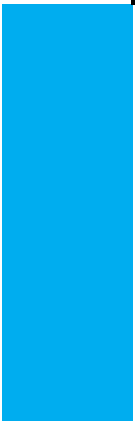


# Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences



<b>Personal information</b>	
Name	Sylvie Dorn
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<b>Studio</b>	
Name / Theme	Complex Projects - Borders; the architecture of violence
Teachers	Mitesh Dixit, James Westcott, Sven Jansse, Hrvoje Smidihen
Argumentation of choice of the studio	The broad approach of the Chair in combination with the context of the US-Mexican border.
<b>Graduation project</b>	
Title of the graduation project	Border Perception; a reunited Nogales
<b>Goal</b>	
Location:	Nogales, Mexico
Problem Statement	<p>The border between the United States of America and Mexico is one of the most rigorous border in the world. With 1,100km of high security fencing, on the total length of 3110km of the border, the U.S. attempt to keep illegal immigrants and smuggling out. U.S. citizens seem to give up a lot of their privacy to 'feel safe', but is there a need to feel afraid of their southern neighbours?</p> <p>In 1996 the U.S. started with building 4ft. high steal fences around, and straight through, cities that are situated on the border. These twin-cities were rigorously divided by these fences, built undisturbed by mountains, desert or sea. Nogales is one of these twin-cities, located in the mountainous area between El Paso and Calexico.</p> <p>As characteristic as the view on Nogales may seem, the fence has big influences on the twin city. In the past inhabitants of the city could pass the border easily to go visit their family or to work on the other side of the border. There used to be a low fence. Since the high security fencing was build, and certainly after the terroristic attack of 9/11, passing the border is much harder. As citizens on both side of the border are sometimes falsely informed by media and government, the perception of people start to change, as it became harder to get first hand information (by seeing the situation with their own eyes). Older people still have their own memories to hold on to, but the younger generation are missing own experiences.</p> <p>This case of false perceptions are a significant problem for the city, as collaboration is blocked. To restart the collaboration that could bring Nogales more wealth, people must get rid of their false perception and create own experiences. Nogales has to function as one city.</p>
Research Question	What architectural intervention would restart the collaboration between Nogales-U.S. and Nogales-Mexico and make it functioning as one city to show the inhabitants of the border region the reality instead of false perception? Could Nogales be an example twin-city for the rest of the border region, and could these twin-cities give a positive impulse to create a dynamic and interesting border region?

Design assignment	The design assignment for Nogales would be to design a city structure where the younger generation, from the U.S. and Mexico, can co-operate and create own experiences. This can be triggered by an intervention that has a program matching the younger generation and the qualities of the city. An important role in this city structure will be the mobility (and eliminating transport from the city centre to routes around the city) as Nogales has a oblong form built between mountains. Besides, Nogales needs a new interpretation of the border (border security as well as the physical fence) to let it function as one city. This will need adjustment to the regional structure.
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**Process**

**Method description**

The first part of the project started with the research on the border region by creating a Border Atlas. In this atlas all topics regarding the border region are mapped, from mobility maps to social issues like demographical maps. The atlas was created by information provided by sources from teachers, connections of teachers living in Mexico and internet. Additional to these sources we did a field trip to the border area to provide ourselves with the missing information and to form our own perception of the area. We drove 3000 kilometres and crossed the border at six places at twin cities on the border, as we wanted to get a better understanding of the region on both sides of the border. The information from both the Border Atlas as our field trip, in combination with several case studies resulted in the proposed intervention on the twin city Nogales.

**Literature and general practical preference**

Literature:

Chomsky, N. (2013) How the U.S.-Mexico border is cruel by design, Architecture MPS.  
Hanson, N.R. (1958) Patterns of Discovery; an inquiry into the conceptual foundations of science, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.  
Romero, F. Hyperborder: The contemporary U.S.? Mexico border and its future (Paperback: 2007)

**Precedents**



Pasila OMA, Helsinki



IIT MCCORMICK TRIBUNE CAMPUS CENTER, OMA, Chicago



Cordoba Congress Center, OMA, Cordoba



City Hall Park, OMA, São Bernardo do Campo

## Reflection

### Relevance

By researching the factors that creates experiences and perceptions, a new typology for the city structure can be developed and implemented on other twin-cities, or cities with similar problems. The intervention will give a new strong impulse to the city wherefrom new collaborations can develop to create a prosperous region.

## Time planning

MSc 3

Week 1

- Introduction
- Research/readings on the theme

Week 2-6

- Research on border area
- Border Atlas

Week 7-8

- Trip to US-MEX border

Week 9

- Processing all information from trip
- Finalizing Border Atlas
- Defining position

Week 10

- 5 November: P1 presentation

Week 11-15

- Creating masterplan
- Defining location
- Research on individual interest
- Arguments on position
- Defining program

Week 16

- 16 December: Pin-up (Pre-P2)

Week 17

- Revision masterplan
- Zoom in on site
- Start on architectural building concept

Week 18

- Pin-up on architectural drawings (masterplan, site, building)
- Revision site plan
- Revision building concept
- Preparing P2 presentation

Week 19

- 22 January: P2 presentation

MSc 4

Week 1

- Research revision at local and border scale
- Programmatic needs, adjusting program
- Schematic layout of program in site context
- Integration to the master plan/neighbourhood

Week 2

- Building program redefinition / analysis
- Detailed outline of program and sizes
- Adjacency diagrams/ accessibility study
- Routing diagrams (pedestrian vehicle)

Week 3-7

- Schematic Design
- Building form, site integration
- Accessibility, arrival/ departure
- Spatial and programmatic qualities
- Design development
- Development of details
- Basic concept of materials

Week 8

- P3 PRESENTATION (proposed date)

Week 9-13

- Design refinement
- Technical details
- Presentation drawings and models
- Production of presentation drawings and models

Week 14

- P4 PRESENTATION (proposed date)

Week 15 - 19

- Design refinement and revision
- Production of models and drawings
- Making of the research book

Week 20

- P5 PRESENTATION (proposed date)