

borderwalk



Question:

What role do politics play in the shaping and organization of spaces which we encounter and inhabit daily?

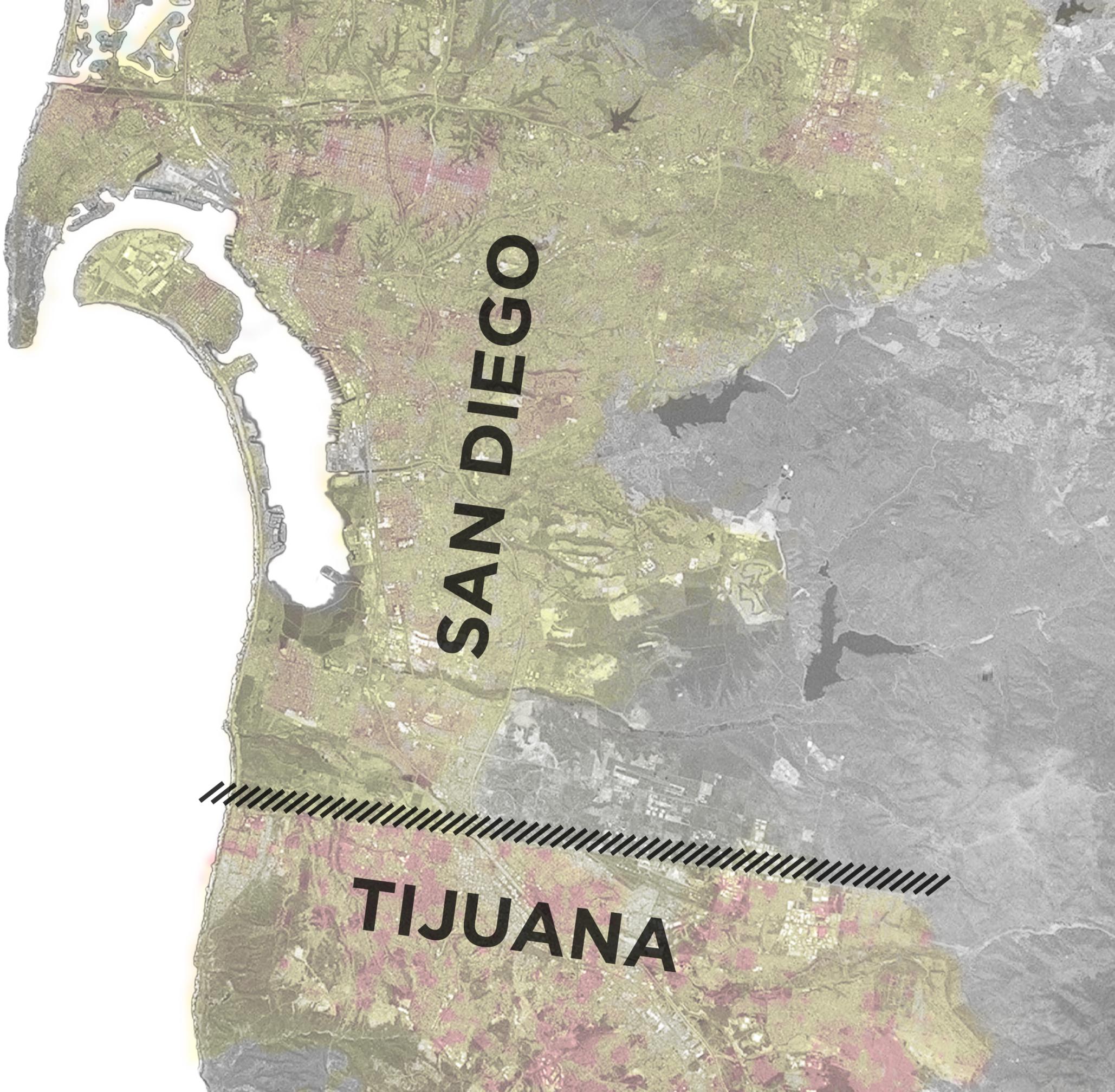
The Claim Although the act of crossing a state's national border is largely an issue of politics, it is equally a matter of architecture.

Premises Our bodies are mobile regions of personal space that interact with other spatialities of varying scales and intensities. Borders exist at all levels of these encounters. All borders are primarily concerned with spatial conditions, both literally and figuratively, and how one moves through or around them, or alternately embraces them. While by definition, borders create dichotomy, taking sides, and producing and occupying spaces of opposition; they also invite transgression and transcendence, creating dynamic spaces of hybridity.

In the supposed age of globalization, it seems paradoxical that border zones [especially those which lie between nations considered to be "First-World" and those condemned "Third-World"] have become increasingly militarized. The weaponization of the U.S.—Mexico borderlands has significant architectural implications, in which architecture becomes a materialization of political power and prejudices.
Architecture is never neutral.

Theoretical Premise The border should not be treated as an exclusionary barrier, but rather an intersection or nexus of trajectories and encounters.

Project Justification As the gap between the world's wealthy and poor continue to broaden and natural resources diminish, a nation's geographical region becomes either a crutch or a burden, thus routes of exodus and arrival become essential actions for survival. Bryan Finoki, author of the excellent blog Subtopia, suggests, "It seems one way or another a growing majority of the world's people are becoming geoeconomically uprooted and caught in between two parallels of opposing nowheres: a past place of expulsion, and a future one of denial." (Finoki)



SAN DIEGO

TIJUANA





Otay Mesa Port of Entry







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