

BORDERLESS CONNECTIONS

TOWARDS COMMUNAL PRACTICES AT THE EDGE



Younes Chergui | 5670411

Delft University of Technology | Architecture

2023/2024

KEYWORDS

Borders, transitional spaces, neutral zones, connectivity, communities, public spaces

1. INTRODUCTION

TRANSITIONAL SPACES

Whether it is at the scale of a city, town, or village the quality of urban life is largely determined by the infrastructure of the connections, public spaces, squares, boulevards, streets, bridges, parks, and transportation - this is the urban glue that binds the individual buildings together.¹

“

Your memory from a trip will be the routes, the journeys, the path you took from your home, the way back, the streets, the connections, the terminal, and the border crossing. That determines the quality of life in the same way the individual building determines that.

It explains why I, as a kid, always have been fascinated by transitional places like airports, train stations, gas stations, bridges, and borders. Every day we cross several spatial boundaries, moving from one place to the next. We live in transition. These transitional places are also known as non-places: places you need to reach your destination.² We usually don't stay in these places for very long. The interesting part is the fact that these kinds of places seem to evoke a feeling of coming home, even though they are typically impersonal. How is it possible that people experience a feeling of coming home in such places? Perhaps over time, I have discovered the feeling of coming home comes from the visual uniformity that unites these places. It doesn't matter where you travel: airports, train stations, or gas stations look all the same worldwide. These places don't judge and represent all the good we are as a humanity. It doesn't matter what your background is, how much money you have, or the colour of your skin, if you're a man, woman, or child. It's an accepting global village, except for borders.

¹ 'Norman Foster: Striving for Simplicity | Louisiana Channel - YouTube', accessed 7 November 2023, <https://www.youtube.com/>.

² Marc Augé, *Non-Places: Introduction to an Anthropology of Supermodernity*, 2nd English language ed (London ; New York: Verso, 2008).

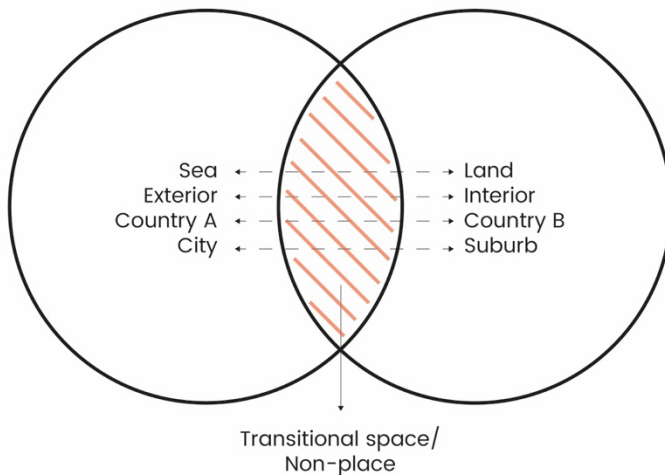


Fig. 1. Diagram showing the relation between non-places and places. Work by the author.

RELEVANCE

A border is an edge where different groups interact or not. They are often neglected as communities focus on the central areas when we imagine where the life of a community is to be found.³ A border could be the (ecological) connectivity between land–sea, districts and national states and can also be seen as a non-place that marks the transition from one place to another. However, not everyone can simply cross a border, which makes it the only ‘non-place’ that is not accessible by everyone.

Contemporary borders tell stories of division, conflict, and war. This raises questions on how border conflicts are memorialized by the citizens and how they are discussed in the media. The ideology of modernity was based on progress with its promise of building a better future.⁴ However, contemporary borders have proven the contractionary.

“

Contemporary borders drawn on earth consist of one of the most divided regions.

In terms of global scale, a corridor of global conflicts, known as the political equator, links some of the world’s hardest border zones. Countries, societies, and communities have become increasingly divided on this equator. Some examples that are linked to this equator are the conflicts between US-Mexico, Algeria-Morocco, Isreal-Palestina, Pakistan-India, and North-South Korea. The zone

³ ‘The Open City - Essays | Urban Age’, accessed 7 November 2023, <https://urbanage.lsecities.net/essays/the-open-city>.

⁴ Angelika Fitz, Elke Krasny, and Architektur Zentrum Wien, eds., *Critical Care: Architecture and Urbanism for a Broken Planet* (Vienna [Austria] : Cambridge, MA: Architekturzentrum Wien ; MIT Press, 2019).

between the political and climatic equators contains the world's most populated slums, its areas of greatest natural resources, and regions characterized by political instability, climate vulnerability and human displacement.⁵



Fig. 2. The political and climatic equator: a corridor of a global conflicts and disasters – as featured on e-flux.com.

We often think that borders drawn on earth are the problem. However, the history of human settlements was shaped by what we call ‘natural borders’ like rivers, oceans, and mountains.⁶

“

Our ideal world is not a world without borders, but one where all borders are recognized, respected, and accessible by communities which allows for exchange.

In ecological areas, borders are the places where organisms become more active, due to the meeting of different species.⁷ For instance, the transition between water and land, also known as the littoral zone, serves as a dynamic zone of exchange where organisms find and feed off other organisms. All

⁵ Teddy Cruz and Fonna Forman, *Socializing Architecture: Top-down Bottom-Up* (Berlin: Hatje Cantz Verlag, 2022).

⁶ Augé, *Non-Places*.

⁷ Barla and Hubatschke, ‘Technoecologies of Borders’.

and all, ecological borders facilitate exchange, while human-made borders often do not. How can we strive towards active border zones that allow for exchange? In this research, we will take a closer look at these often-overlooked places, particularly into the case of Morocco.

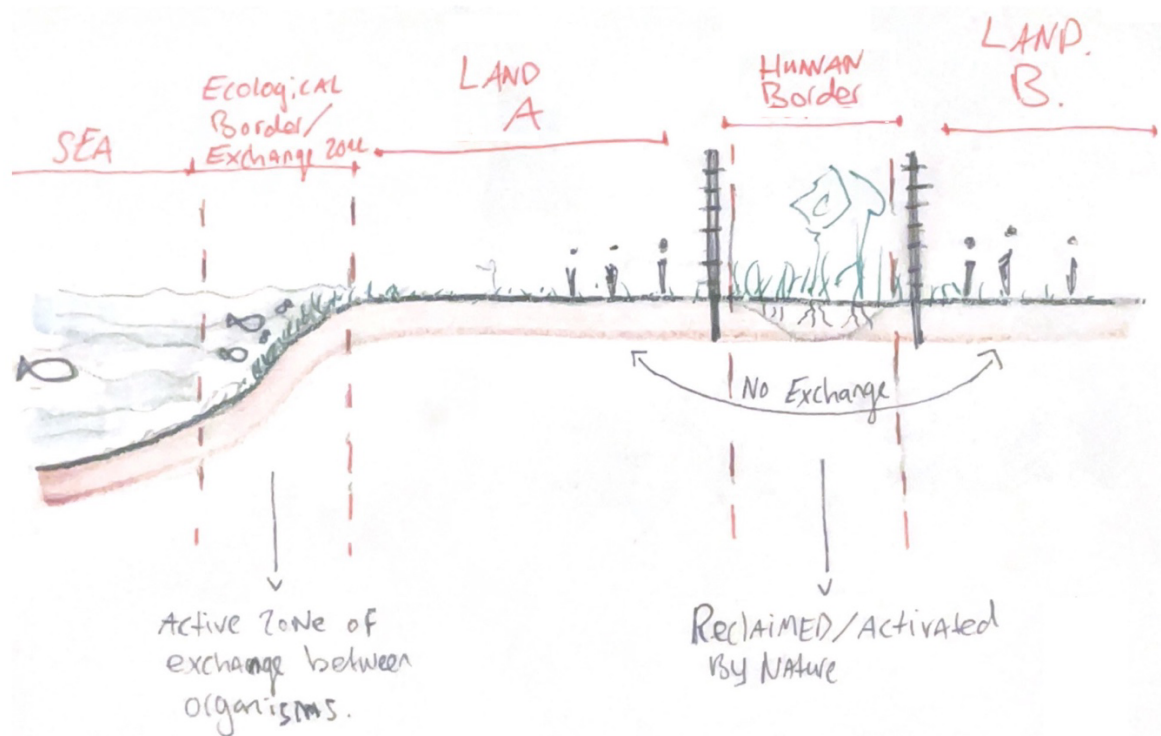


Fig. 3. The ecological border as an active zone of exchange, while human-made borders often do not. - Work by the author.

2. PROBLEM STATEMENT

The general problem is that communities tend to focus and invest in the central areas, making them vibrant and active, while neglecting the borders, resulting in the creation of physical barriers (infrastructure), no man's land, and divided neighbourhoods and communities, which makes it difficult for people from different backgrounds to interact and connect around borderscapes.⁸

In the interaction with the physical world, these places often become isolated. In cities and towns, physical infrastructures cut through communities, that sever (unintentional) neighbourhoods and communities from each other. On a larger scale, sometimes the border is intentionally created. During the Cold War, the Berlin Wall separated East and West Berlin and formed two parallel walls, separated by a distance, resulting in a void known as 'The Death Strip'.⁹ The border separating Algeria from Morocco is a contemporary example of two nations that are separated by a large

⁸ 'The Open City - Essays | Urban Age'.

⁹ 'Life in the Death Strip', WORLD, accessed 7 November 2023, <https://wng.org/articles/life-in-the-death-strip-1620622350>.

physical void where the ecosystem has reclaimed the zone after years of neglect. What if people also got involved in revitalizing these types of places to heal the void? What if we can create a holistic system by bringing in the voices of the non-human perspectives? It would mean both humans and nature working together to bring life to these neglected places, turning borders into vibrant places for the communities.



Fig. 4. Left: The in-between zone East-West Berlin - As featured on World News Group.org. Right: The in-between zone Morocco-Algeria reclaimed by nature - As featured on Aljazeera.com.

OBJECTIVE

In our overcrowded, central areas, we need to search for new ways of living at the edges of the urban fabric. Contemporary borders and their meaning are changing.¹⁰ Therefore, the project seeks to strive towards a balanced, urban, future where borders become satellite cities to establish an additional type of citizenship based on shared values and collective memory. A future where borders become bridges, seamlessly connecting diverse communities and cultures that allow for exchange. In this world, the boundaries that separate us will no longer be barriers but pathways to social and economic growth, an active zone for exchange just like the ecological border. The objective is not a borderless world, as it is important to preserve cultural traditions and heritage. Instead, the aim is to move toward "softened borderscapes" that promote the exchange of ideas (social), goods (economic), and traditions (cultural), creating a sense of a global village.

This project will attempt to explore the idea of a terra nullius (land that belongs to everyone and nobody).¹¹ The "terra nullius" or as I call it; the neutral zone, will be a laboratory of these adventures just because at the neutral zone the rules of the national states 'do not apply'. Therefore, the design will use border spaces as an opportunity to add a new layer of urban life. As a result, a once-neglected public space is reclaimed for the citizen.

¹⁰ Basia Nikiforova, 'Deconstruction of the Border Theory through the Axiological Paradigm', *Kultura i Wartości*, 25 March 2021, 173, <https://doi.org/10.17951/kw.2020.30.173-186>.

¹¹ 'Terra Nullius : A Space in Which All Are Equal, a Space That Belongs to Nobody - University of Johannesburg', accessed 2 November 2023, <https://ujcontent.uj.ac.za/esploro/outputs/graduate/Terra-Nullius--a-space-in/9910611507691>.

3. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

MAIN QUESTION

What design strategies can be employed to re-imagine borders as spaces of connection and exchange rather than division and separation to support the needs of the local communities?

SUB-QUESTIONS

Borderscapes

1. What are the current urban dynamics and patterns around borderscapes?
2. How has the concept of borders changed from being more a natural border to a contemporary one?

Ideology

3. What historical, political, and cultural (hidden) influences have contributed to the division around borderscapes?
4. What historical and contemporary examples of border transformations can provide insights into the process of turning divisions into connections between communities?

Social and economic relations

5. How are borders experienced and what are the challenges of local communities due to the existence of them?
6. How can we make border spaces adaptable to different daily rhythms?

3. DEFINITION OF THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK:

Drawing on Henri Lefebvre's praxeological theory of *Production of Space* (*La production de l'espace*, 1974) as a foundation of the research, the project will attempt to explore questions of spatial practices, representations, and the human experiences of border spaces. According to Lefebvre, social space is a product created by individual spatial practices. Therefore, it cannot be understood as a collection of elements.¹² To explain his idea of social space Lefebvre developed his triad, consisting of three levels of analysis for each social space: perceived (physical space), conceived (representation of space) and lived space (human experience). To understand these levels in the context of border spaces, various scholars (border related) have been brought in to compare different positions within the three themes of Henri Lefebvre's theory.

¹² Florian Wiedmann and Ashraf Salama, 'The Role of Architecture in Producing Urban Qualities for Sustainability: Implications for the Future of Architectural Education', 2012.

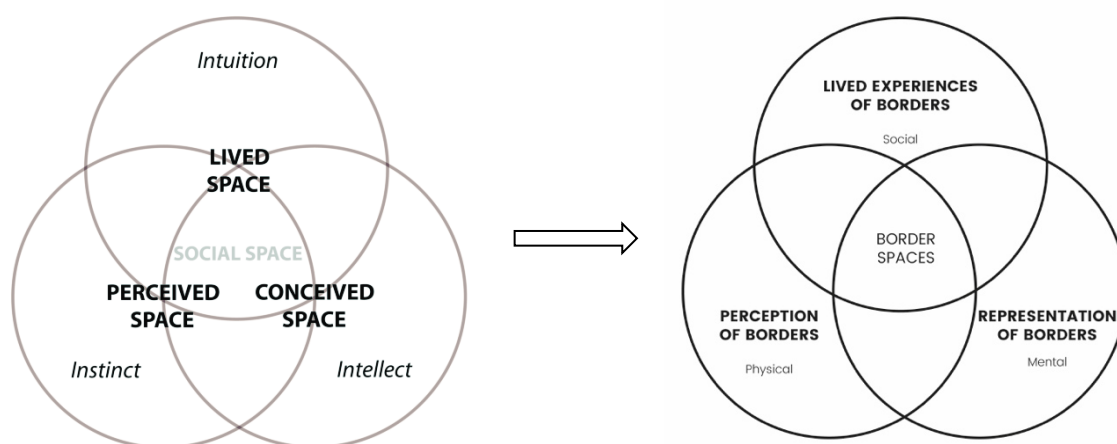


Fig. 5. Left: Henri Lefebvre's triad of space production – Source: Iorian Wiedmann and Ashraf M. Salama. Right: The production of border spaces – Work by the author.

PERCEPTION OF BORDERS

Firstly, Lefebvre defined 'perceived space' as the actual space and is thus related to the physical aspects of space. He defined it as the space that is created by various practitioners such as the government, architects, and other decisionmakers.¹³

Scholars have different viewpoints on how to perceive and define borders in urban areas and how they can be important for social practices. Thomas Nail, a professor of Philosophy at the University of Denver, understands borders as processes of social division that are created by our societies.¹⁴ Thomas Nail argues that "walls" are not limited to just physical fortifications like citadel walls. The wall is just a physical separator in this regard and operates at every scale, from the wall of an apartment to the Morocco border with Algeria and other various scales of gated communities.¹⁵ There are a wide range of different types of borders that occur nowadays in the urban fabric, argues Thomas Nail.

“

Walls encompass a wide range of things, including soldiers, military strategies, siege equipment, infrastructure (roads/rails), and transportation

¹³ Wiedmann and Salama, 'The Role of Architecture in Producing Urban Qualities for Sustainability'.

¹⁴ 'Book Review: Theory of the Border by Thomas Nail', *LSE Review of Books* (blog), 31 January 2017, <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/lsereviewofbooks/2017/01/31/book-review-theory-of-the-border-by-thomas-nail/>.

¹⁵ '# PHILOSOPHY /// Processes of Smoothing and Striation of Space in Urban Warfare', *THE FUNAMBULIST MAGAZINE*, 23 December 2010, <https://thefunambulist.net/editorials/philosophy-processes-of-smoothing-and-striation-of-space-in-urban-warfare>.

hubs (ports). In this context, "borders" symbolize any elements or entities that serve to protect, divide, or control.

Paola Pittaluga, Associate professor at the University of Sassari, argues that borders are not always simple lines on a map that marks the social division. Borders can be more complex and have different dimensions.¹⁶ For example, they can involve not just the division of the land but also the airspace above it and the waters around it. In other words, borders are not always just one-dimensional lines; they can be two-dimensional (land-land and land-sea) or even three-dimensional when you account for time as a factor.

According to Marc Augé, a French anthropologist, borders are not walls, but *thresholds*.¹⁷ A threshold defines the place in-between and is imagined as a transitional space, also known as the 'non-place'. These spaces have features like being in the middle of two different situations, and they might be undefined. They could be places that aren't following the usual rules or traditional ways of doing things.¹⁸ For example, they could be areas between a city and the suburbs, abandoned places, or transition zones between countries. At the same time, thresholds are read as part of the boundary and can be perceived as a barrier. Marc Augé argues that an ever-increasing proportion of our lives is spent in non-places. Airport terminals, train stations, bridges and borders are great examples of such public spaces. In non-places, you can only follow specific directions. This means that borders or transitions between places are influenced by what has happened before, what is happening now, and what is expected to happen in the future.¹⁹

REPRESENTATIONS OF BORDERS

*Lefebvre defined 'conceived space' as the representation of space and is thus related to the mental aspects of space. He defined it as the space how it is discussed and shown in the media, maps, and practitioners. It is thus based on knowledge in combination with ideology.*²⁰

According to Teddy Cruz, architect, urban theorist, and professor in Urbanism at the University of California, rather than seeing borders as spaces of division, we can see these zones as potential for

¹⁶ Paola Pittaluga, 'Pioneering Urban Practices in Transition Spaces', *City, Territory and Architecture* 7, no. 1 (12 November 2020): 18, <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40410-020-00127-6>.

¹⁷ Augé, *Non-Places*.

¹⁸ Till Boettger, *Threshold Spaces: Transitions in Architecture. Analysis and Design Tools* (Basel/Berlin/Boston, GERMANY: Walter de Gruyter GmbH, 2014), <http://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/delft/detail.action?docID=1652502>.

¹⁹ Boettger.

²⁰ Wiedmann and Salama, 'The Role of Architecture in Producing Urban Qualities for Sustainability'.

*Thirdly, 'lived space' is discussed by Lefebvre as the space of human experiences and is thus related to the social aspects of space. He defined it as the space that is directly lived and rooted in the imagination through associated images and symbols.*²³

Borders often show environmental and social problems. They can be like no man's lands where the space is used as a garbage area where it must deal with waste, which affects how they look and function due to the lack of visions.²⁴ Paying attention to these transitional spaces helps us become aware of how we use and move in these spaces. It also helps us appreciate the experience of these spaces in the urban fabric. For example, the high line in New York, a once neglected railway, was converted into a public park, offering an alternative way of experiencing New York. It's like the gateway to a new world.²⁵ All and all, the way these threshold spaces are designed can affect how we feel connected to the environment on both sides.²⁶

According to Teddy Cruz, the future of the city depends less on buildings and more on the reconfiguration of social and economic relations.²⁷ Cruz argues that the political border between two neighborhood countries divides two communities that share much in common such as the history and cultural traditions, which is a missed opportunity for economic and social growth. While at the other hand the social division between these communities can have impacts on the physical environment as well, disturbing the ecosystem and creating no man's land. We should care for and show solidarity with all living things affected by borders.²⁸ Teddy Cruz's theory suggests that small, strategic interventions in the urban environment can have a transformative impact on communities and the ecosystem. These interventions are like 'acupuncture needles' that target specific areas in need of revitalization around borderscapes.²⁹

4. METHODOLOGICAL POSITIONING AND METHODS:

“

The outcome is not a final solution, but rather a speculative process of transformations around borderscapes.

²³ Wiedmann and Salama, 'The Role of Architecture in Producing Urban Qualities for Sustainability'.

²⁴ Boettger, *Threshold Spaces*.

²⁵ 'A stealthy reimagining of urban public space | Elizabeth Diller - YouTube', accessed 7 November 2023, <https://www.youtube.com/>.

²⁶ Boettger, *Threshold Spaces*.

²⁷ *Teddy Cruz on Rethinking Border Zones As Potential For Political Creativity*, 2018, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INbJrucQn00>.

²⁸ Barla and Hubatschke, 'Technoecologies of Borders'.

²⁹ *Teddy Cruz on Rethinking Border Zones As Potential For Political Creativity*.

The project aims to raise a discussion around the future of border spaces and communities. Therefore, the project remains to be indefinite, meaning there's always room for questions, giving people space to unleash their own thoughts. Rather than trying to come up with a fixed solution for a fixed location, the project proposes a series of strategic interventions within the urban environment, taking into account three border types, forming the foundation of a narrative. What if we rethink border spaces as part of a larger landscape rather than just a single site? These interventions will involve the establishment of "community stations" designed to address the specific needs of the communities living near each type of the border. Oujda (North-eastern Morocco) and Sidi Ifni (South-western Morocco) are taken as a context. Two cities that are highly effected by its location at the border.

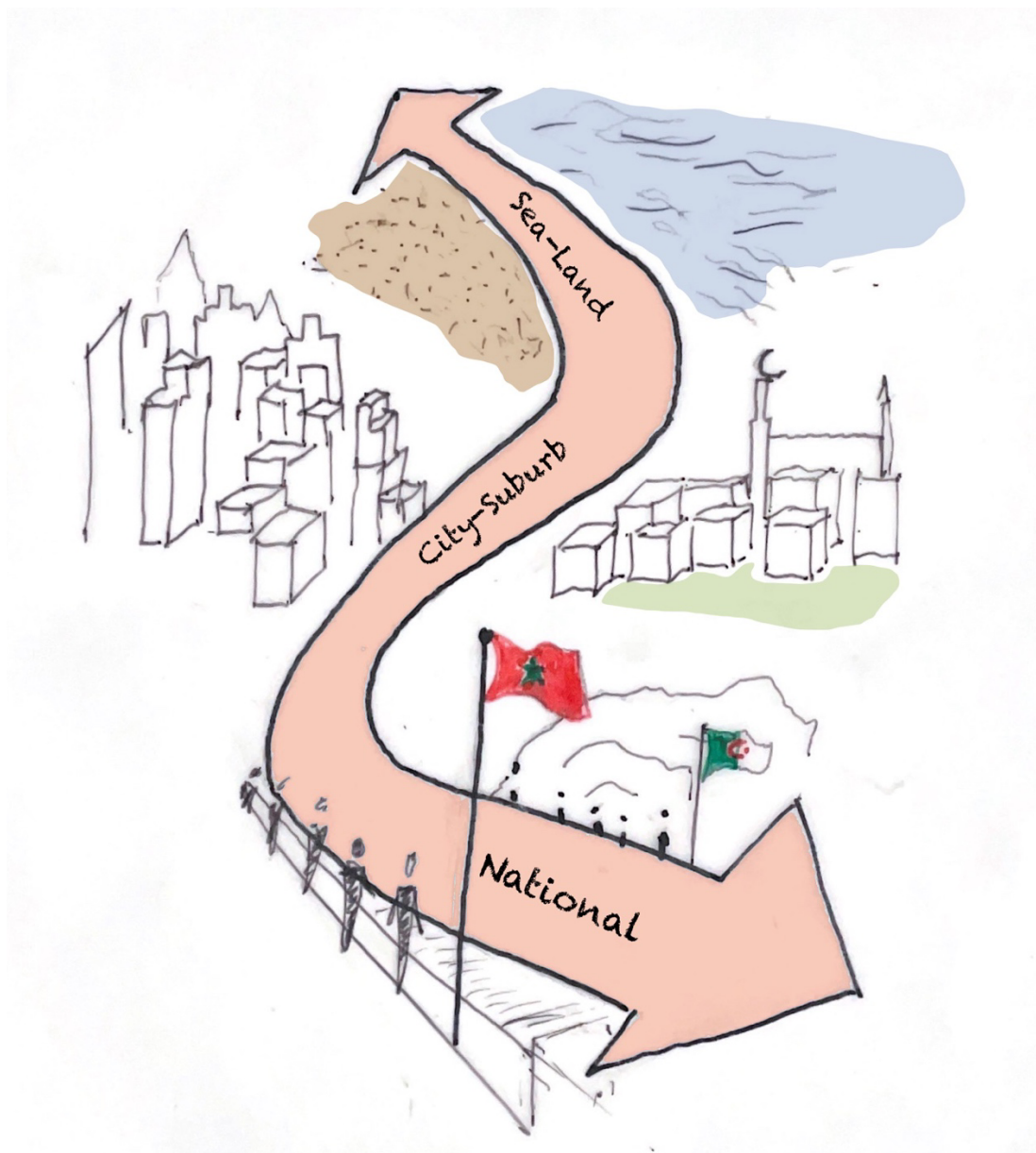


Fig. 7. Using architecture as a narrative to re-imagine three different border types. – Work by the author.

The research will be carried out within the three levels of Lefebvre's theoretical framework:

1. Analysing the perceived space of borders – Site Analysis:

On this level, we will conduct **map analysis** of daily activities, movement patterns, and economic exchanges within the three border types. The goal is to come up with detailed maps of the dynamics to understand these places. Furthermore, we will use **photography and postcards** as research tools to draw site site-specific stories which will provide qualitative data for the project.

2. Analysing the conceived space of borders – Desk Research:

On this level, we will conduct **literature review** on the historical and contemporary understanding of the formation of borderscapes to understand its ideologies. Additionally, several **case studies** will be studied to identify common trends and challenges.

3. Analysing the lived experiences of borders – Ethnographic Research:

The third level will engage with communities, and other stakeholders, through the process of **interviews** and visiting these places to obtain a greater insight into their daily lives and collective narratives related to the impact of the border on their lives. Furthermore, we will employ various **creative techniques**, such as photomontages, sketches, collages, and videos, inspired by the work of superstudio to develop a **narrative** around borderscapes.

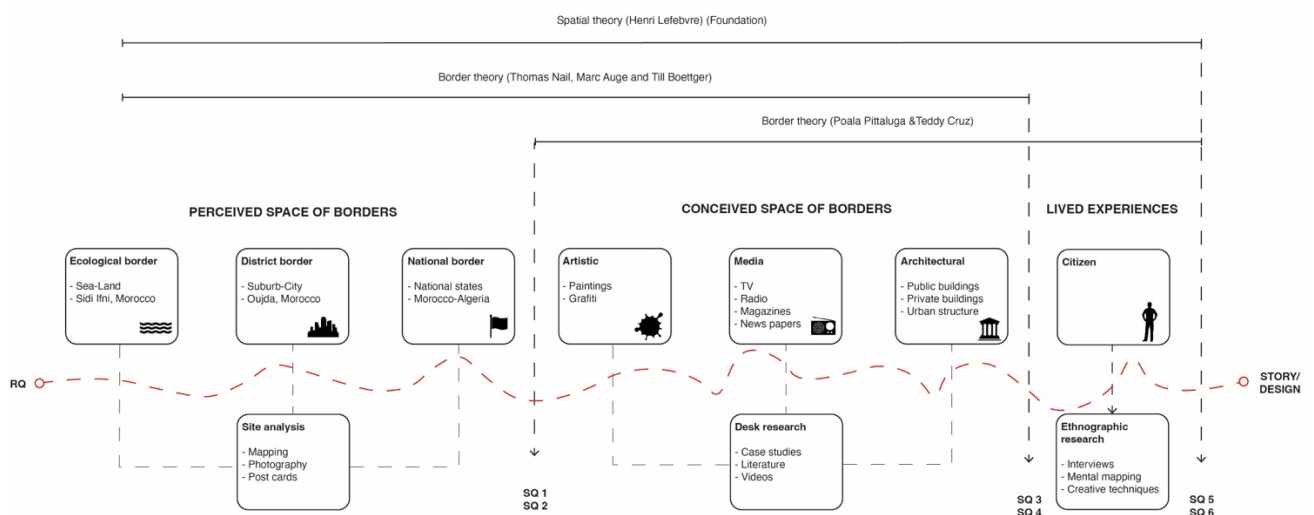


Fig. 8. Research plan diagram – Work by the author.

5. ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

1. Murray, Peter, David Cadman, en Royal Academy of Arts, red. *Living Bridges: The Inhabited Bridge, Past, Present and Future*, Royal Academy of Arts, London, 26 September - 18 December 1996]. Munich New York: Prestel, 1996.

The lost typology of living bridges could provide insights on how to deal with borderspaces as they were built in-between cities and communities. It is an interesting typology to study as a case study analysis.

2. Ciric, Dragana. *Architectural Bordering: Concepts, Models, and Principles*, 2015.

The document discusses key concepts, models, and principles that shape border architecture, which can offer insights about designing spaces around borderspaces. It is a valuable document for the case study analysis.

3. Schoonderbeek, Marc, en Tom Avermaete, red. *Border Conditions*. The TU Delft Architecture Series. Amsterdam: Architectura & Natura Press, 2010.

This book contains a diverse range of perspectives and case studies by students and architects that examine and rethink border spaces through architecture and urban design. It is a valuable resource for literature and case study analysis.

4. Cruz, Teddy, en Fonna Forman. *Socializing Architecture: Top-down Bottom-Up*. Berlin: Hatje Cantz Verlag, 2022.

This book explores the idea of top-down and bottom-up approaches in architecture and border spaces, providing valuable insights into how architectural decisions can influence communities.

5. Chiappone-Piriou, Emmanuelle, en International Centre for the City, the Architecture and the Landscape, red. *Superstudio Migrazioni*. Köln: Verlag der Buchhandlung Walther und Franz König, 2020.

Superstudio is an inspirational studio that response to contemporary architecture and urban planning methods as a critique through visualisation. It is the approach that could be inspiring of this project.

6. Boettger, Till. *Threshold Spaces: Transitions in Architecture. Analysis and Design Tools*. Basel/Berlin/Boston, GERMANY: Walter de Gruyter GmbH, 2014.
<http://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/delft/detail.action?docID=1652502>.

This book provides an analysis of architectural transitions and threshold spaces. It is an architectural guideline on how to deal with these spaces and therefore offering a framework for this project.

7. Bruin, J. de. *Border communities at the edge of the Roman Empire: processes of change in the civitas cananefatium*. Amsterdam archaeological studies 28. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2019.

This book delves into the historical perspective of communities at border regions providing insights in how communities adapt and live at the border.

8. Seto, Karen C., en Meredith Reba. *City unseen: new visions of an urban planet*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2018.

This book provides mapping methods on how to represent and show maps within different topics. Very interesting in the mapping process for this project.

9. Encyclopedia Britannica. "Morocco | History, Map, Flag, Capital, People, & Facts," February 24, 2023. <https://www.britannica.com/place/Morocco/Dcline-of-traditional-government-1830-1912>.

This article provides an overview of Morocco's history. Very useful reference for understanding the background and context of Morocco and their conflicts.

10. Oxford Business Group. "Rising in the east" November 20, 2022. <https://oxfordbusinessgroup.com/reports/morocco/2014-report/economy/rising-in-the-east-the-region-aims-to-establish-a-dynamic-self-sufficient-economy>.

This report offers insights into the development at the eastern border region. Very useful in understanding the current urban dynamics at the border.

11. Pandey, Annarose. "Nostalgic Lives: Memory and Place in Sidi Ifni", 2010. <http://ecommons.cornell.edu/bitstream/1813/14897/1/Pandey%2c%20Annarose.pdf>.

Annarose Pandey's study explores the idea of memory and place in the context of Sidi Ifni. It offers a valuable resource for understanding how collective memory and local history shape the identity of this Moroccan city and what challenges the communities are facing.

6. BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Primary sources

'A stealthy reimagining of urban public space | Elizabeth Diller - YouTube'. Accessed 7 November 2023. <https://www.youtube.com/>.

Augé, Marc. *Non-Places: Introduction to an Anthropology of Supermodernity*. 2nd English language ed. London ; New York: Verso, 2008.

Barla, Josef, and Christoph Hubatschke. 'Technoecologies of Borders: Thinking with Borders as

Multispecies Matters of Care'. *Australian Feminist Studies* 32, no. 94 (2 October 2017): 395–410. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08164649.2017.1466648>.

Boettger, Till. *Threshold Spaces: Transitions in Architecture. Analysis and Design Tools*. Basel/Berlin/Boston, GERMANY: Walter de Gruyter GmbH, 2014. <http://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/delft/detail.action?docID=1652502>.

Ciric, Dragana. *Architectural Bordering: Concepts, Models, and Principles*, 2015.

Cruz, Teddy, and Fonna Forman. *Socializing Architecture: Top-down Bottom-Up*. Berlin: Hatje Cantz Verlag, 2022.

Fitz, Angelika, Elke Krasny, and Architektur Zentrum Wien, eds. *Critical Care: Architecture and Urbanism for a Broken Planet*. Vienna [Austria] : Cambridge, MA: Architekturzentrum Wien ; MIT Press, 2019.

LSE Review of Books. 'Book Review: Theory of the Border by Thomas Nail', 31 January 2017. <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/lsereviewofbooks/2017/01/31/book-review-theory-of-the-border-by-thomas-nail/>.

Nikiforova, Basia. 'Deconstruction of the Border Theory through the Axiological Paradigm'. *Kultura i Wartości*, 25 March 2021, 173. <https://doi.org/10.17951/kw.2020.30.173-186>.

Pittaluga, Paola. 'Pioneering Urban Practices in Transition Spaces'. *City, Territory and Architecture* 7, no. 1 (12 November 2020): 18. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40410-020-00127-6>.

Schoonderbeek, Marc, and Tom Avermaete, eds. *Border Conditions*. The TU Delft Architecture Series. Amsterdam: Architectura & Natura Press, 2010.

THE FUNAMBULIST MAGAZINE. '# PHILOSOPHY /// Processes of Smoothing and Striation of Space in Urban Warfare', 23 December 2010. <https://thefunambulist.net/editorials/philosophy-processes-of-smoothing-and-striation-of-space-in-urban-warfare>.

'The Open City - Essays | Urban Age'. Accessed 7 November 2023. <https://urbanage.lsecities.net/essays/the-open-city>.

Wiedmann, Florian, and Ashraf Salama. 'The Role of Architecture in Producing Urban Qualities for Sustainability: Implications for the Future of Architectural Education', 2012.

Secondary sourcers

'Norman Foster: Striving for Simplicity | Louisiana Channel - YouTube'. Accessed 7 November 2023. <https://www.youtube.com/>.

Teddy Cruz on Rethinking Border Zones As Potential For Political Creativity, 2018.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INbJrucQn00>.

WORLD. 'Life in the Death Strip'. Accessed 7 November 2023. <https://wng.org/articles/life-in-the-death-strip-1620622350>.

'Terra Nullius : A Space in Which All Are Equal, a Space That Belongs to Nobody - University of Johannesburg'. Accessed 2 November 2023. <https://ujcontent.uj.ac.za/esploro/outputs/graduate/Terra-Nullius--a-space-in/9910611507691>.

7. LIST OF FIGURES:

Fig. 1: Diagram showing the relation between non-places and places. Work by the author.

Fig. 2: The political and climatic equator: a corridor of a global conflicts and disasters – as featured on e-flux.com. <https://www.e-flux.com/architecture/at-the-border/358908/unwalling-citizenship/>

Fig. 3: The ecological border as an active zone of exchange, while human borders often do not. Work by the author.

Fig. 4: Left: The in-between zone East-West Berlin – As featured on World News Group.org. <https://wng.org/articles/life-in-the-death-strip-1620622350> Right: The in-between zone Morocco-Algeria reclaimed by nature – As featured on Aljazeera.com <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/9/1/tourists-from-morocco-shot-dead-after-straying-into-algerian-waters>

Fig. 5: Left: Henri Lefebvre's triad of space production - Source: Florian Wiedmann and Ashraf M. Salama. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/315696248_The_Role_of_Architecture_in_Producing_Urban_Qualities_for_Sustainability_Implications_for_the_Future_of_Architectural_Education Right: The Production of Space in borderscapes – Work by the author.

Fig. 6: Left: Ebenezer Howard's three magnets diagram which addressed the perfect blend between town and country - Source: Wikipedia.org. <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/55/Howard-three-magnets.png> Right: The three magnets diagram with the perfect blend between two places: the neutral zone (the border as a zone for everyone and nobody) – Work by the author.

Fig. 7: Using architecture as a narrative to re-imagine three different border types. - Work by the author.

Fig. 8: Research plan diagram – Work by the author.

Spatial theory (Henri Lefebvre) (Foundation)

Border theory (Thomas Nail, Marc Auge and Till Boettger)

Border theory (Poala Pittaluga & Teddy Cruz)

PERCEIVED SPACE OF BORDERS

CONCEIVED SPACE OF BORDERS

LIVED EXPERIENCES


Ecological border

- Sea-Land
- Sidi Ifni, Morocco




District border

- Suburb-City
- Oujda, Morocco



National border

- National states
- Morocco-Algeria



Artistic

- Paintings
- Grafiti




Media

- TV
- Radio
- Magazines
- News papers




Architectural

- Public buildings
- Private buildings
- Urban structure



Citizen



Site analysis

- Mapping
- Photography
- Post cards

Desk research

- Case studies
- Literature
- Videos

Ethnographic research

- Interviews
- Mental mapping
- Creative techniques

SQ 1
SQ 2

SQ 3
SQ 4

SQ 5
SQ 6

RQ

STORY/
DESIGN