EDGES OF THE MIND (RECONSTRUCTING AN URBAN PONTOS) "The world as we know it is rarely if ever edgeless. Every thing, every place has its edges. Of very few concepts can such scope be claimed" Fedward S. Casey

This thesis explores the dramatic way in which edges influence human A dramatic relationship with this edge-world was lived by the ancient Greeks. The North Lawndale Community of Chicago is an expression of an incredibly of the Mind" begins to explore the impact of edges upon the world.

Edges actively exploit human curiosity. Even the edge of a wall in a home follows this pattern. A wall makes possible the existence of an adjacency between imaginative process sets in with the ability to imagine into the adjacent space. The individual simultaneously populates both spaces, one physically, and one mentally. The inhabited room is known while the room beyond is unknown.

These knowns and unknowns are the basic components of any edge for these are the very things that edges act to conjoin and separate. Thus, it becomes evident that this concept of edges is rooted far deeper into our lived reality than mere physical experience.

Enclaves of Discovery

perception while relating to architecture and a larger sociocultural context. The They understood that edges act to define our vision and guide our abrupt urban edge. The intersection of two opposing gang societies coincides horizon of our existential reality, the material world within which we exist, is movements. The okeanos, or the ocean encircling the entirety of their known with Douglas Boulevard effectively splitting the community in two. The one composed of edges and defined by them. A world lacking this order is world, was the ultimate edge. In fact, the significance of this edge is conveyed presence of this edge is intensified by the current condition of Chicago's impossible. Without edges, all that remains is indeterminate mass and even in their language as they differentiated their relationship to the educational system. Over the next year, fifty of Chicago's schools will be shapeless form. We exist in a world entirely characterized by edges, an edge- edge-world while navigating the okeanos. Costagierre was the word used to permanently closing - the largest mass closing of schools in our nation's history. world. Collectively, edges can be identified as any formal or formless entity that define their comfort zone – within eyesight of the coast – the edge of land. To Frightening repercussions of these events are already being witnessed by North serves the simultaneous roles of separation and unification. In the most stray into the pontos was to slip into the unknown, beyond view of the coast's Lawndale which is losing four of its seven public schools. Where before a fundamental sense, this duality is present in all geometries from the edges of a edge. No one dared venture beyond the edge of the costagierre into the student could walk to school without leaving his own neighborhood, his own cube to the edges of a dinner table. It is through this understanding that "Edges" unknown expanse of the pontos were the edges that orient their perception costagierre, he now must venture into an urban pontos, a dangerous unknown,

If we take this ancient Greek relationship with the edge world and abstract it, North Lawndale's edge - the political edge of rival gang empires. we can reinterpret the concept of okeanos as something synonymous with the The aim of the project is to begin to reconstruct this intangible edge spaces. Beyond its physical presence though, the wall facilitates an even more idea of familiarity — an edge between the known and the unknown architecturally into the form of a school. The architecture can take the place of significant unifying act. When human consciousness interacts with this edge, an (costagierre and pontos). There is an English word for the act of engaging this the edge in such a way as to make present basic edge duality and unite separate mental edge between known and unknown. The word is learn. Learning is surfaces of the city. simply the act of transcending the realm of familiarity (costagierre) into a new

This occurs by drawing students in from either side of the edge to the edge

> place within the context of present day architecture. For what is architecture leave the safety of their own urban costagierre. So, by reconstructing North but an arrangement of edges? Cities, towns, and the whole of the built Lawndale's edge into the material form of a new school, a safe and dynamic environment can be understood as complex networks of edges.

because his previous school is now closed. Students must now literally cross the

itself, the school. Here, in this safe haven, they are allowed to interact and, The trajectory of this logic begins to point this project concept toward a resting together, engage the intellectual pontos of learning without being forced to environment is born, inviting students to learn, exploring the edges of the mind.













