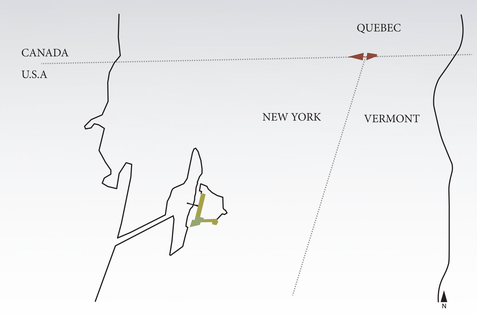
TRANSCENDING BORDERS

Despite the popularity of border issues in today's media, the spatial transcendence, which borders create, remains unrecognized. This thesis discusses the relationship between architecture and borders. Looking at a border through the lens of a designer offers a variety of perspectives into the different ways in which individuals and societies cross borders. From this perspective, they are no longer looked at as a line, but as a tool, which humans created to bring order to chaos within the mind and the physical world.

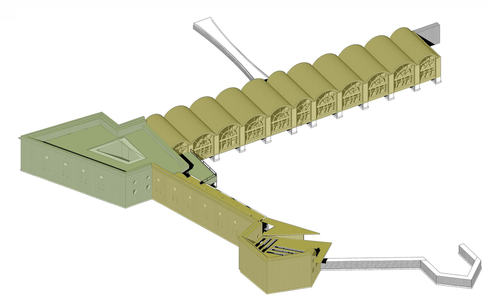
"Transcending Borders" creates a common ground where exclusive societies can cross borders as one. This is architecturally expressed as a museum, retreat center, and a monument on a historical site intersecting national and international borders. The project demonstrates that the space a border creates cultivates community while maintaining identity, diversity, security, and a sense of place.

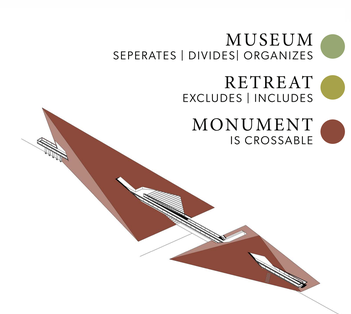


The site is located on Lake Champlain at the invisible intersection of the borders between Quebec, New York, and Vermont and on an abandoned military fort that lies just south of this intersection in New York.

Fortification on the border began shortly after the War of 1812 due to increased military activity from the British Dominion of Canada to protect the waterway into the United States. Construction on Fort Montgomery began in the summer of 1844. Photographs of the ruins left behind are shown at the bottom of the board.

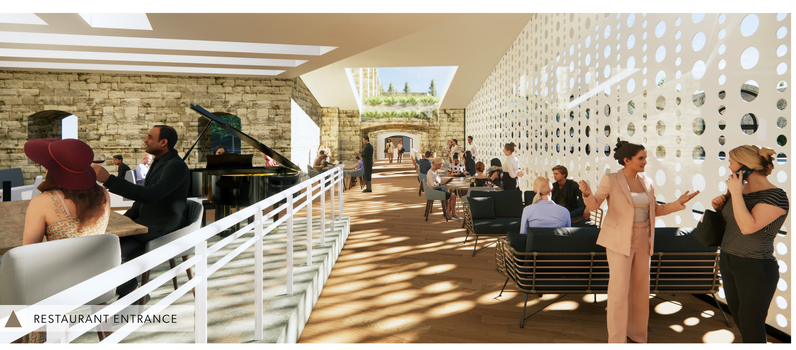
The project defines a border as something that separates, divides, and organizes unique spaces, excludes or includes unique groups, and can be crossed either psychologically or physically. The diagram below illustrates how the three main program components correlate to the definition of a border.

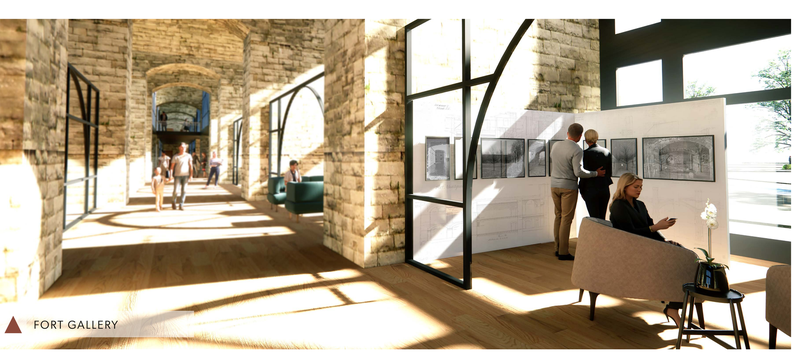




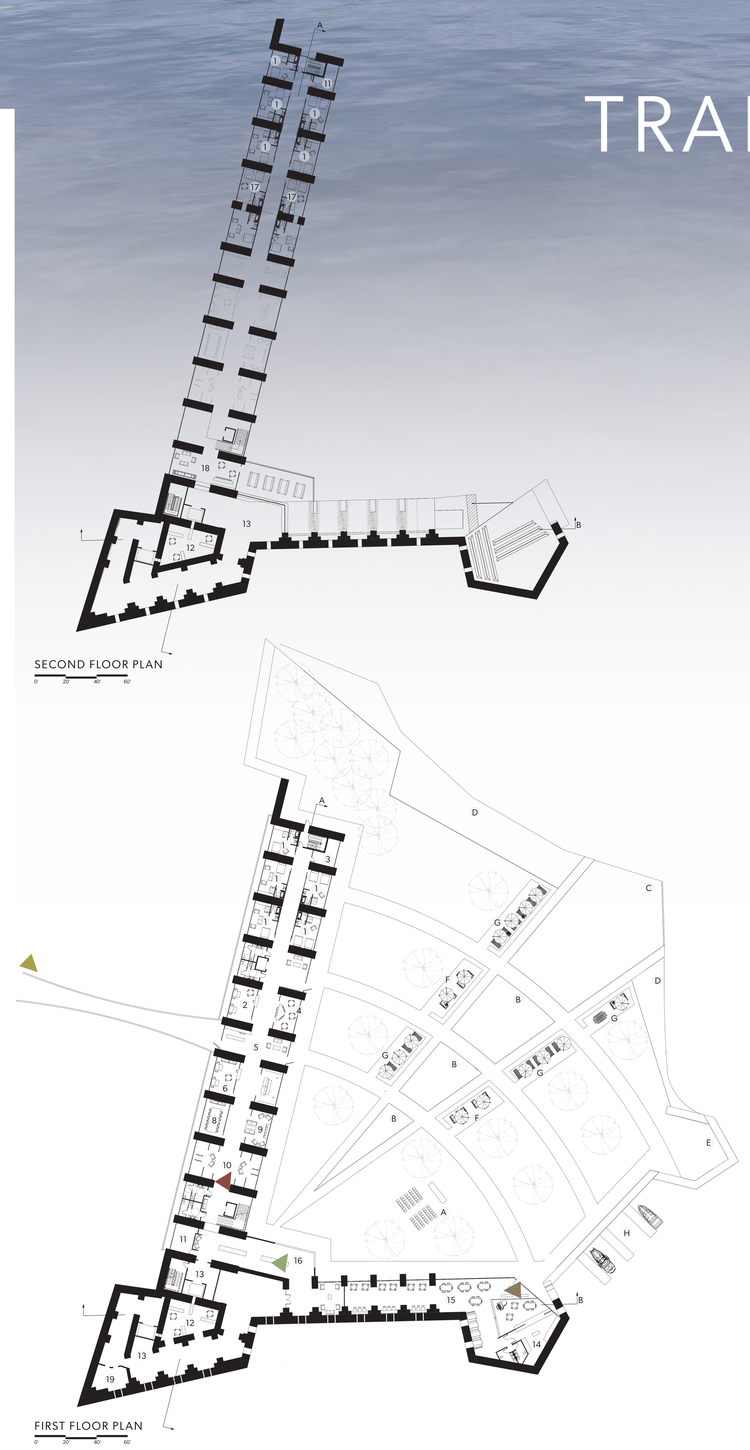
FORT ENTRANCE

TANTILIZING WINDOW


RESTAURANT ENTRANCE


FORT GALLERY

AERIAL SITE PLAN

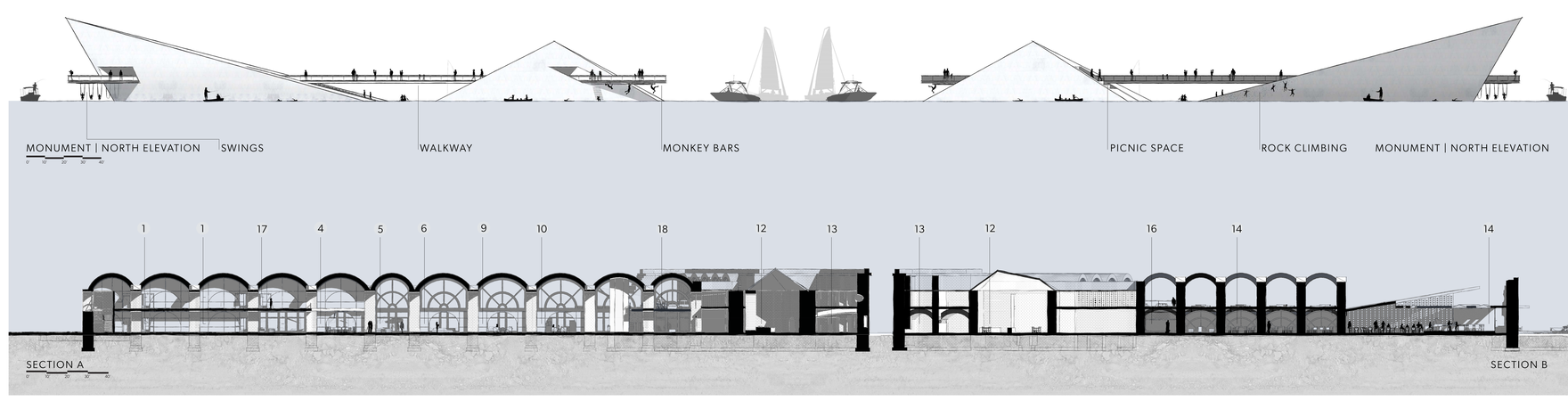


RETREAT ROOM 1
RETREAT OFFICE 2
LAWN CARE 3
RETREAT LOBBY 4
ENTRANCE 5
MUSEUM OFFICE 6
MUSEUM GIFT SHOP 7

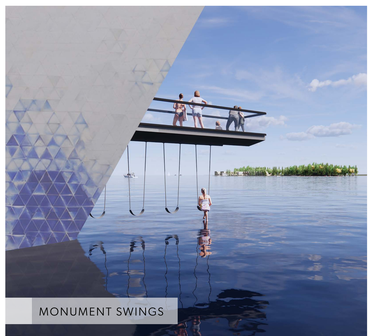
CONFERENCE ROOM 8
MUSEUM LOBBY 9
GALLERY 10
MECHANICAL 11
GUN MAGAZINE ATRIUM 12
MUSEUM 13
RESTAURANT 14

KITCHEN 15
TANTILIZING MONUMENT VIEWING 16
PRESIDENTIAL RETREAT ROOMS 17
SMALL EVENT SPACE 18
OVEN REMAINS 19
OUTDOOR WEDDING SPACE A
SWIMMING POOL B

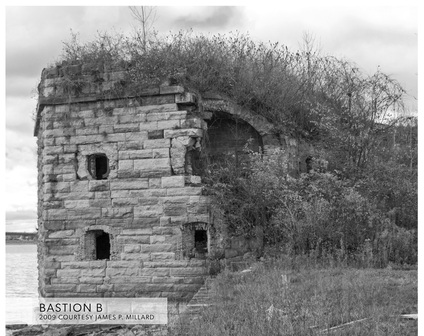
INFINITY POOL C
BEACH D
TELESCOPE PLATFORM E
INTIMATE GATHERING SPACE F
SOCIAL GATHERING SPACE G
RESTAURANT DOCKING H



MONUMENT SILHOUETTE


MONUMENT SWINGS

PRE-DEMOLITION
COURTESY RAY SEQUIN


BASTION B
2009 COURTESY JAMES P. MILLARD

PARADE VIEW
2009 COURTESY JAMES P. MILLARD

CURTAIN II
2009 COURTESY JAMES P. MILLARD