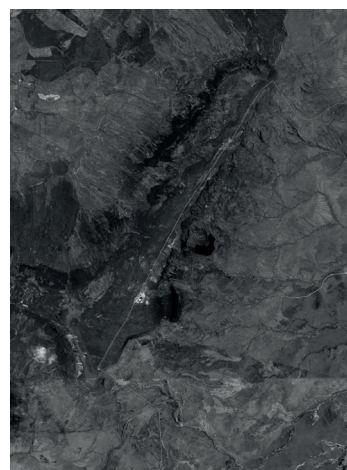
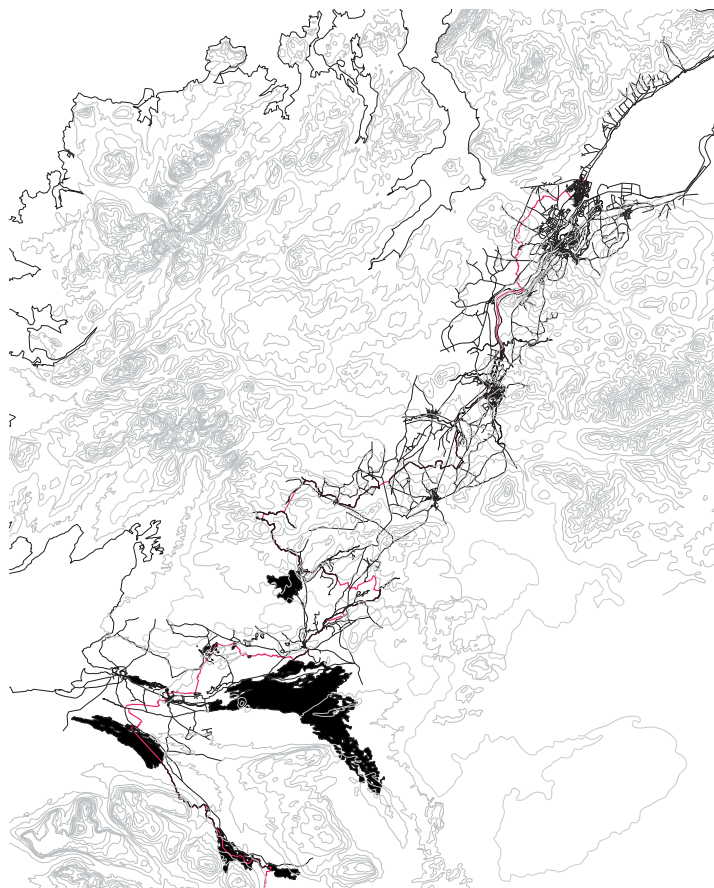


# UNION OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

The border of 1921 is not the first border that divided the island. The British Isles have an intertwined history consisting of a sequence of invasions and retreats, until the borderline was settled into its current form, one that is based on the premise of religious differences and national identity.

Act of Union, proclaiming Ireland as part of the U.K.	1801
First Home Rule Bill Rejected	1886
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The Easter Rising	1916
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The Irish Border: Britain divided the island into Northern Ireland and Sourthern Ireland, both under British Rule	1921





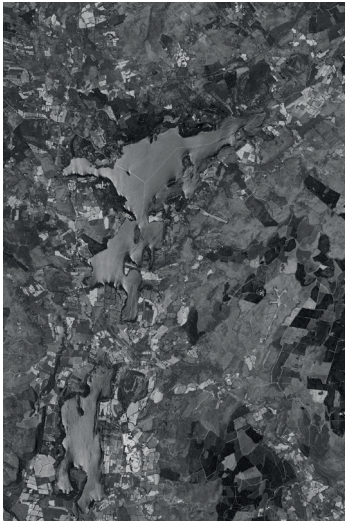
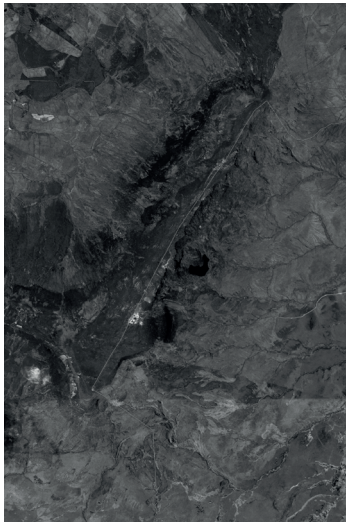
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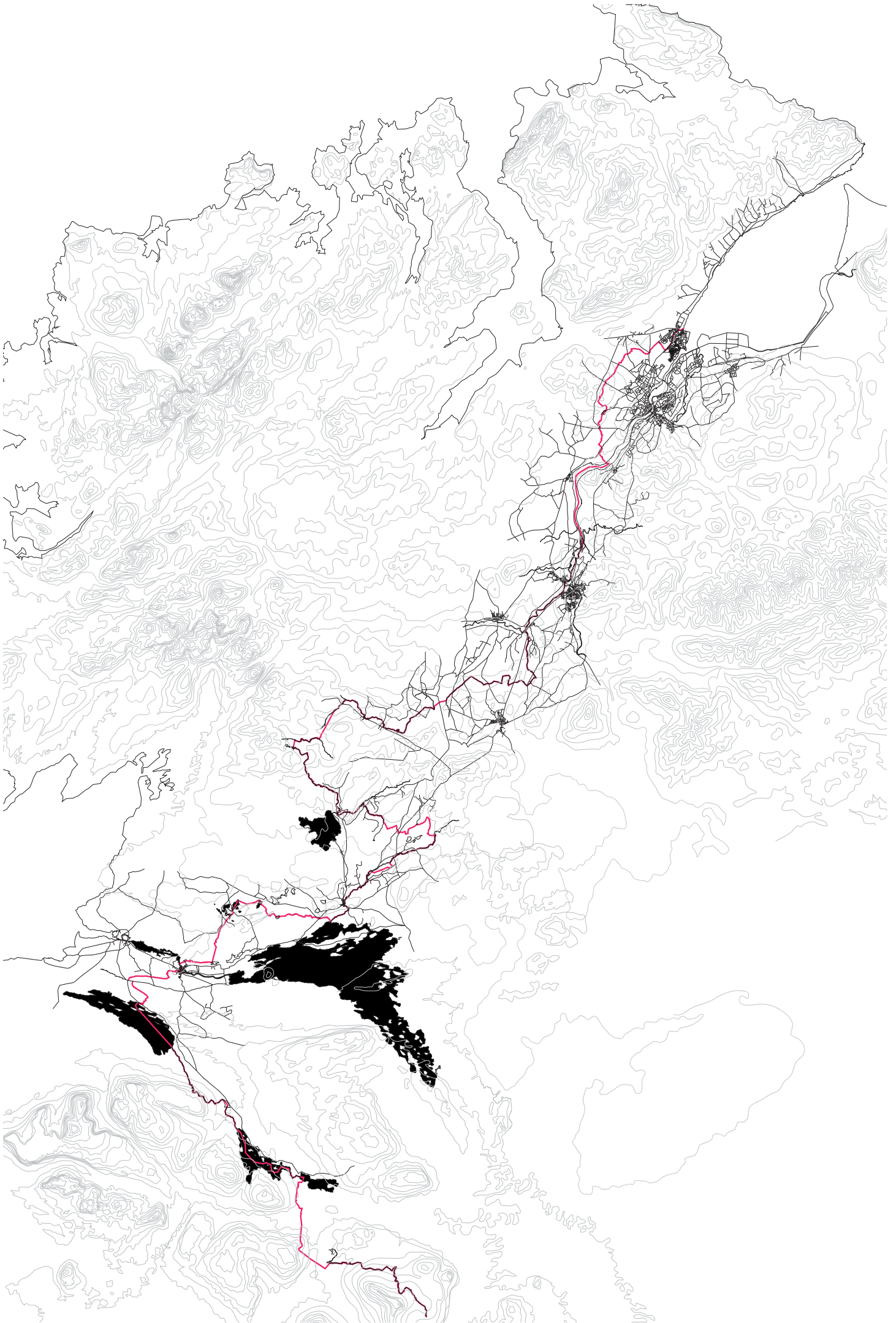


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Border conditions in Ireland





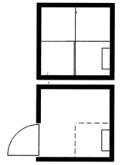
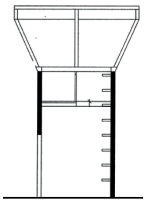


# WATCHTOWERS

The watchtowers on the hilltops of South Armagh, a rural border region between the north and south of Ireland with a population that is almost entirely catholic-nationalist, were observation posts mounted with powerful camera technologies.

British soldiers, stationed below the towers in luxury trenches, portacabins sunk into the ground and covered with steel and concrete and recovered with topsoil, occupied the viewing platforms in pairs and in two-hour shifts. One would observe while the other documented. It has been said that they could read the speedometer dials of cars driving below, distinguish patterns on the wallpaper inside houses, see what was eaten for breakfast and hear what was said over the breakfast table.

The watchtowers are landmarks in the thirty-year conflict in and over Northern Ireland, euphemistically known as 'The Troubles.' Like the Long Kesh/Maze prison or the gable end murals in Belfast and Derry, they mark the site of conflict, define a frontline and are a component of an architecture of war. The last watchtower was demolished in march 2005.



Standard Watchtower



Map of the British Watchtowers during the troubles





# THE BOGSIDE MASSACRE DERRY/LONDONDERRY

## 2.50pm:

Due to get under way at 2pm, the march is delayed by 50 minutes to accommodate the steady stream of late arrivals. Marchers leave Creggan Drive and set off for the city centre, with hundreds joining in at almost every turn.

## 3.25pm:

The march passes the Bogside Inn bar and continues on to William Street. Estimates at the size of demonstration at this point vary. Organisers claimed up to 20,000 people were involved, while the Widgery Inquiry into the killings put it at a more conservative 3,000 to 5,000.

## 3.45pm:

With the British Army having erected barricades blocking the way to the Guildhall, the main body of the march turns left on to Rossville Street toward the revised rallying point at the Free Derry corner at the entrance to the nationalist Bogside estate. A number break off and continue down William Street to confront soldiers at a barricade. Some rioting ensues. Minor clashes between stone throwers and security forces at this junction were commonplace, with locals dubbing the area 'aggro corner'.

## 3.55pm:

Before the main shooting incident and at a location away from both the riot and march, two soldiers in a derelict building on William Street fire a number of rounds after claiming they had come under attack. Two men were injured. One of them, 59-year-old John Johnston, died six months later and is acknowledged as the 14th victim of Bloody Sunday. An Official IRA member is believed to have fired at the building during this in-

cident, but whether it was before or after the soldiers shot is a matter of contention.

## 3.56pm:

Rioters disperse from William Street after the British Army deploy water cannon. Paratroopers request permission to commence an arrest operation on those who had fled down Chamberlain Street and Rossville Street.

## 4.07pm:

A company of paratroopers, led by Major Ted Loden, is given an order to start arresting any remaining rioters in William Street. But they are told not to engage in a running battle down Rossville Street.

## 4.10pm:

The soldiers open fire on people in the area of Rossville flats.

Jackie Duddy was shot in the car park of Rossville flats: Pat Doherty, Barney McGuigan were shot at the forecourt on the other side of the flats: Hugh Gilmour, Kevin McElhinney, Michael Kelly, John Young, William Nash and Michael McDaid were shot at a rubble barricade on Rossville Street beside the flats: James Wray, Gerald Donaghey, Gerald McKinney and William McKinney (not related) were shot at Glenfada Park on other side of Rossville Street.

## 4.40pm:

The shooting ends. As well as the 13 fatalities, 14 others were wounded. 21 soldiers fired in the incident, expending 108 rounds in total. The British Army claims it came under fire in the Rossville flats area, allegedly by the Provisional IRA. Eyewitnesses insist none of the dead were armed.



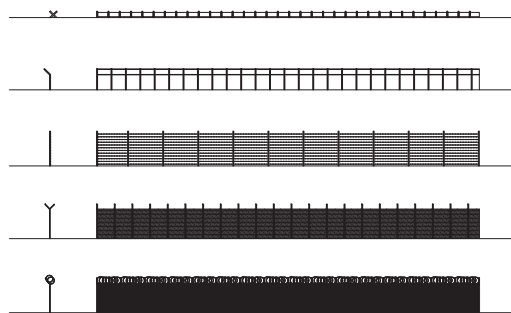


## PEACE LINES , BELFAST

The first of the peace walls were built in 1969 after a series of sectarian riots rocked Belfast. The walls, established as a temporary measure, were a very simple solution to the problem of keeping Republicans and Loyalists apart. However, due to their effectiveness, they never came down. Indeed, as time went on, the walls got longer and more numerous. While most of the walls were constructed during the early years of the Troubles, around one-third have popped up since 1994 when the IRA declared an effective ceasefire.

One of the most famous peace walls sits between the Loyalist Shankill Road and the Irish Republican Falls Road. Tensions between the two streets have existed since the 1800s, and the Troubles saw a rise in violence in this already violent area. As a solution, the peace wall separating the two popped up. This wall stretches for 800 metres, an imposing multi-level concrete structure.

While the majority of peace lines exist within Belfast's bounds, there are also walls in Derry, Portadown, and Lurgan.



Peace Line separating Protestant and Catholic neighborhoods in Belfast



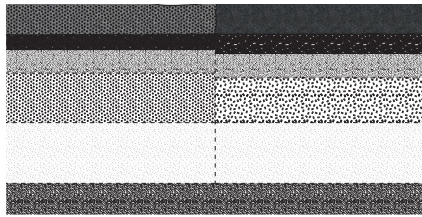


## SOFT BORDER , MUFF

“Having grown up on the border and it was then part of every day life, we just accepted it for what it was. To a stranger it was very complicated and impossible to understand, there were no fixed markings apart from the Customs Post’s on each side. The quality of the road surface was different.”

Today, the border is largely invisible, 483 km zigzagging through fields, streams, towns and even houses. Out of the 300 crossings, most do not even show a sign that you have crossed countries, save for the road signs — miles in the north and kilometers in the Republic. It’s a far cry from the Troubles — the three-decade period when rival unionist and republican paramilitaries warred over the political status of Northern Ireland — that saw the frontier strung with British Army checkpoints, soldiers and watchtowers.

The 1998 Good Friday Agreement saw the phasing out of this physical infrastructure, allowing people and goods to cross freely and unchecked. This was helped by the two countries being in the European Union Single Market and customs union for goods and services, largely removing any need for inspections at the border.



Border road showing the different shade of asphalt in Muff, Ireland.



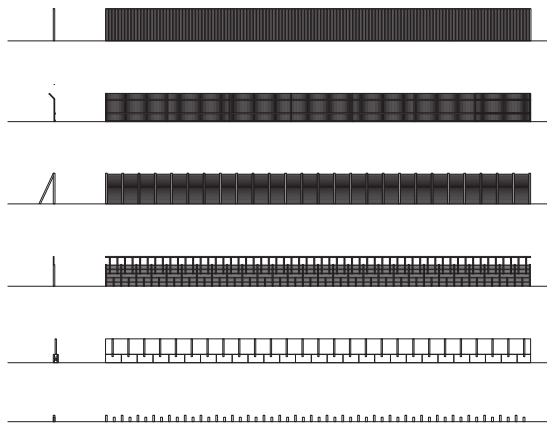


# B R E X I T

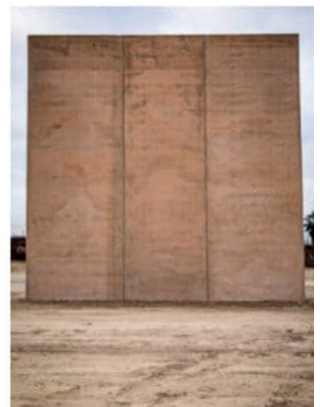
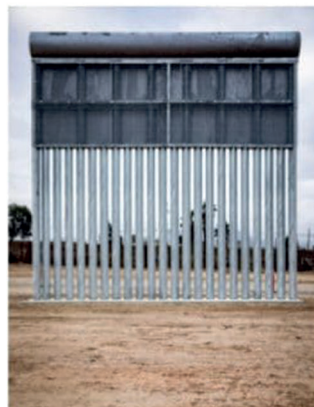
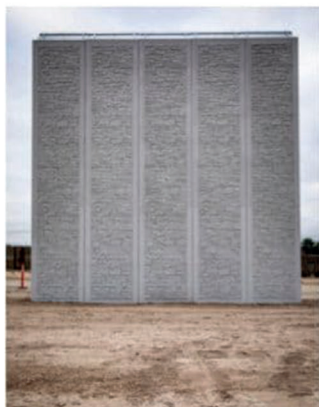
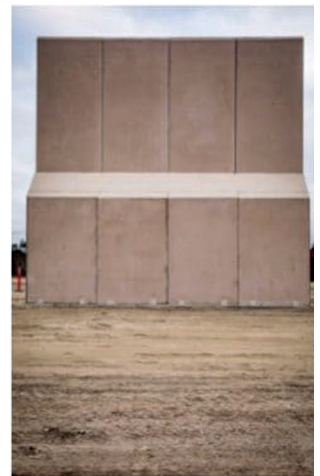
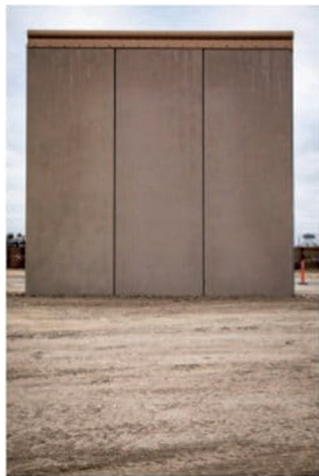
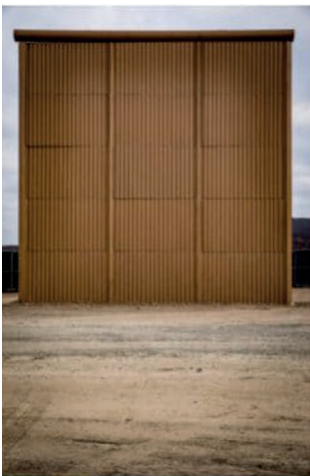
After Brexit , the Irish border will become the only land border between the E.U. and the U.K. In the past, during periods of conflicts, notably the troubles, the need for customs and security checks meant that the border was a physical as well as legal and political reality. Nowadays, with the comon travel area and the single market, the border isn't a barrier in any practical sense.

The Brexit negotiations have gone back and forth to secure a deal that would negate the need for any kind of physical infrastructure on the border , as it would escalate the tensions in both countries. However, the no-deal Brexit meant that physical infrastructure would have to be used again, and like Theresa May said "No deal is better than a bad deal".

Could there be a hard border between the Republic of Ireland and northern Ireland once again? between the E.U. and the U.K.?



Trump wall prototypes , selling the idea of a hard border between the US and Mexico





# THE DERRY AIRPORT

Borders consequences span far beyond their immediate territory and physical surrounding. More than anything borders are a system of categorization, of space, people, goods, laws, ect... This categorization and its implications can be felt through in spaces that exponentially intensify the effects of border crossing, like airports and embassies.

In the corresponding image, the exaggeration of a selective categorization on an airport, is transported to the realm of the toilet, a mundane and banal activity that becomes regulated and surveyed.

Passport Index



London Airport





## THE QUEST FOR IDENTITY, DERRY/LONDONDERRY

People who live along the Irish border can be qualified as a **third nation**, people who are neither here nor there, who do not belong strictly to one side. The model below is a concrete manifestation of this quest of identity, where symbols of Irishness and Britishness are articulated through the details of the interior, creating a home that is neither here nor there. On which side of the border does it belong? How does the person inhabiting this space identify? From Theresa May on the TV screen, to the portrait of Mary on the wall, The daily mail and the Irish carpet, the glass of Irish whiskey and the British flag from the window, the items embody the duality of identity present on the borderland.

"There are homes where you can have your breakfast in the north and go to sleep in the south."

"There are places where mobile phone reception in just one house fluctuates between north and south."

"The Northern school bus comes through the South and drops them all at their houses. It goes through in the South and back in through the North because there's no other way"

Model photograph

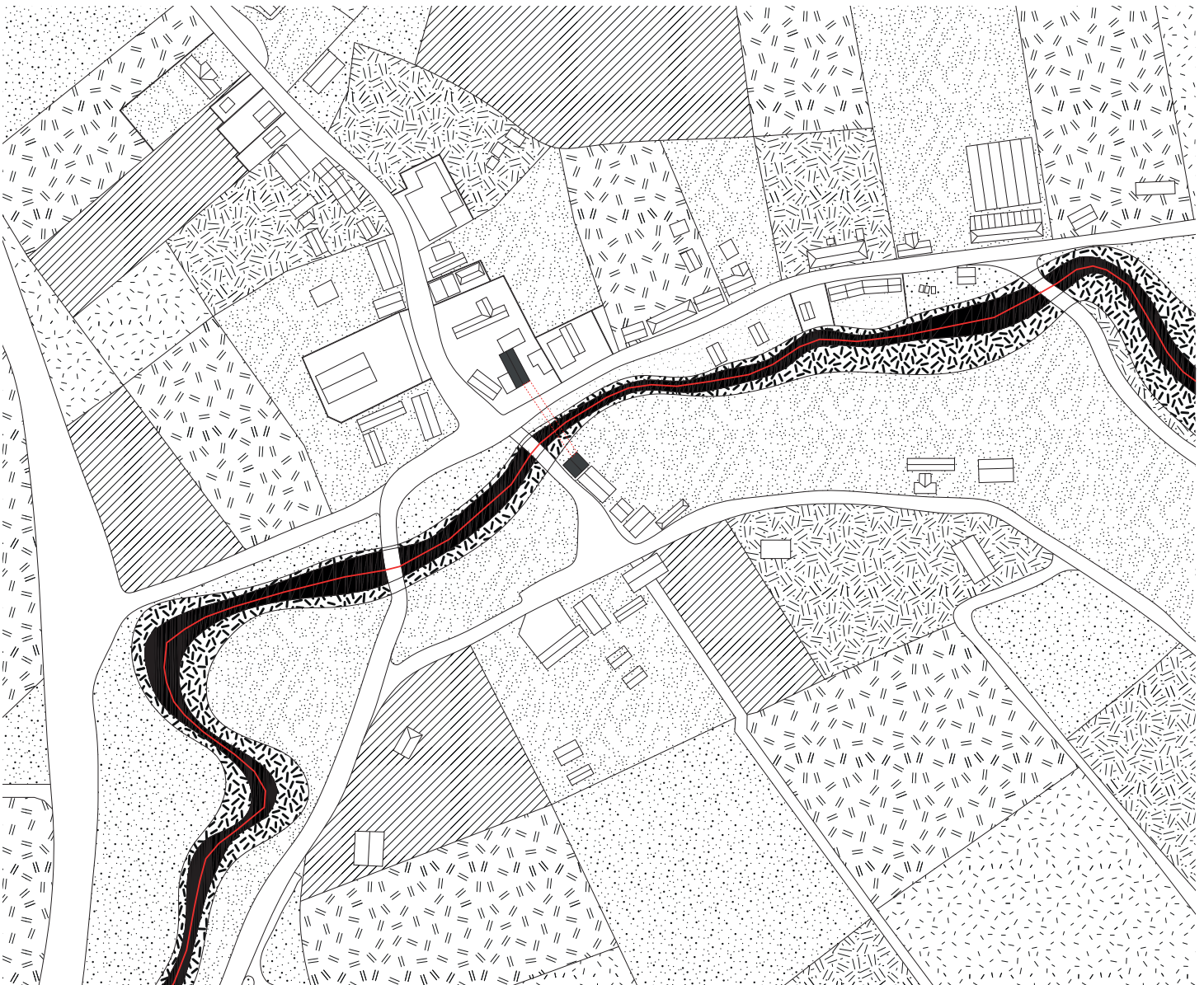




## SMUGGLING STORIES

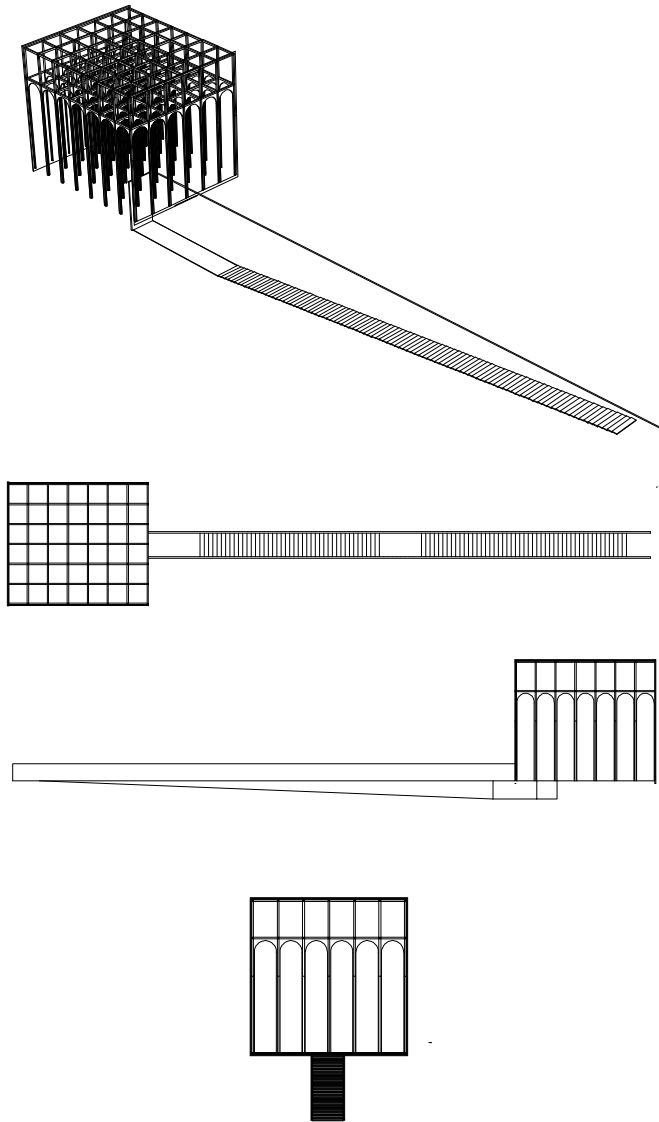
"When caught smuggling the penalties were severe, large fines and in some cases jail. One young man caught bringing a pack of flower into the Free State was sentenced to a month in jail and his ass and cart seized. It was only released when a cash sum was paid. Any vehicle caught smuggling was also seized and dealt with in a like manner. During the war years there was much domestic movement of goods at night and through the fields. Butter, sugar, whisky clothing, cigarettes, tobacco and some jewellery was more readily available in the Free State. Tea, white bread, petrol, paraffin oil, candles, bicycle parts such as tyres, tubes, chains and free wheels could be got on the Black Market at a price in the north. Naturally there was a constant movement of these items, not on a large commercial scale by the ordinary people; more of a barter system was used. People from the Free State at Christmas would make up food parcels to be sent to their family members in England. The parcels were brought over at night given to a friend who posted them on the other side of Pettigo. Parcels coming from England and America were addressed to a friend in Pettigo and went the opposite way."

Pettigo tunnel site drawing



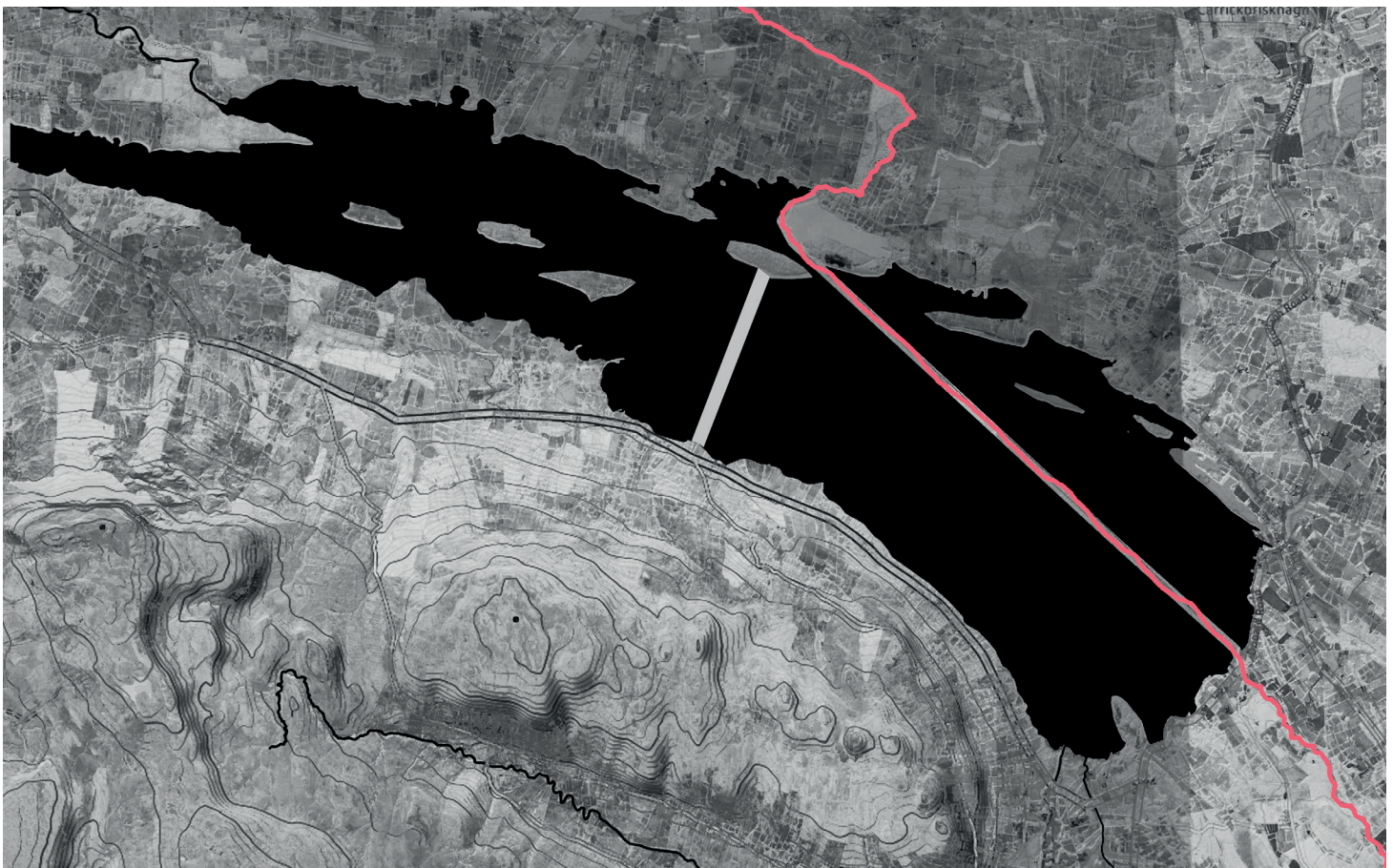


## THE STORAGE FACILITY



Three-quarters of UK warehouse owners say their space is full to capacity and storage costs have soared by up to 25% in the past three months after a surge in Brexit-related inquiries.

Lough Melvin site drawing





# IMMIGRATION AND I N T E G R A T I O N

Brexit was sold on an idea of anti-immigration sentiment growing in Europe. If borders are still being crossed , immigration still needed and the refugee crisis reaching its peak, is immigration the right issue to address or is it the process of integration ?

This project spatializes processes that visa applicants , asylum seekers , refugees and immigrants have to go through when entering the E.U. From medical testing, to language learning , the trajectory in those alienating spaces embodies a criticism towards government's approach to integration , and new comers attitude alike .



Immigration wall site drawing, Cuilcagh mountain





## ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES ON DEBATED TERRITORIES

A section of Donegal's Wild Atlantic Way which straddles the border has been likened to the "wild west" amid rising tensions over unregulated oyster farming. Residents with homes along Lough Foyle have reported a surge in the number of oyster trestles appearing in the water in recent months. They also say there have been threats, shoreline arguments and intimidation.

The unregulated oyster farming has been allowed to flourish because of a territorial dispute between Dublin and London over who owns the land. Back in June the Loughs Agency told the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee that Lough Foyle oysters could be worth £20m. A UK Government spokesperson said: "Discussions between the UK and Ireland are ongoing and we are concentrated on seeking practical solutions to dealing with issues arising with the management of the loughs, in particular the management of illegal aquaculture." A spokesperson for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade said that "the issues involved are complex but progress is being made and all sides are committed to reaching a positive resolution".



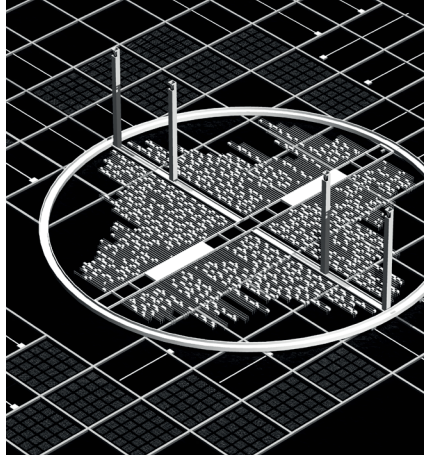
Lough Foyle Site drawing





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Lough Foyle Site drawing





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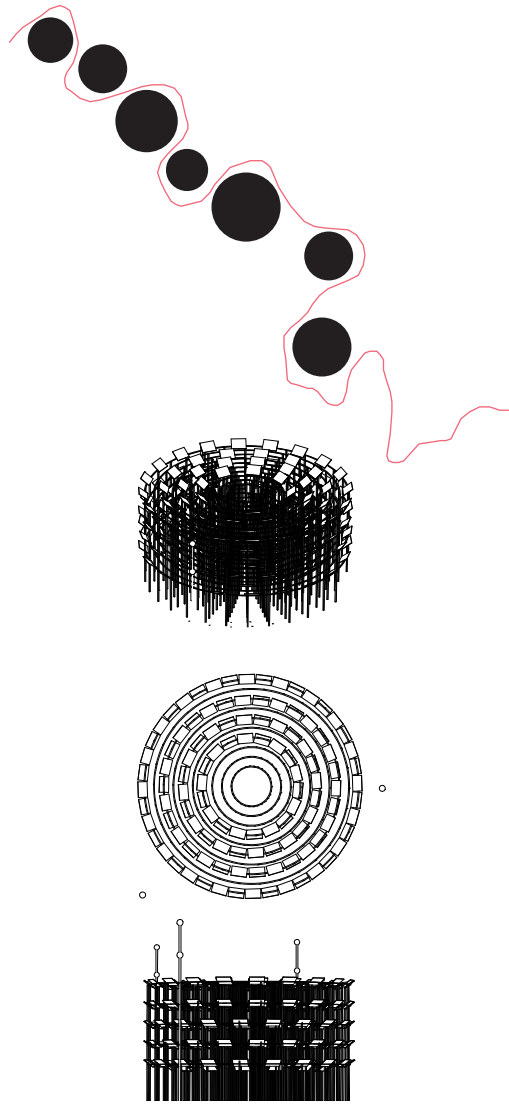
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Lough Foyle Site drawing

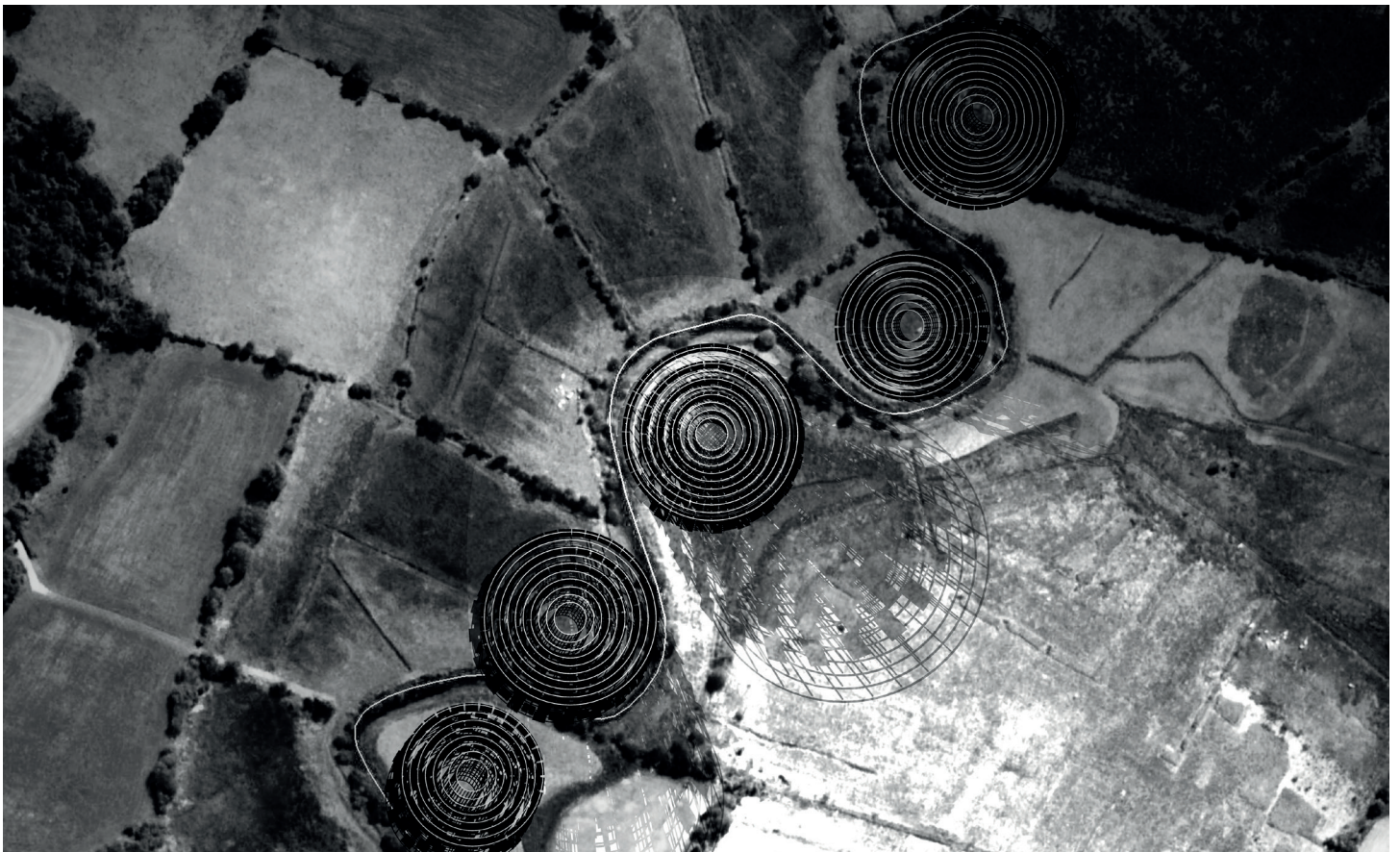


# E N E R G Y PRODUCING STRUCTURES



The Production Wall, Ardnaglass,  
County Antrim, on the border be-  
tween the Republic of Ireland and  
Northern Ireland, 2048

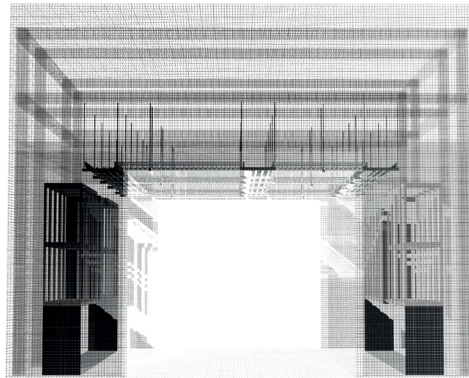
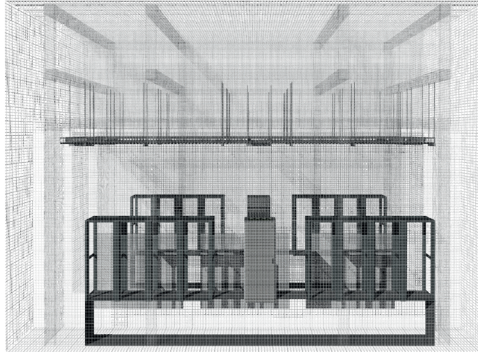
In the countryside the border undulates with the river, forming irregular plots on its path. Energy producing structures were planted on those crops of lands, creating a borderwall that served as a common generator. Each Unit, is composed of a structure with rotating joints to utilize the maximal capacity of the solar panels, along with wind turbines. The ensemble is connected to energy converting towers that are later connected to production and agriculture facilities.





# SURVEILLANCE

327 roads cross the Irish border. On each road there is a box. A machine that detects, scans, analyses and reports every movement on the borderland. The network formed by these machines create a virtual field, a virtual wall one might say, that dissects the idea of a soft border to its bare minimum, avoiding the disturbance of the everyday.



The Border Machine, Lifford, County Donegal, Republic of Ireland and Strabane, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland, 2052



## LAST CALL FOR A UNITED ISLAND OF IRELAND

The Belfast Agreement is also known as the Good Friday Agreement, because it was reached on Good Friday, 10 April 1998.

It was an agreement, between the British and Irish governments and most of the political parties in Northern Ireland, about how Northern Ireland should be governed. The talks leading up to the Agreement dealt with issues that had caused conflict during the previous 30 years. The agreement aimed to set up a nationalist and unionist power-sharing government in Northern Ireland.

On the constitutional question of whether Northern Ireland should remain in the UK or become part of a united Ireland, it was agreed that there would be no change without the consent of the majority. This is called the 'principle of consent'.

According to that agreement, the south (the republic of Ireland) would renounce the right to reclaim the north (Northern Ireland). In that case, the only way for a United island of Ireland is by a referendum in Northern Ireland where the majority would vote to leave the U.K. When the common ground of the E.U. blurred the choice between a United Kingdom and a United island of Ireland, could Brexit retrigger the possibility of another referendum in Northern Ireland?

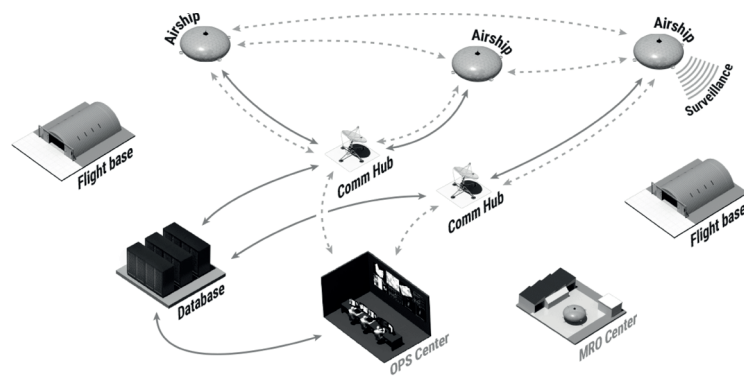
Signing of the Good Friday agreement, Belfast, 1998





## SATELLITE

## IMAGERY



Satellite imagery is now being tested as a method of border control. The most recent study have been conducted in the U.S.A. cretaining a system based on low altitude airships called "hypersphera" . Could the future of border lie in technology? giving the illusion of a soft border while the surveillance methods become sharper then ever before.

**"The HiperSfera system for continuous surveillance is comprised of a MALE UAS – unmanned aerial system with extended endurance (24 to 100 hours of continuous flight, depending on the environmental conditions), of an ultra-high resolution multi-sensor surveillance payload, and of the communication and ground infrastructure required for processing data and providing field information and communication in real time. HiperSfera airship flies at 2 do 5 km above sea level during one to four days, and simultaneously covers from 40 to 230 square kilometers of terrain with ultra-high-resolution electro-optical and thermal sensors, providing 24-hour information on the situation on the ground, regardless of the local visibility conditions ."**







In his paintings, Bosch depicts a clear distinction between heaven and hell, good and bad. The paintings are used as an additional layer to the drawings, articulating an argument, reinforcing the irony of a situation, projecting a contradiction. Furthermore, the reference to these particular paintings reinforces the idea that borders are not "good" or "bad", they project a spectrum in this dichotomy, in which the point of view and the "protagonist" of choice, offers a different image of the border each time.

Hieronymus Bosch, The Garden of Earthly Delights, oil on oak, Museo del Prado, Madrid.





## THE GREAT PYRAMIDS OF CARLINGFORD LOUGH

When asked about this collage in his Irelantis collection, Sean Hillen answered that anything could happen on the Irish border during the period of the troubles, even the great pyramids appearing in Carlingford Lough. In a similar manner, the project shows 16 things that could happen of the Irish border, using Brexit as a momentum.

"Actually the fact is that the visual arts were shockingly mute for two reasons: Firstly was a blanket self-and-establishment censorship of the subject. It was considered extremely 'bad taste' to make any art engaging with political issues. Not entirely surprising as the society itself was incapable of open discussion, being embroiled in active conflict. The conflict was the original 'Elephant in the room', and Northern Ireland the place described in a poem by Heaney as the place, where "whatever you say, say nothing."

Sean Hillen

