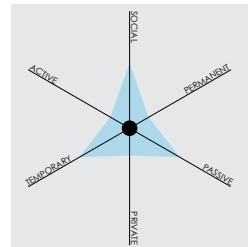
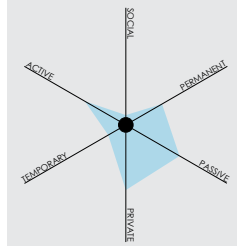
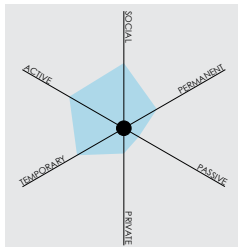
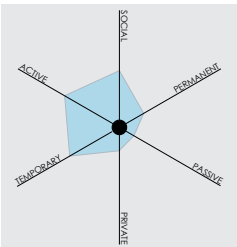
MIGRANTS

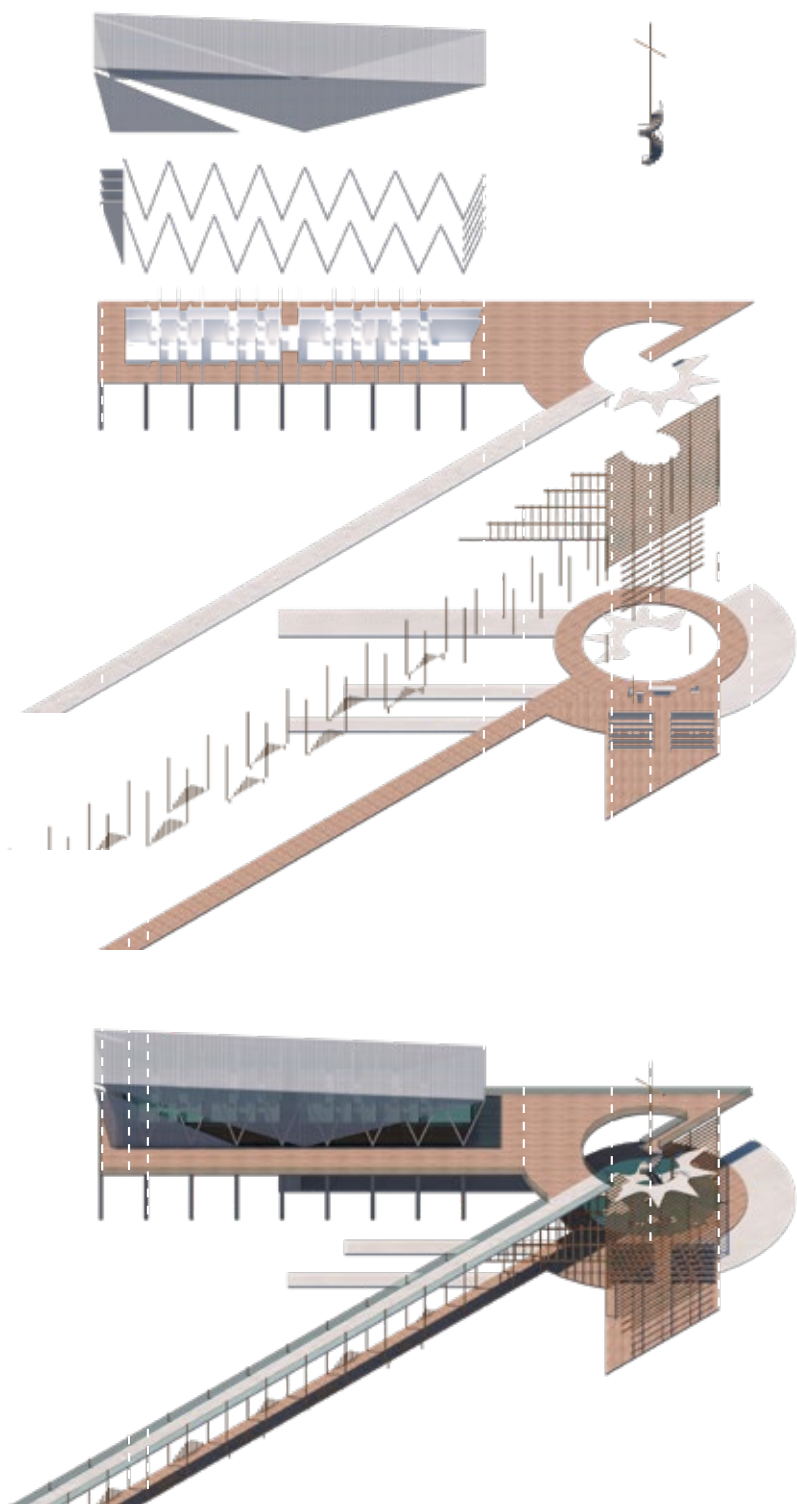
- WORKERS
- REFUGEES
- ASYLUM SEEKER



ARTISTS

- INTERNATIONAL
- REGIONAL
- COMMUNITY

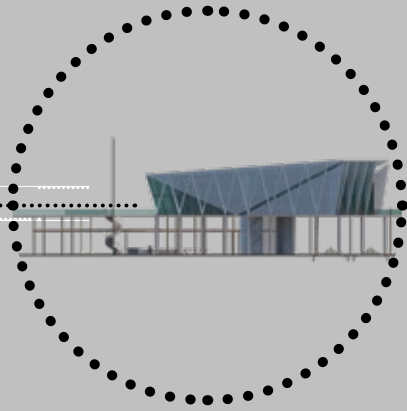
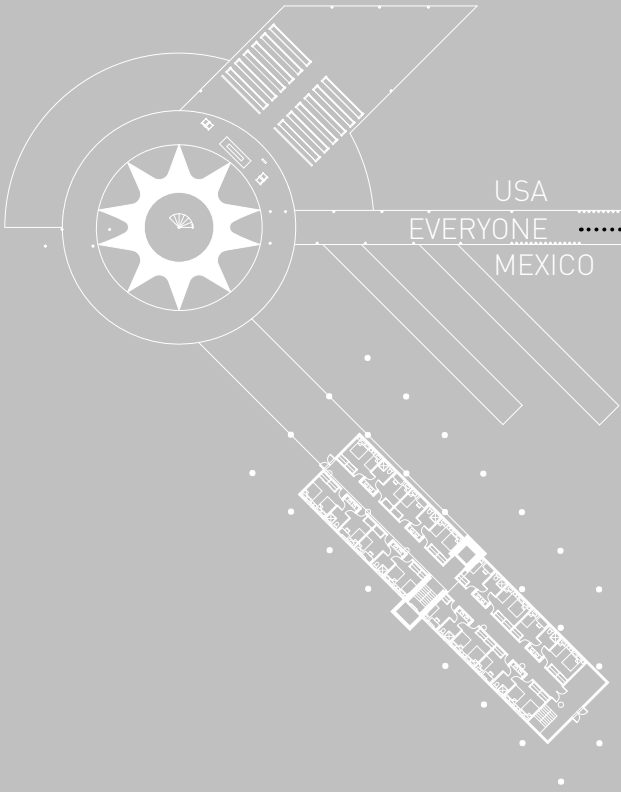




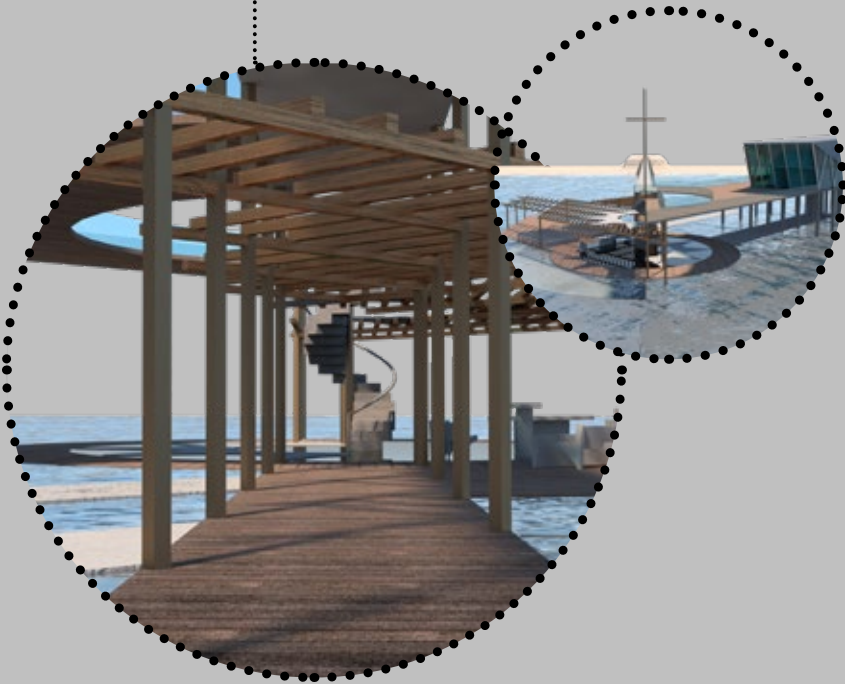
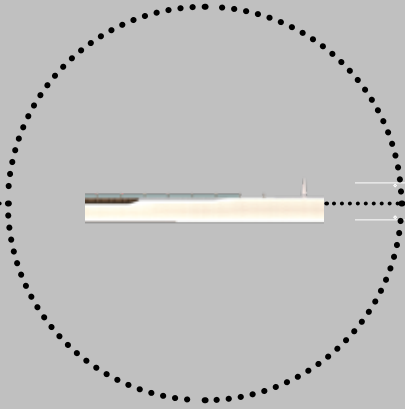
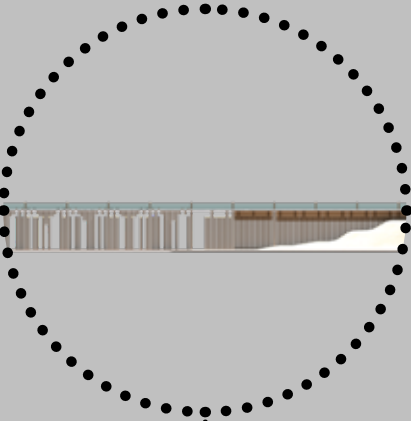
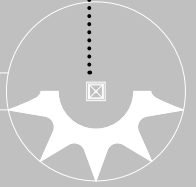
# SAN YSIDRO











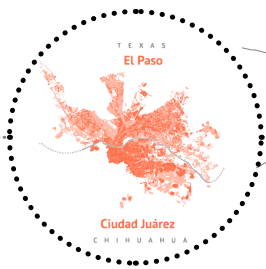
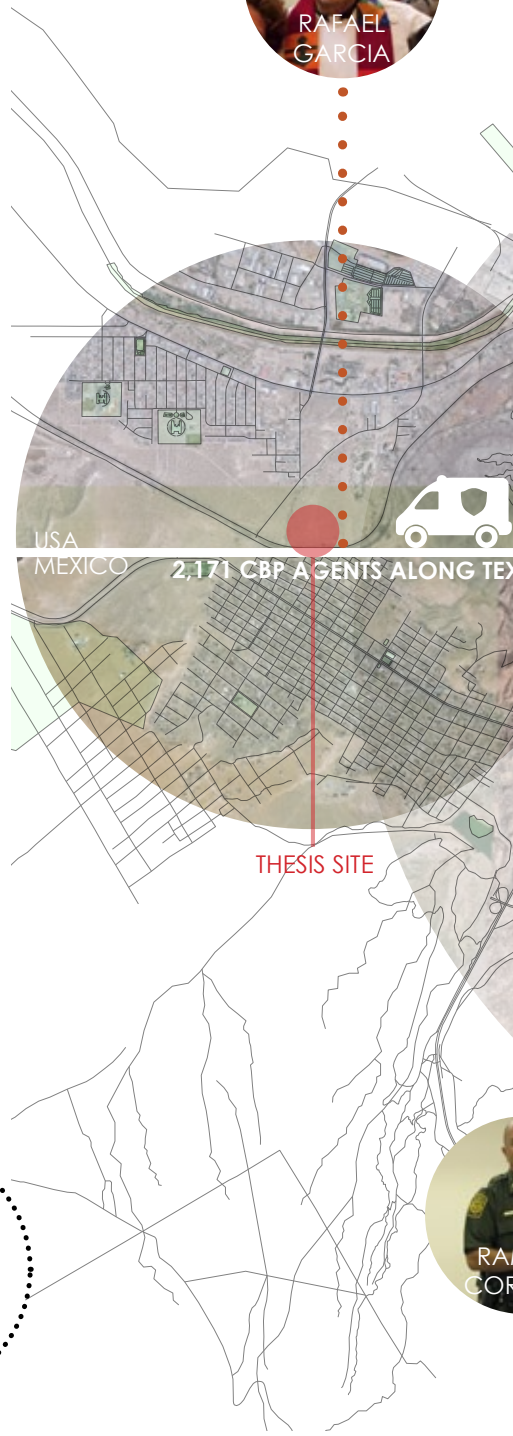
# SUNLAND PARK





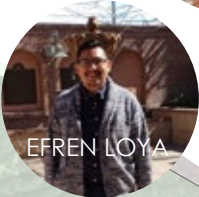
# SUNLAND PARK

My second site was El Paso based on it being the second busiest border crossing, and border city in comparison to San Diego. It is also the sister city of Ciudad Juárez, one of the most dangerous cities of the world. While I knew the dangerous of Ciudad Juárez, I did not know El Paso was one of the safest cities in United States according to those living in El Paso. While visiting, I was able to speak to various parents and kids at the Sacred Heart church. The kids especially don't really see the border as an issue as they are constantly crossing, seeing family, going to the clinics and grocery shopping. Rafael Garcia, a local priest showed me a site just outside of El Paso in New Mexico called Sunland Park where you are able to physically touch the border and talk to the Mexican citizens on the other side.





TODD PATENAUDE



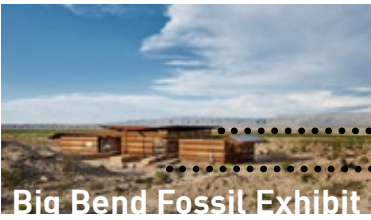
EFREN LOYA



MIÑO ROLDERO



STEPHEN PITTS



**Big Bend Fossil Exhibit**

- ..... Daylighting
- ..... Open Form



**Church of the Light**

- ..... Use of Light/Sun
- ..... Experiential



**Sunset Chapel**

- ..... Framed View
- ..... Contextual Form



**Ronchamp**

- ..... Form
- ..... Outdoor Spaces



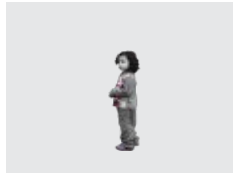
**RELIGIOUS**

- VISITORS
- PRIESTS
- JESUITS



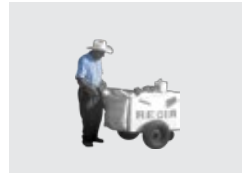
**FAMILIES**

- DEPORTATIONS
- SEPERATIONS
- MIGRANTS



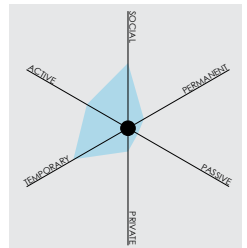
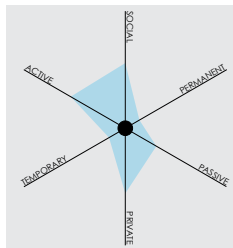
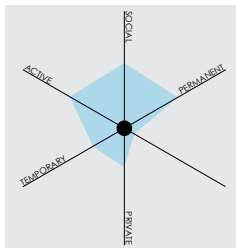
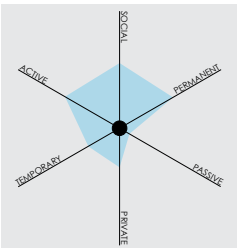
**CHILDREN**

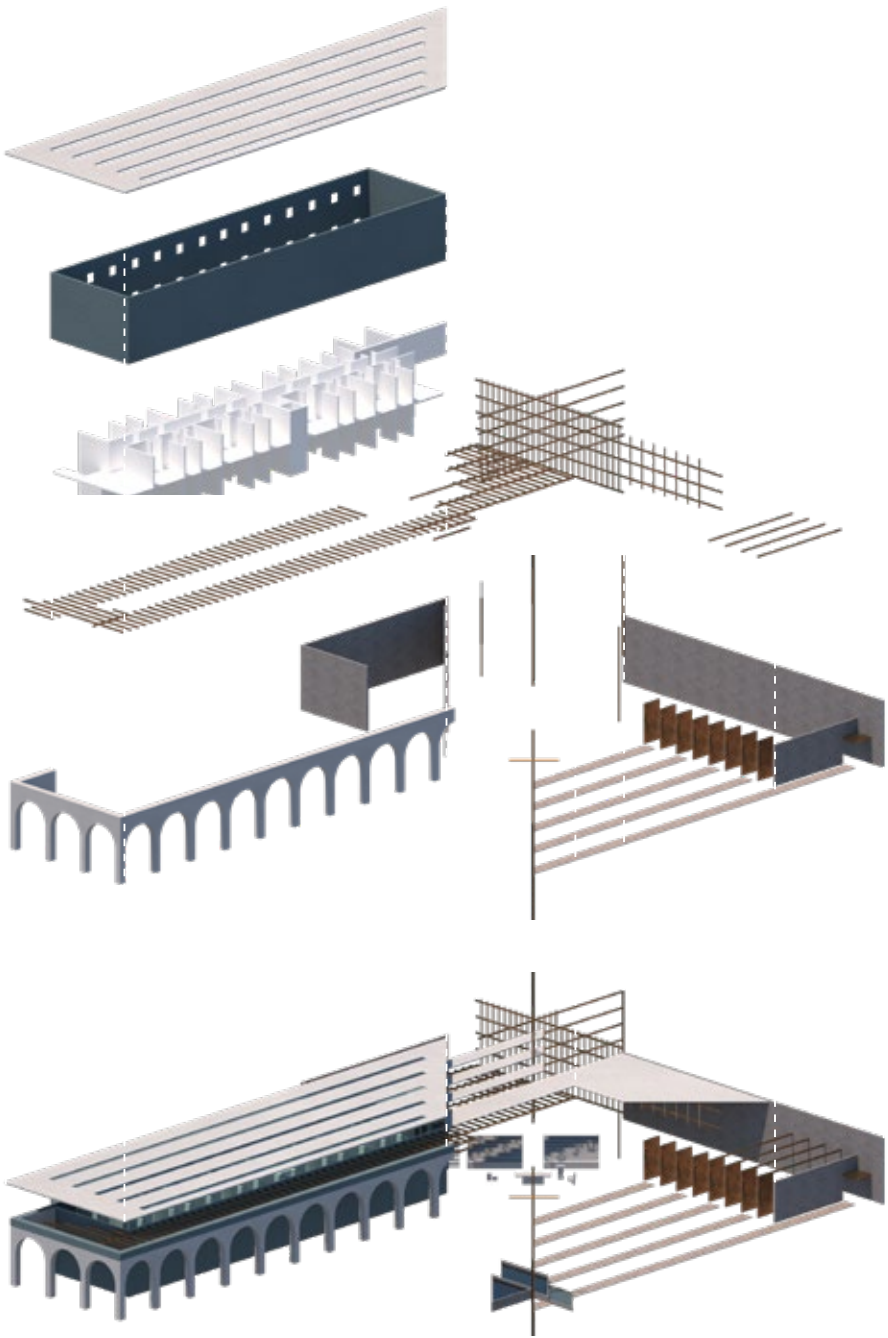
- MIGRANTS
- DACA
- UNACCOMPANIED



**MERCHANTS**

- CROSSINGS
- BORDER
- MASS



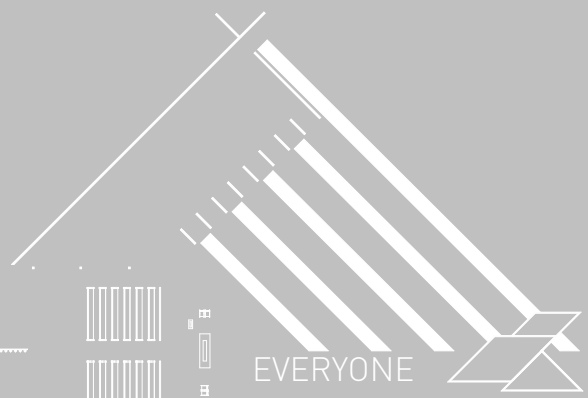


# SUNLAND PARK

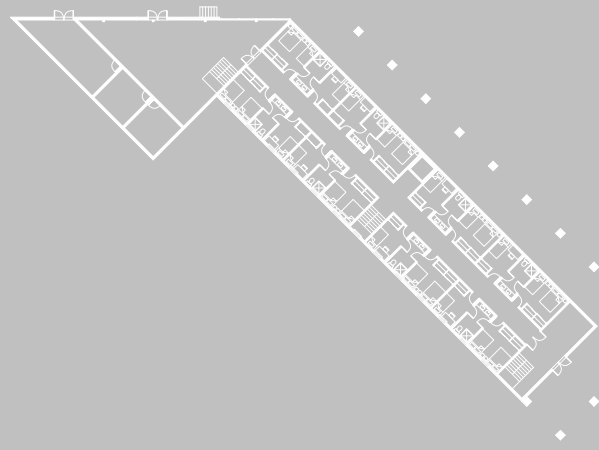


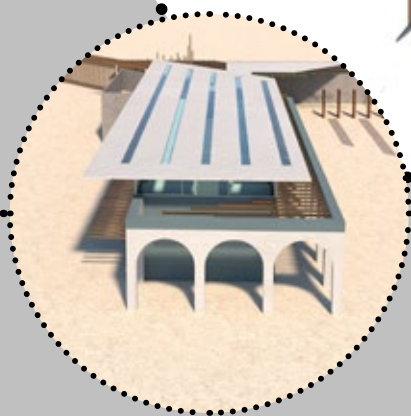
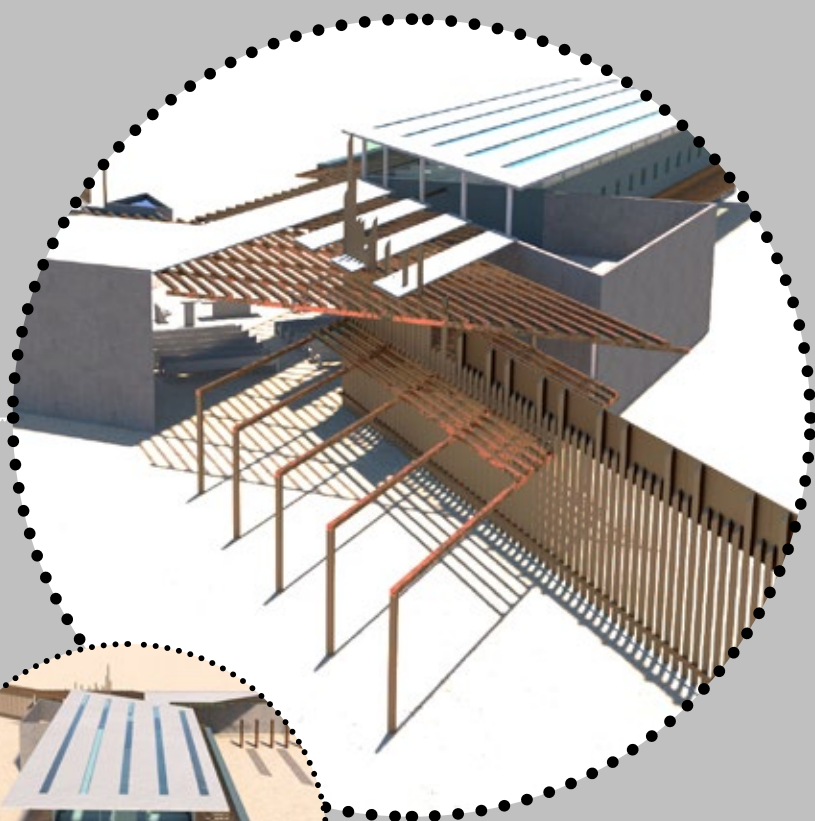






USA  
MEXICO

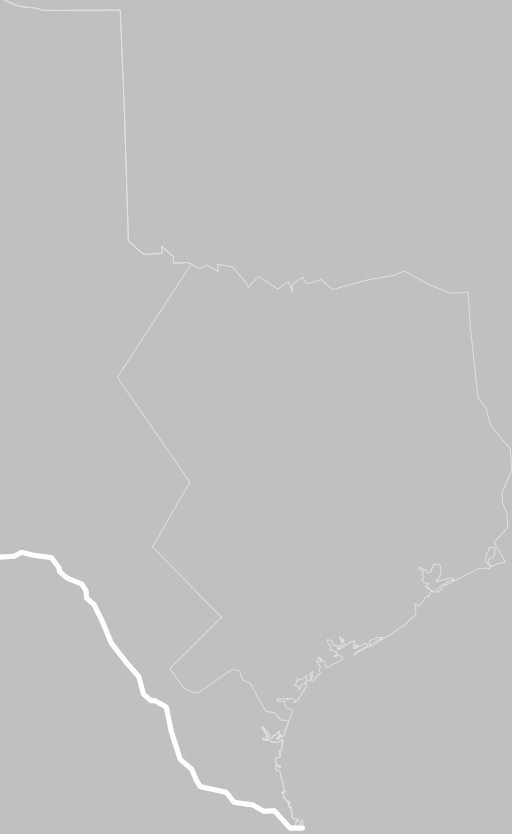






## POLITICS OF ARCHITECTURE

You shall love your neighbor as yourself.  
Matthew 22:39

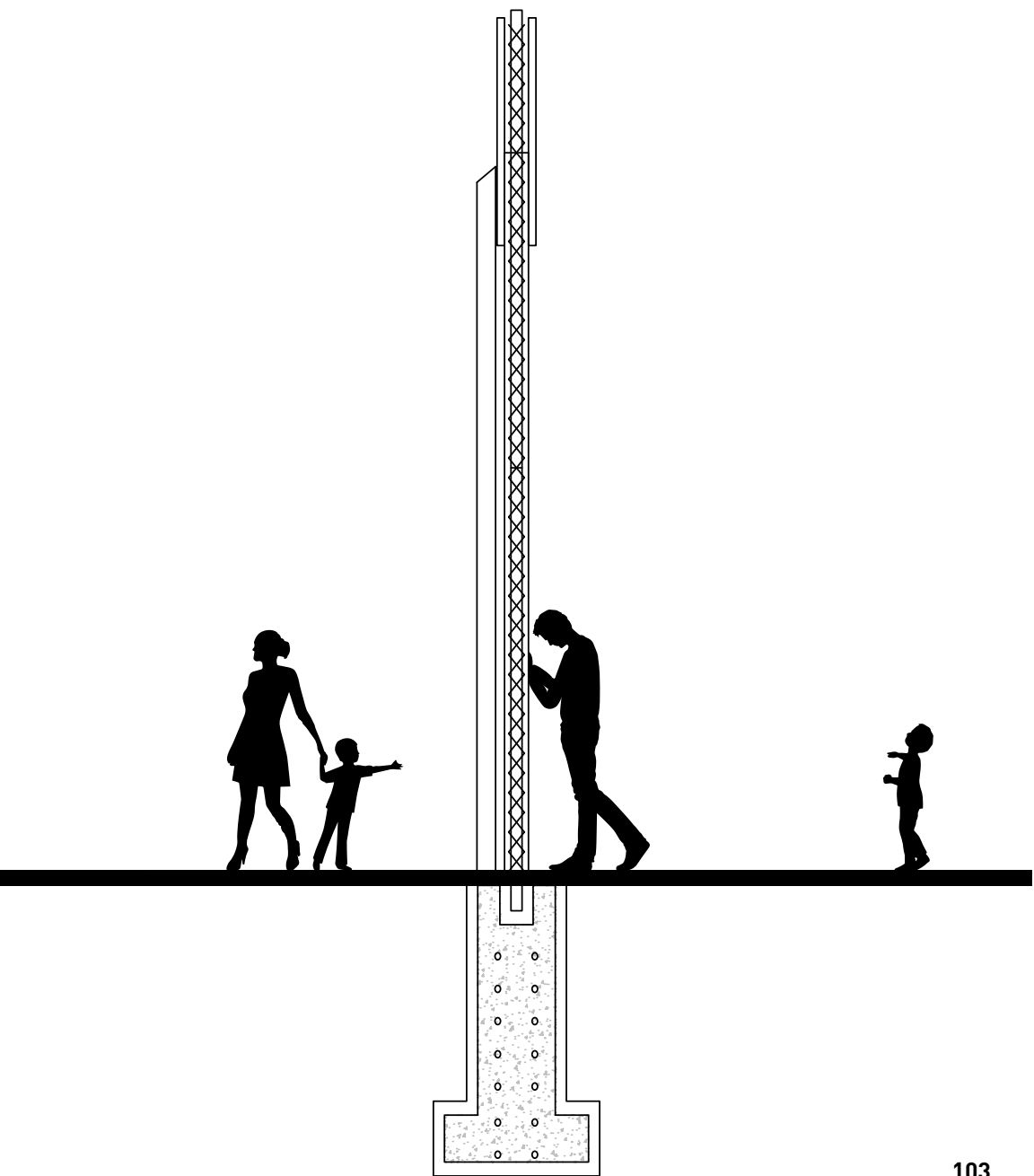


## ROLE OF THE ARCHITECT

As architects or designers, we are problem solvers. When a client or a person needs a specific service done, we as the architect bid for the project and our proposal is based on the client's needs on the project. We as designer find solutions to our client's problems, but we not only we work with the clients needs, but as far as the needs of the community. We tend look at the bigger picture. We not only impact certain individuals, but we have the capability of shaping cities, communities and even politics. That being said, a designer can be considered a servant to the public. The people in Congress are also public servants and while their job deals with what the people want the issues that range on a more national, I believe there are some issues that pertain to architects. From our discussion in class, Singapore is a small country who wants to be the first ever all green country and their architecture and engineering in ecology design is what is driving that push toward their goal. Currently, the only thing that comes to mind right now (and that is probably because it's part of my thesis topic) is the recent Government shutdown to fund Trumps Wall. This is something he has been pushing since the beginning of his campaign. This monumental wall

has not been accepted in the architecture community and if built would disrupt the connections between two nations, its people on the border regions and even wildlife and the landscape. As designers, we can't necessarily agree that we don't need a physical separation on the border based on past and existing conditions between the US and Mexico, but as Architects we can improve and enhance that region. Unlike the wall that wants to fix and immediate issue, architects think in a way that addresses all the issues. While architects as a profession are not active in the political field, I do believe there are some issues that architect should be the one addressing. While we may not be considered it is still our duty to address something, we see is wrong and unsafe in the built environment. With this class I do hope to learn how an architect fits into the fabric of the Legislation process and how we start making a difference in our communities and cities.

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## FINAL THOUGHTS

### IF THE BORDER COMES DOWN

The border can come down, there are case studies and precedents of borders being taken down and relieving tensions at the dividing line. The problem is that if the border gets taken down completely, for example, the underlying issue is still there. Migrants seeking asylum or work are not able to get the resources necessary to start a life in the United States because of a broken immigration system. If there were facilities such as churches or schools at the border that would draw people in and help with those transitioning into a life in the United States. Most migrants if they get picked up, processed and approved are dumped at shelters or with organizations and churches that are able to support them for a day or two. While it is hard to just get through the process there is no network passed that initial screening except if you have family in the United States. The church on the border concept is to help those already trying to get Asylum to have that place on the frontier, on the line where they can rest and figure out the next steps. The current wall funnels people to ports of entries, but as events showed when large groups of people show up it gets hard to control even though that is one of the purposes of the border. With the border

gone, it would allow for those interventions to be that funneling aspect and draw people to those places as their port of entry either into the country or back out. Now that the fear of being stuck on either side there will be an increase in people leaving the United States to finally be reunited to loved ones as well as people traveling back and forth at a much quicker pace, increasing productivity and activity at the border. It might even allow events and activities to happen at these interventions to help both sister cities on the border. One such city could be Ciudad Juarez and El Paso. While Ciudad Juarez will benefit from the increased activity both governments especially the efforts of the Mexican government can begin putting the money and resources to developing those cities that have been struggling economically. The interventions can begin funneling that process as well as adapt to the growing needs of the ever-evolving border communities.



## IF THE BORDER STAYS UP

If the border stays up, the current conditions are only going to get worse. Case studies where fortified borders and barriers are still standing just get more and more militarized and harder to traverse. It is important to keep a nation safe if it needs a physical barrier, but I addressed in this thesis the border is not doing what it was originally meant to do. It only allows those who live further away from the border communities to feel safe with the idea of a barrier they can see in the news or in the media protecting the border from a threat that is steamed from internal problems within the United States. If people see barriers as the only way to truly feel safe in this country, than seeing an intervention go against and redefining what a barrier means, could start changing people minds. It would be easier regulate and control if the border partially begins to disappears. The intervention would act as that realm of liminal space, that negotiates what a bi-national space and in this case church does. It will allow those passing between nations a chance to buffer their way through the mess of a port of entry while instituting its own rules and regulations once you are in that space. There would have to be a discussion as to what would be regulated and what is allowed

at a place that is located in that in-between space. One design element proposed in the church is having the residential component located on the southern side of the border. This would relieve some tension as the migrants who are able to travel to the border can stay on the border instead of being detained and forced to sleep in cold and overcrowded rooms passed the border. This would hopefully start the discussion of realizing that since these interventions or building types exist at the border could they begin to pass legislation where immigrants or migrants can stay at these locations while their status get checked out, but still have the advantage of co-inhabiting between both nations.



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The love of one's country is a splendid thing, but why should it stop at the border?  
- Pablo Casals



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<https://www.borderangels.org/>

An architectural rendering of a modern wooden structure, possibly a church or community center, built on a pier. The structure features a curved roof made of horizontal wooden planks supported by a network of vertical and diagonal wooden beams. The floor is also made of wooden planks. In the foreground, a woman sits on the floor with a child, and another person is painting on the floor. In the background, a person on a bicycle and a group of people are visible. The structure is situated on a pier overlooking the ocean. A dotted line separates the foreground from the background.

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A CHURCH ON THE BORDER