

# **Bordertopia:**

Architecture and Fiction at the Canada-United States Border

by

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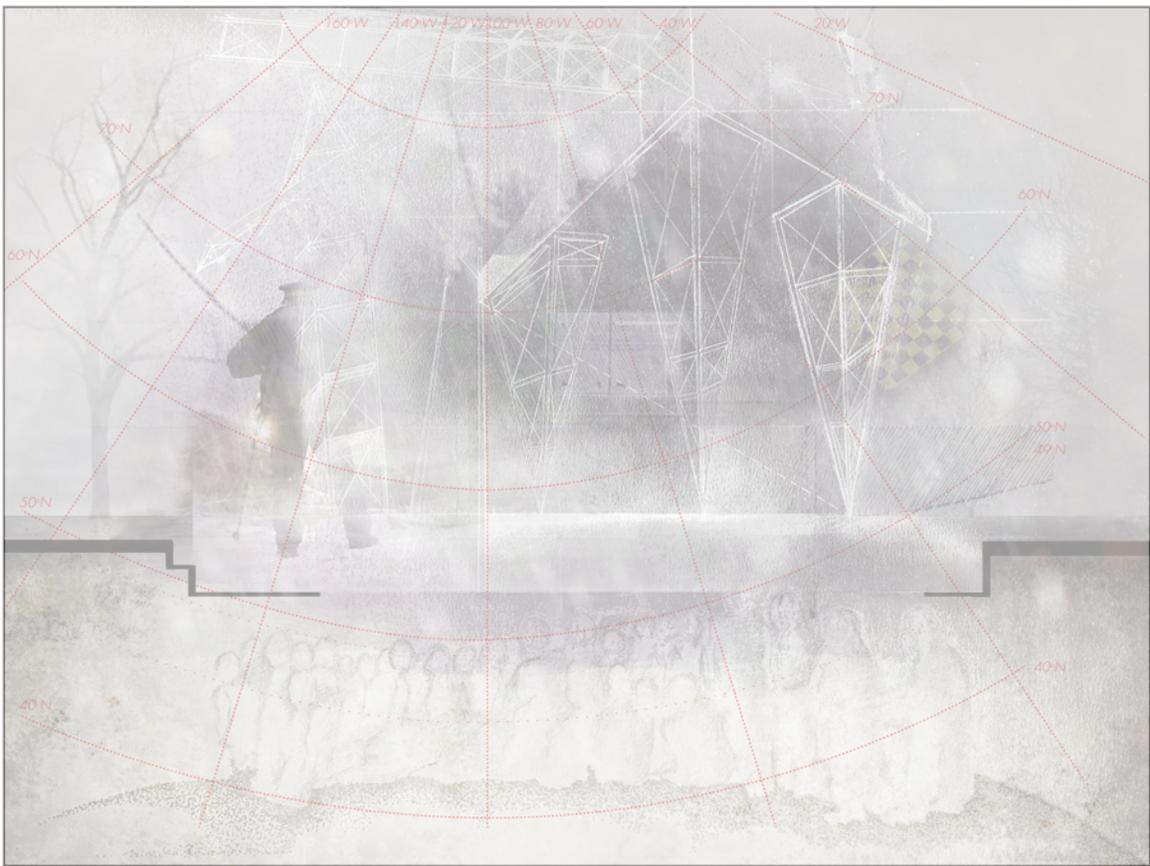
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## Bordertopia:

Architecture and Fiction  
at the Canada-United States Border

Jenny Leung



## **ABSTRACT**

This thesis began with research into a current crisis condition manifest in the growing number of illegal border crossings into Canada from the United States. Bordertopia evolved beyond the practicality and the legality of the issue, developing into a hypothetical condition that speculates a future for the international boundary. In the summer of 2017, the influx of people crossing the border illegally surged to a record high, affecting the political regime and the human condition. This thesis questions the status of the nomadic individuals who have situated themselves within the Canadian border. Bordertopia explores the framework of present space and time, using an architectural strategy that envisions border topologies of a near future. Using a network of informal crossings as a port of entry, the destination for the refugees is a self-determining community that continues to move and transform, while maintaining an aesthetics of incompleteness and temporariness.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

To my dearest family,  
for their unconditional support and endless patience.

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throughout has been invaluable.

To the one I care for most,  
who always encourages me to push beyond the limit.

And a special thanks  
to my friends and fellow M.Arch colleagues  
for their friendship and constant reassurance.

*"Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me"*

**Emma Lazarus, *The New Colossus*, New York:  
Statue of Liberty National Monument, 1883.**

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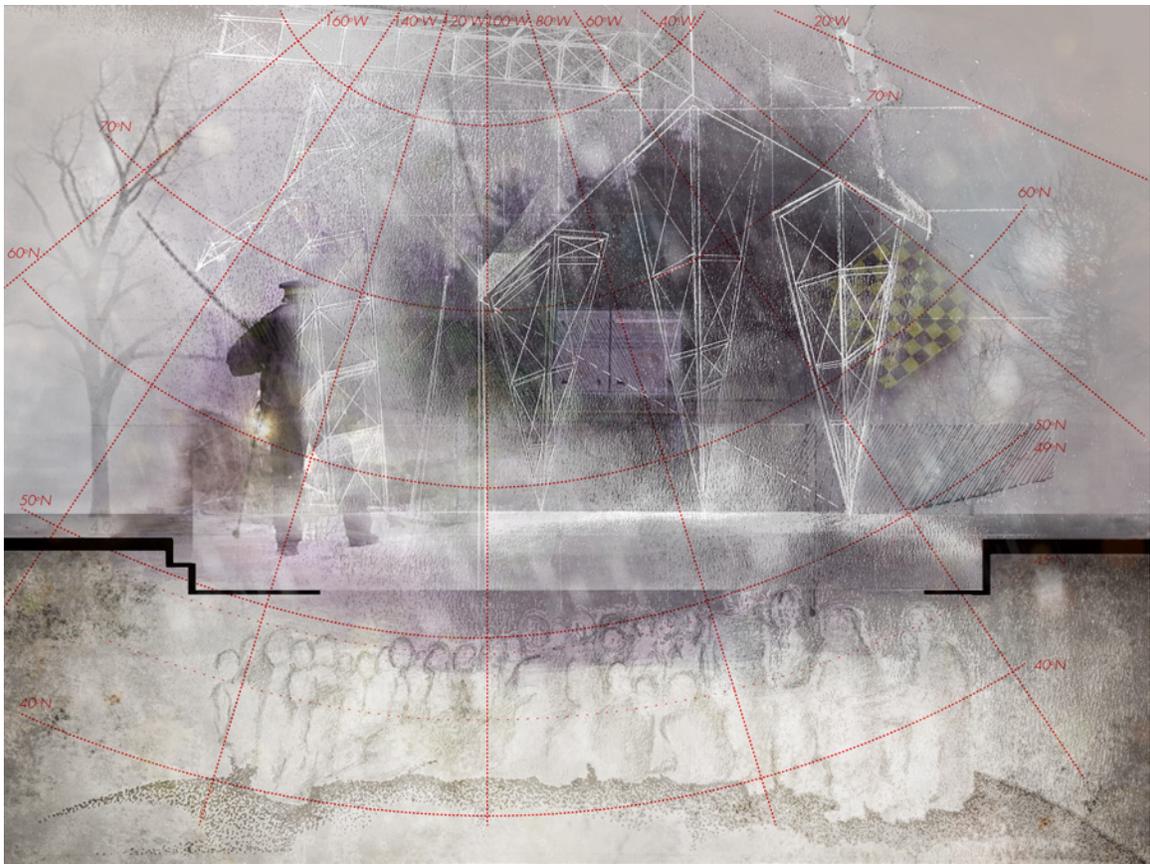
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*"A map of the world that does not include  
Utopia is not even worth glancing at,  
for it leaves out the one country which Humanity is landing.  
And when Humanity lands there, it looks out,  
and seeing a better country, it sets sail.  
Progress is the realisation of Utopias."*

**Oscar Wilde, *The Soul of Man Under Socialism*,  
43, no. 4 (1891): 11.**





# BORDERTOPIA - AN INTRODUCTION



# INTRODUCTION

## THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*"In the first place, we don't like to be called "refugees." We ourselves call each other "newcomers" or "immigrants"... A refugee used to be a person driven to seek refuge because of some act committed or some political opinion held. Well, it is true we have to seek refuge; but we committed no acts and most of us never dreamt of having any radical opinion. With us the meaning of the term "refugee" has changed. Now "refugees" are those of us who have been so unfortunate as to arrive in a new country without means and have to be helped by Refugee Committees."*

**Hannah Arendt, *We Refugees*, (Menorah  
Journal 31, no.1, 1943), 69.**

Recognized as the longest international border in the world, the Canada-United States border stretches 8,891 km, dividing the two nations. One begins to question the existence of this boundary line as merely an imaginary construct; simply drawn on a map defining where one nation ends and the other begins. However, while the fictitious political border constitutes a real divide, the land is continuous, and the river continues to flow through the cultures of both nations.

Established through a treaty, the mandate of the International Boundary was finalized in 1908 and it defines the border condition as marked today. The 49th parallel north forms an almost straight line between the provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba of Canada and the US states of Washington, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota

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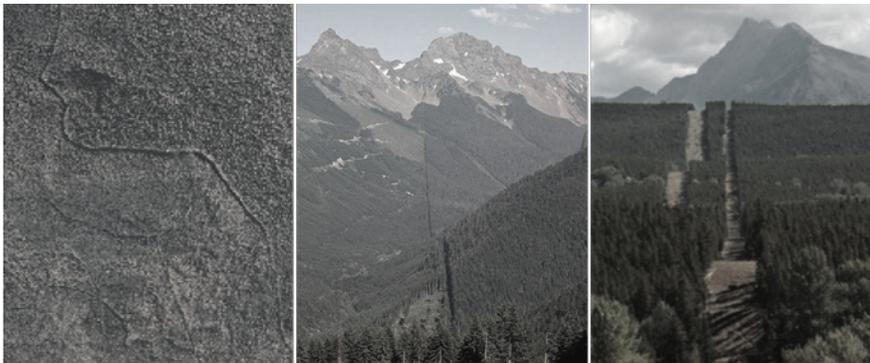
and Minnesota. The border line begins to intersect at turning points where the Great Lakes form in the province of Ontario. Continually divided by the St Lawrence River, the boundary creates another turn towards the 45th parallel between Quebec, Canada and New York and Vermont of the United States. Across the entire length of the border, the boundary is identified with a 6-meter clearance, stretching from horizon to horizon, over mountains, cliffs, waterways, prairie grasses and dense forests. This clear vista makes the boundary visible and unmistakably defined. Entirely free of obstruction, it marks a division for proper enforcement of the legal systems of each nation. The general concept of borders is defined by the political regime of two abutting geographical entities. As a fluid society, human beings are constantly in search of a better place and new opportunities for an improved lifestyle. The political regime of management and control is in direct correlation with human migration patterns, where migration is reliant on citizenry, proper documentation and legality. The method of approach is initiated through an understanding of the politics of asylum and the agency of non-citizens in a foreign country.

In the summer of 2017, the Customs and Immigration Union recorded that up to 500 people per day were irregularly crossing the border into Quebec, Canada. It totalled to over 20,000 individuals crossing the border at unofficial ports of entry across Canada in the year of 2017.<sup>1</sup> Prior to the outbreak, Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, announced on social media welcoming “those fleeing persecution, terror & war [to Canada], Canadians will welcome you, regardless of your faith.”<sup>2</sup>

---

1. "Asylum Claims - Canada.ca," Government of Canada, last modified January 2018, <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/asylum-claims.html>.

2. Ian Austen, "In Canada, Justin Trudeau Says Refugees Are Welcome," The New York Times, (2017): <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/28/world/canada/justin-trudeau-trump-refugee-ban.html>.



[Figure 1, 2, 3]  
 – Border Vista  
 between Canada  
 and USA

1. *Border vista  
 aerial* , 2015.

2. *Vista through  
 mountains* , 2007.

3. *Vista through  
 valleys* , 2011.



[Figure 4, 5, 6]  
 – Various Conditions  
 and Crossing  
 Checkpoints

4. *Border signage*,  
 2016.

5. *Stone Obelisk  
 marking boundary*,  
 2011.

6. *Temporary  
 checkpoint* , 2017.

figure 1. "The Boundary | International Boundary Commission." International Boundary Commission, 2015. Retrieved from: <http://www.internationalboundarycommission.org/en/about/the-boundary.php>.

figure 2. Retrieved from: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:49\\_parallel\\_waterton.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:49_parallel_waterton.jpg)

figure 3. DeMonte, Jennifer. "U.S. Mulls Canadian Border Fence - Politics - CBC News." Daily Inter Lake/Associated Press, 2011. Retrieved from: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/u-s-mulls-canadian-border-fence-1.1084326>.

figure 4. Retrieved from: <https://ppgreview.ca/2016/11/17/ppgr-morning-briefing-november-17-2016/>

figure 5. Retrieved from: <http://ktla.com/2017/05/21/fleeing-fear-of-deportation-in-u-s-growing-number-of-latin-american-immigrants-head-to-canada/>

figure 6. Retrieved from: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/asylum-seekers-quebec-roxham-1.4232608>

This resulted in a backlash as the amount of people seeking asylum in Canada surged to a record high. To maintain control of the situation, the Canadian military began to set up temporary shelters and aid nearby border service agencies with additional staffing resources to expedite the process near the border areas of concern.<sup>3</sup>

Instigated by the exploration of boundaries, national territories, and the border crisis of 2017, this thesis is a theoretical hypothesis in consideration of the border landscape between the two adjoining nations, speculating on the possibility that an extreme condition occurs, where countless nomadic individuals wander along the border with no place to call home.<sup>4</sup> Consequently, the predicted processing times for illegal refugees seeking permanent status under these circumstances can take up to 11 years.<sup>5</sup> Thus, it results in a crisis that the nation must confront with urgency.

---

3. Benjamin Shingler and Verity Stevenson, "Military Builds Tent Village to House Surge of Asylum Seekers at Quebec Border." CBC News, [2017]:- <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/quebec-announcement-asylum-seekers-1.4240038>.

4. Verity Stevenson, "Why Are Thousands of Haitians Streaming into Canada from the U.S." CBC News, [2017]: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/haitians-may-lose-protected-status-in-us-1.4233797>.

5. Stephanie Levitz, "Wait Time for Canadian Asylum Claims Could Hit 11 Years, Cost \$2.9 Billion: Government Analysis." The Star, [2017]: <https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2017/06/15/wait-time-for-canadian-asylum-claims-could-hit-11-years-cost-29-billion-government-analysis.html>.

## RESEARCH



## OPERATIVE



## DESIGN



[Figure 7] - Chapter Breakdown

## **Part I:**

### **On Theories of Politics and Existentialism**

Part I will explore the meaning of borders, as they are ubiquitous in political life. It encompasses the questions concerning identity, geography and separation. It looks at how cultures are defined by geographical entities divided by the concept of the border state. Through this exploration, the research of the situational crisis between Canada and the United States of America is analyzed. By understanding the current situation, this thesis proposes a hypothesis speculating into the future framework for the crisis and how it can be translated into an architectural solution. Following, it will look at the impact of how the border crisis affects the refugees by understanding human existence and the way human beings find themselves existing in the world.

## **Part II:**

### **Society and Culture**

In the current framework where the nomadic individuals are pending receipt of refugee status in Canada, they begin to construct their own place of dwelling in rural parts of Canada. In Part II, this thesis will examine possible ideals of a future community, and then illustrate a new concept of that society through a utopianism at the border. A thorough analysis of utopian socialism and avant-garde movements will be considered to design for the functions of social spaces and the networks of an informal border crossing.

---

### **Part III:**

#### **On the Implications of Technology**

This section will discuss the process work of the proposed design. The deconstruction process of mechanisms of momentum will help determine how the ports of entry bridges into a network from one nation to another, towards the megastructure of the nomadic city. An analysis on structure of the new border construct will be explored to support the growing and unfinished city undergoing movement and transformation. To accentuate the architectural fantasy, the objective is to elicit emotion and feelings of an aesthetic appeal. The notion of the sublime characteristic of the megastructure shall bring awe and astonishment based on the vastness of scale, function of design, mechanism of movement, and the visual portrayal of power and border imaginaries.

### **Part IV:**

#### **A Utopian Future: Design Application**

In Part IV, the design proposal will consolidate and address the question of how can architectural thinking be employed to design for a new future where the stateless people are the drivers for change? Using an aesthetics of incompleteness, the intention is to apply a top-down analogy to the design. The border community will manifest into a reform movement following ideas of a utopian society. It becomes a societal restructuring in which the individuals are no longer drifters or stateless, rather they come together to formulate a city. Thus, the border construct is no longer a problem of concern, but an opportunity for endless interactions.

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[Figure 8] – *Map: Border between Canada and United States of America*



I - ON THEORIES OF POLITICS AND EXISTENTIALISM



# PART I

## ON THEORIES OF POLITICS AND EXISTENTIALISM

*"Every attempt to rethink the political space of the West must begin with the clear awareness that we no longer know anything of the classical distinction between 'zoe' and 'bios', between private life and political existence, between man as a simple living being at home in the house and man's political existence in the city"*

**Giorgio Agamben, *Homo Sacer*, (Stanford, Stanford University Press, 1998), 187-88.**

### 1.1 The Limits of Boundaries

#### \ MEANING

The definition of border is generally distinguished as: "a line separating two political or geographical areas, especially countries" or the "frontier of civilization," borders are the division of nation state, existing as geographical boundaries of political entities, or legal jurisdictions.<sup>6</sup> The treaties of political and social agreements are denoted to "boundary delimitation."<sup>7</sup> While some borders, including interstate borders are often open and unguarded, other borders are entirely under control. People can only cross legally through designated border checkpoints and zones under surveillance. The modern nation-state uses the idea of borders to enable division, which resulted in the creation of national identities.<sup>8</sup>

- **Border:**

a line separating two political or geographical areas, especially countries, or frontier of civilization<sup>6</sup>

- **Boundary Delimitation :**

usually refers to the process of drawing electoral district boundaries.<sup>7</sup>

- **National Identity :**

sense of a nation as a cohesive whole, as represented by distinctive traditions, culture, and language.<sup>8</sup>

6. "Border - Definition of Border in English by Oxford Dictionaries." Oxford University Press, (2018): <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/border> [accessed February 20, 2018].

7. The Electoral Knowledge Network. "Boundary Delimitation." ACE Project, 2018. <http://aceproject.org/ace-en/topics/bd/onePage>.

8. English Oxford Living Dictionaries. "Definition of National Identity in English by Oxford Dictionaries." Oxford University Press, 2018. [https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/national\\_identity](https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/national_identity).



[Figure 9, 10, 11]  
– Border Vista

9. *International Boundary vista on the Southwest Line*, 2015.

10. *International Boundary vista on the Southeast section*, 2015.

11. *International Boundary vista on the 141st Meridian*, 2015.



[Figure 12 - 19]  
– 2017 Border Crisis

12. *Ontario to open shelter to help assist with influx of asylum seekers*, Globe and Mail, 2017.

13. *Trudeau must dispel the myth there's 'always a place' for refugees in Canada*, CBC, 2017.

14. *Canada-U.S. border the final frontier for those seeking refuge*, The Star, 2017.

15. Ibid.

16. *Trudeau must dispel the myth there's 'always a place' for refugees in Canada*, CBC, 2017.

17. Ibid.

18. *Military builds tent village to house surge of asylum seekers at Quebec border*, CBC, 2017.

19. *Americans are increasingly blocked at Canada border*, BBC News, 2017.

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Note:  
figure 9. International Boundary Commission. "Photo Gallery | International Boundary Commission," 2015. <http://www.internationalboundarycommission.org/en/about/photo-gallery.php>.

figure 10. Ibid.

figure 11. Ibid.



- Note:  
 figure 12. Retrieved from: <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/ontario-to-get-shelter-to-help-assist-with-influx-of-asylum-seekers/article36010444/>.  
 figure 13. Retrieved from: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/opinion/myth-refugees-canada-trudeau-1.4257696>.  
 figure 14. Retrieved from: <https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2017/02/20/canada-us-border-the-final-frontier-for-refugee-seekers.html>.  
 figure 15. Ibid.  
 figure 16. Retrieved from: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/opinion/myth-refugees-canada-trudeau-1.4257696>.  
 figure 17. Ibid.  
 figure 18. Retrieved from: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/quebec-announcement-asylum-seekers-1.4240038>.  
 figure 19. Getty Images, Retrieved from: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-39449515>.

## \ CONTEXT

The clear identification of the boundary between Canada and the US as a 6-meter clearance, makes this boundary distinctly defined as a void space achieved by the subtraction of natural forest.

“The imaginary of the thin line that divides our political presences and absences in spatial terms is reproduced in a political imaginary that poses a sharp temporal choice between the lasting presence or immanent absence of thin lines.”<sup>9</sup>

Concurrently, it marks a division for the appropriate enforcement and legality between the two nations. Borders are typically defined by different functions and location delineating where one named space ends and another begins. National governments utilize borders to identify the citizenship, agency and autonomy of people.<sup>10</sup> However, it is important to note that it is not solely about the geographical and political border of Canada and United States, rather also concerned with social, political and cultural conditions.

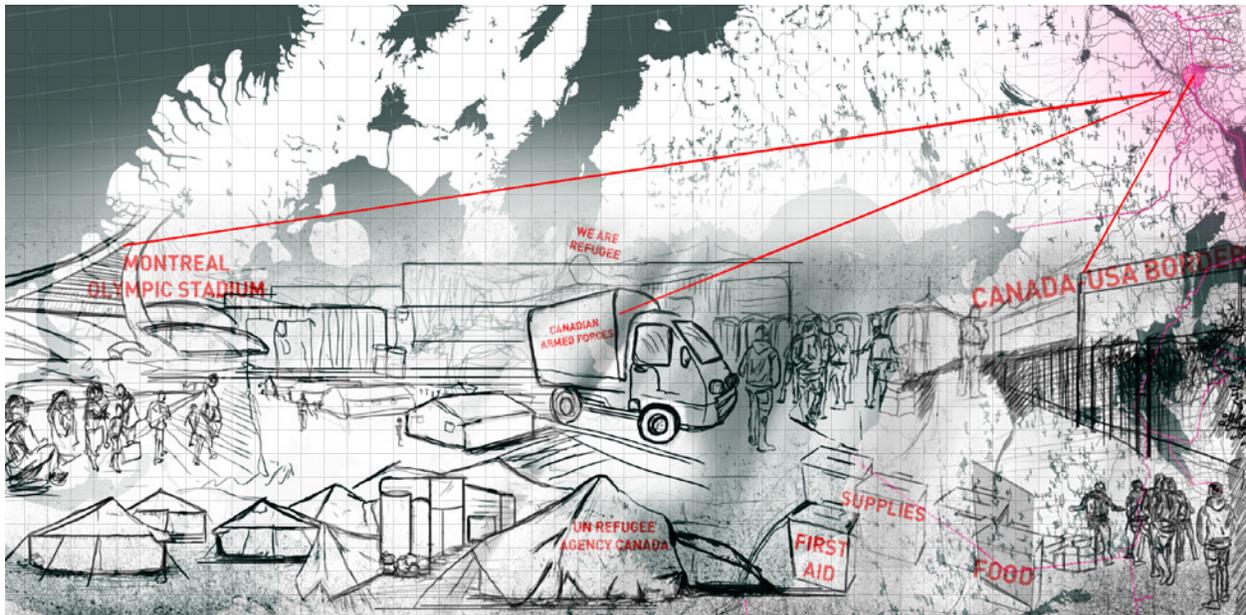
“If borders no longer operate as strictly geopolitical entities, then we might need new ways of attending to such phenomena. We need new ways of seeing and unseeing and new modes of apprehending.”<sup>11</sup> Therefore, simply understanding the quantitative information of the border condition, including length and number of entries is not enough to interpret the border context. The study of the border is further amplified to the subject of the human beings impacted by the crisis and the condition.

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9. Nick Vaughan-Williams, *Border Politics - The Limits of Sovereign Power* (Great Britain: Edinburgh University Press Ltd., 2009) 55.

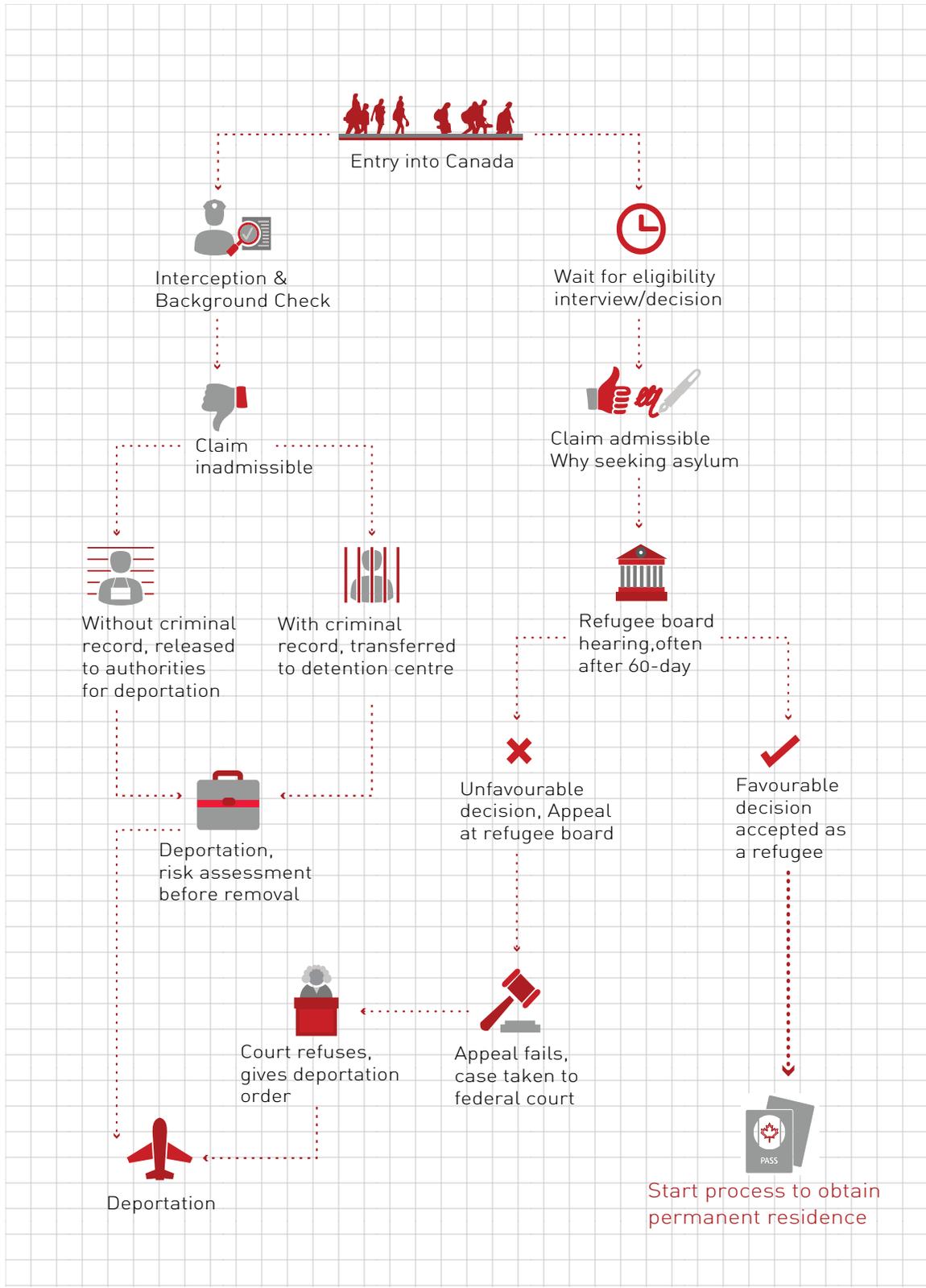
10. Randall W Monty and Alyssa G. Cavazos, “Building Rhetorical Theory through Discursively Constructed Borders.” *Journal of Borderlands Studies* 31, no. 1 (2016): 61.

11. Nishat Awan, “Introduction to Border Topologies.” *GeoHumanities* 2, no. 2 (2016): 281.



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[Figure 20] - *Composition Sketch of Crisis Condition*



[Figure 21] - Diagram of the Asylum Application Process in Canada

## 1.2 The Crisis and the Human Status

### \ CRISIS

The influx of people irregularly crossing the border to Canada in 2017 surged to a record high. The definition of irregular crossing is by means of entering another nation where the division has no official crossing and it is not under surveillance with checkpoints and border security. These individuals are in search for asylum in Canada. In the moment of crossing, when found, the individuals are detained by police officials. Within the time-frame of status-processing, people are usually placed into temporary camp units, or temporarily filling up makeshift beds in under-utilized public buildings of major cities. For example, over the summer the Montreal Olympic Stadium was utilized to house up to 450 asylum seekers.<sup>12</sup>

Based on the UN Refugee Agency definition: “asylum is the right to be recognized as a refugee and to receive legal protection and material assistance. An asylum-seeker is someone who seeks international protection, but whose claim for refugee status has not yet been evaluated.”<sup>13</sup> Within the Canadian asylum system, there are three different categories of processing, depending on how the individual applies, or by means of entry into the nation to make an asylum claim. The three types include: 1) claims made at official ports of entries, 2) application sent through Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), or the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), and 3) individuals entering the country at non-official ports. Based on “The Safe Third Country Agreement”, individuals coming

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12. Montreal's Olympic Stadium Used to House Surge in Asylum Seekers Crossing from U.S." CBC News, 2017. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/olympic-stadium-houses-asylum-seekers-1.4231808>.

13. The UN Refugee Agency in Canada | UNHCR Canada." UNHCR Canada, 2018. Accessed on February 20, 2018: <https://www.unhcr.ca/>

through a legal border checkpoint, between Canada and the US, without proper documentation or identification will immediately be sent back.<sup>14</sup> Hence, asylum seekers believe that by entering at non-official crossings, they can bypass the system. Note that the primary category of concern throughout this thesis pertains to group three: irregular non-official entries only.

At the current rate, it is unclear how many asylum seekers will successfully obtain status, or the number of people that have already been deported. However, thousands have sought to retrieve work permit that would allow for temporary employment while they await decision on their application.<sup>15</sup> The number of asylum seekers intercepted at non-official ports of entries amount to 20,593 in 2017. While crossing illegally at the border is deemed to be the most unsafe with the highest level of risks, there are still many individuals who seek asylum at borders wishing to expedite the process. Others would partake in applying for asylum claim through legal means at official land, air and marine port of entries. Nonetheless, the total number of asylum claims, inclusive of asylum seekers at the border and asylum applicants through legal means processed by the CBSA and IRCC, is totalled at 50,380 in 2017.<sup>16</sup> The statistics collected of the total number of asylum claims in Canada in the year of 2017 has been the highest in comparison for the past two decades.<sup>17</sup>

However, this is not the end of the crisis as the 2018 year will likely be as challenging for border officials and the Immigration and Refugee Board. In the summer of 2017, the President of United States began lifting policies

- **Canada-U.S. Safe Third Country Agreement :**

"Under the Agreement, refugee claimants are required to request refugee protection in the first safe country they arrive in, unless they qualify for an exception to the Agreement.

The Agreement helps both governments better manage access to the refugee system in each country for people crossing the Canada-U.S. land border."<sup>14</sup>

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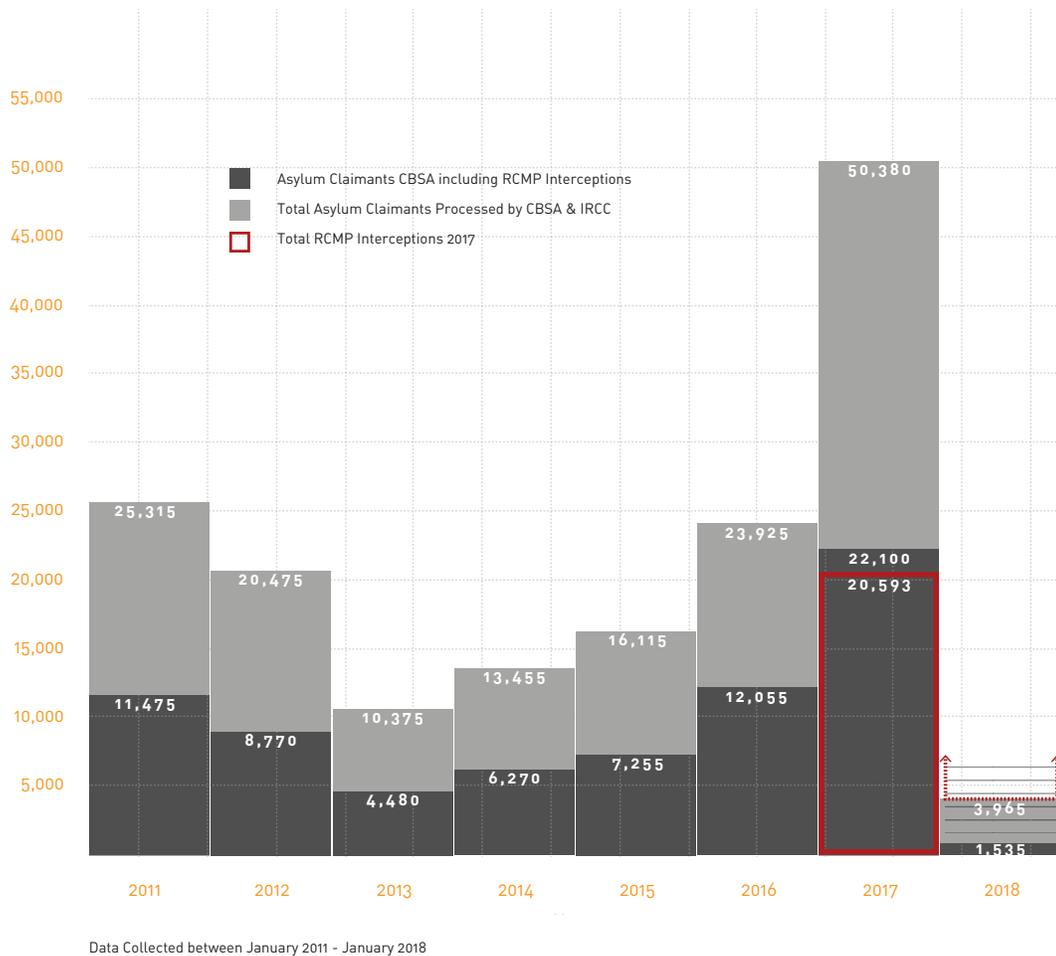
14. "Canada-U.S. Safe Third Country Agreement," Government of Canada, 2016. <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/mandate/policies-operational-instructions-agreements/agreements/safe-third-country-agreement.html>.

15. Scotti, Monique. "RCMP Intercepted over 20,000 Asylum Seekers in 2017 - National." Global News, 2018. <https://globalnews.ca/news/3982219/asylum-seekers-canada-total-2017/>.

16. "Asylum Claims," 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/asylum-claims.html>.

17. Ibid.

for designated countries under temporary protection status, which allowed foreign inhabitants to live in the United States granted by circumstances that occurred in their home country at the time of need.<sup>18</sup> As thousands of diasporas groups realized that they may face deportation, the surge of asylum seekers at the border will continue to be a challenge for the near future.



[Figure 22] – Comparison of Asylum Claimants Canada 2011-2018

18. The Canadian Press. "Salvadoran Asylum Seekers Could Test Canada's Immigration System." CBC News, 2018. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/el-salvador-canada-immigration-surge-1.4476961>.

Note:

figure 22. Data retrieved from: Government of Canada. "Asylum Claimants Processed by Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) and Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) Offices, January 2011 - January 2018 - Canada.ca. Accessed March 19, 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/asylum-claims/processed-claims.html>.

## \ STATUS AND SOCIETY

Individuals intercepted by RCMP officials while crossing the border illegally are taken to the Canada Border Services Agency office to be processed and fill out a claim form. Typically, an eligibility interview would take place immediately to determine if the individual can proceed with their refugee claim in Canada. However, due to the current influx, the interview process is delayed with wait time up to ten months. Once deemed eligible to proceed, in a typical asylum application process a hearing is granted within sixty days, following up to ten months for the refugee board to process a decision.<sup>19</sup> However, under the current circumstances, thousands of scheduled refugee hearings have been abruptly cancelled. The IRCC and CBSA has declared that scheduled hearings will be pushed back from sixty days to sometime between one to two years, since the board has limited resources, lacking in staffing and tribunal authorities, and no control over the backlog and intake of new claims.<sup>20</sup>

This leads to enquiring the physical, social, and mental state of the nomadic individuals and questioning what becomes of their status. Through the philosophy of Giorgio Agamben:

“The refugee must be considered for what he is: nothing less than a limit concept that radically calls into question the fundamental categories of the nation-state, from the birth-nation to the man-citizen link, and that thereby makes it possible to clear the way for a long-overdue renewal of

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19. Andrea Bellemare, “How Asylum Seekers Make Refugee Claims, and Why They Take so Long.” CBC News, (2017): <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/asylum-seekers-refugee-claims-delays-1.4261881>.

20. Nicholas Keung, “Canada’s Refugee Board Abruptly Changes Its Scheduling System amid Surging Backlog.” The Star, (2018): <https://www.thestar.com/news/immigration/2018/01/26/canadas-refugee-board-abruptly-changes-its-scheduling-system-amid-surging-backlog.html>.

categories in the service of a politics in which bare life is no longer separated and excepted, either in the state order, or in the figure of human rights.”<sup>21</sup>

The “limit concept” introduced by Agamben can be interpreted as the border line of division. Regardless of one’s national identity, people should not be constrained strictly by their national status, but rather the hierarchy of human needs as priority. Considering the refugees’ circumstances and experience, it is vital to recognize that these individuals likely suffer from post traumatic stress, insecurity and frustration. A refugee’s mindset can be vaguely categorized by the *Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs*, starting with: their physiological welfare, followed by safety, love and belonging, esteem, and self-actualization at the tip of the pyramid. Their behaviour could be difficult to diagnose, as they likely suffer from anxiety, depression and other major psychiatric disorders during their rehabilitation and adaptation period. A further concern for these individuals is the lack of safety, security, privacy, and all inclusively a place to call home.<sup>22</sup>

In a global context, migration around the world is constant, and as a fluid society human movement is critical:

“[P]roliferation of borders [act] not as the separating lines between discrete spaces but as the production of multiple parameters that in combination determine the vectors of movement across an increasingly heterogenized social space... as a kind of topological network of control.”<sup>23</sup>

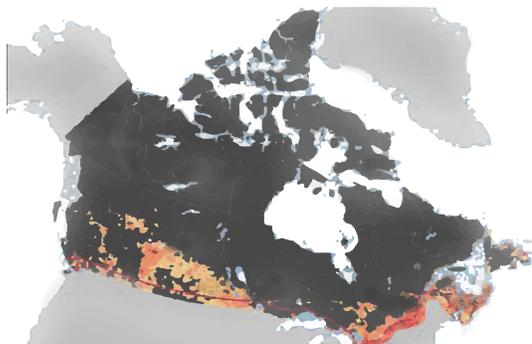
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21. Giorgio Agamben, *The Omnibus Homo Sacer*, Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2017), 111.

22. “Dominant Psychological Paradigms in Refugee Literature and Humanitarian Interventions.” *The Refugee Experience*, 2001. [http://www.forcedmigration.org/rfgexp/rsp\\_tre/student/brief/paradigm/par\\_p3.htm](http://www.forcedmigration.org/rfgexp/rsp_tre/student/brief/paradigm/par_p3.htm).

23. Sandro Mezzadra and Brett Neilson, “Between Inclusion and Exclusion: On the Topology of Global Space and Borders.” *Theory, Culture & Society* 29, no. 4-5 (2012): 69-70.

Insofar, this thesis calls for a speculation of future conditions for the stateless, nomadic individuals. The border of Canada and the United States holds more potential than simply existing as a separation boundary. For example, the border territory can be utilized as a temporary holding space in a defined heterogenized in-between zone for the refugees. How can the new conditions of the refugees be translated to imagine new limitations to the border?



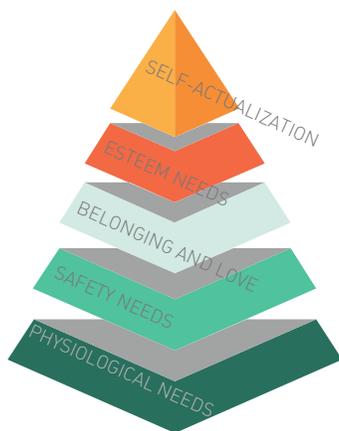
- Sparsely Populated
- 1 to <10 persons per km<sup>2</sup>
- > 50 persons per km<sup>2</sup>
- Indicates 100km away from southern border

[Figure 23, 24, 25]  
- Diagrams

23. *Canadian Population Density by the Border, 2017.*

24. *Maslow's Hierarchy of Human Needs Pyramid*

25. *From Illegal Crossings to Detainment*



Maslow's Hierarchy of Human Needs



Note:  
figure 23. Adapted from: Statistics Canada. "Population Size and Growth in Canada: Key Results from the 2016 Census." Statistics Canada, 2016. <https://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/170208/dq170208a-eng.htm>.

figure 24. Adapted from: Maslow, Abraham H. 1970. Motivation and personality. New York: Harper & Row.

### 1.3 Future Speculations

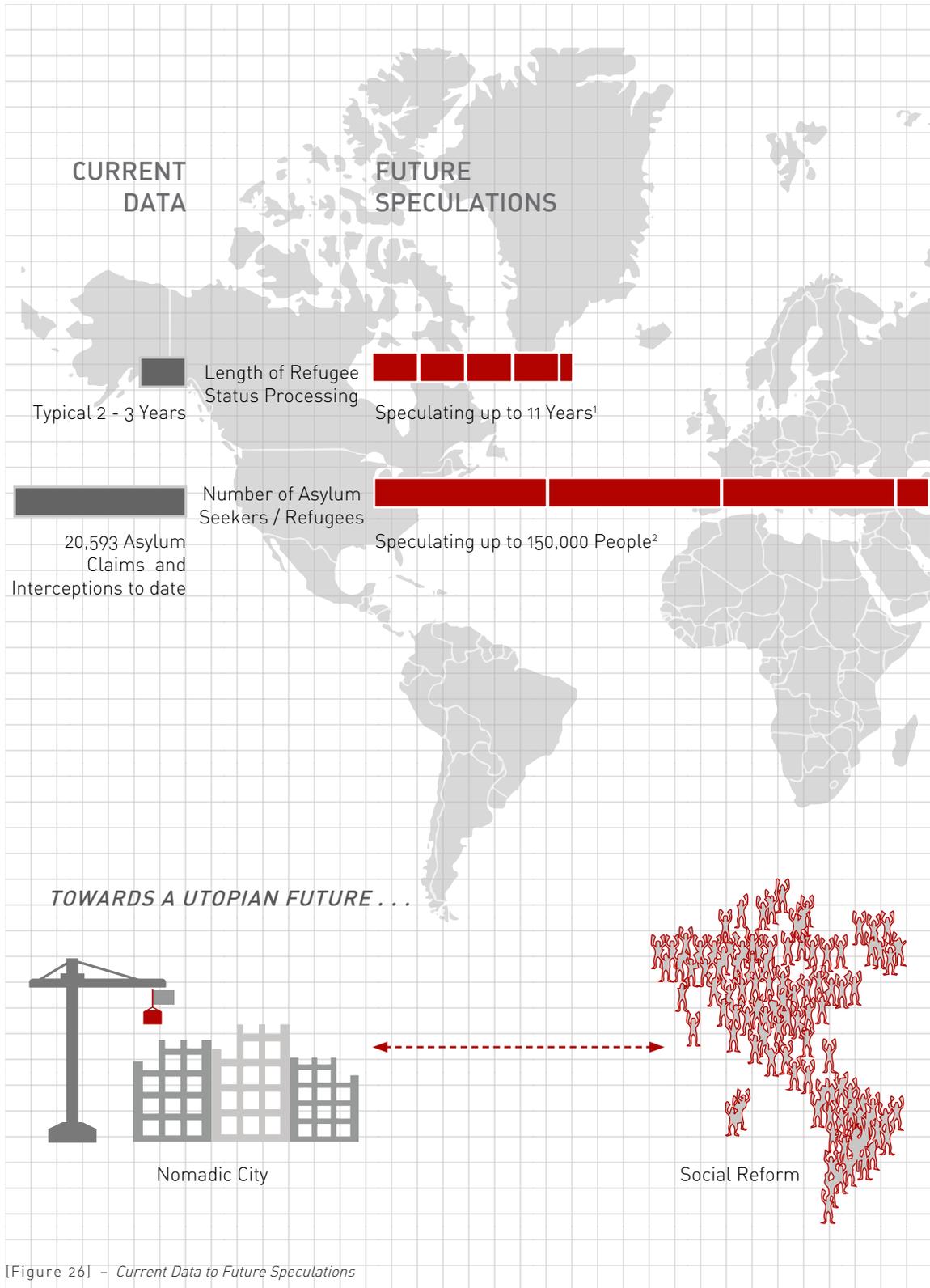
This thesis acts upon a proposed future of hypothetical conditions involving a high number of border crossers as well as drastically long processing time. The current statistics inform us that there are over 20,000 claims from January to December 2017, while current news from CBC said that there could potentially be 50,000 more migrants in the US who believe could be deported in the year of 2018.<sup>24</sup> This leads to the possibility that these individuals may travel northbound to Canada. Similarly, where the typical processing time for refugee status is roughly 3 years, Global News Canada states that with increase of asylum claims the wait times predicted could hit up to 11 years.<sup>25</sup>

While majority of the 2017 surge consisted primarily of Haitian refugees, the status of over 200,000 Salvadoran refugees is pending based on the U.S. government's decision on whether or not they will re-instate their temporary protection status. Debatably, the United States government believes that the nature of the temporary status program has been abused. While the refugees have been granted temporary status due to conflicts or natural disasters, the conditions in many of their countries of origin have changed and were likely resolved by today. Therefore, the U.S. government trust that their home countries are safe to return to, and the refugees will likely face deportation back to their countries of origin.

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24. Verity Stevenson, "Why Are Thousands of Haitians Streaming into Canada from the U.S." CBC News, [2017]: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/haitians-may-lose-protected-status-in-us-1.4233797>.

25. Stephanie Levitz, "Wait Time for Canadian Asylum Claims Could Hit 11 Years, Cost \$2.9 Billion: Government Analysis." The Star, [2017]: <https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2017/06/15/wait-time-for-canadian-asylum-claims-could-hit-11-years-cost-29-billion-government-analysis.html>.



[Figure 26] – *Current Data to Future Speculations*

Note:

1. Data retrieved from: The Star: The Immigration and Refugee Board “claims could hit 11 years, cost \$2.9 billion”

2. Data retrieved from: CBC News: “The flow of asylum seekers crossing into Quebec has been largely driven by the approximately 50,000 Haitian migrants living in the United States who believe they could be deported by January”

Hypothetically, if half the number of the Salvadoran refugees travel northbound to seek asylum, the total number could potentially hit over 150,000 asylum seekers with status pending in Canada while they remain stateless for the time being. Thus, what would become of the situation, the conditions of the people and the tension at the border? Proposing a top-down approach and striving for a perfected alter-society with a utopian attitude, this thesis proposes the formation of a nomadic community situated along the border for the refugees. How does one differentiate the internal and external spaces of modern politics between national boundaries? The advancement of technology has led to new means of possibilities, where security systems allow for more freedom:

“Security checks are no longer necessarily done at the border on a systematic and egalitarian basis, but can be carried out further downstream, within the territory, within the border zone or even upstream with police collaboration in the home country of immigrants, through visa-gathering systems and through readmissions agreements.”<sup>26</sup>

Realization that countries are more open to new technologies of border control, and human migrancy can be interpreted to believe that the border concept between nations can exist to be more than a boundary line. As a result, a new future in favour of the hundreds of thousands of refugees pending for a decade-long status processing time in the country without guarantee of approval. The location in which the new border society will be situated is the zone

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26. Nick Vaughan-Williams, *Border Politics - The Limits of Sovereign Power* (Great Britain: Edinburgh University Press Ltd., 2009) 57.

between Canada and the United States, continually growing northbound towards major Canadian cities, where necessary. Insofar, while planning the new society key characteristics of individualism, independency, privacy and security for the refugee community remains a priority.



*Imagining the construction between the Canada-United States border with views of the Canadian landscape*

[Figure 27] - *Process Composition Rendering*



## II - SOCIETY AND CULTURE



## PART II

### SOCIETY AND CULTURE

*"No one leaves home unless  
Home is the mouth of the shark  
You only run for the border  
When you see the whole city running as well"*

**Warsan Shire, *Home*, (Globe Poetry, 2015).**

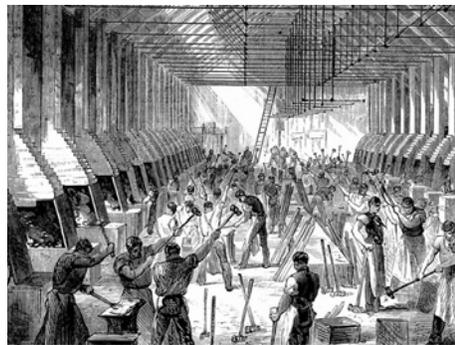
#### 2.1 A Social Reform

The goal of creating a radical break from the present was initiated by imagining a perfected alter-society. Thus, utopian socialism became the vanguard. This section aims to analyze nineteenth century utopian socialist principles to identify how architecture and urbanism are the vehicles for change towards a harmonic society by addressing the social realm at large. The border condition will be the site of the new construct to situate the community. By extrapolating from the utopian principles of Charles Fourier (1772 – 1837) and Ebenezer Howard (1850 – 1928) and integrating the lack of class struggles as proposed by Karl Marx (1818 – 1883) and Friedrich Engels (1820 - 1895), the objective is to identify why utopian visions were essential in the nineteenth century. How are utopian principles eminent in planning a successful community today?

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At the turn of the nineteenth century, the rise of machinery led to a new characterization of the industrialized urban context. The influx of residents, industries and workplace density brought upon a need for change in urban cities. The capacity of pre-established civil infrastructures in the city were unable to accommodate the populace increase and overall density. Consequently, developments were overwhelmed by the lack of hygiene, pollution, congestion, waste, and unpleasant auras in the city.<sup>27</sup> As a result, many innovative thinkers began to scrutinize ways to manage the paradigm shift of the city life. Since the negative attitude towards existing cities were deemed unhealable, it resulted in shaping new cities with an utopian attitude.<sup>28</sup> In "H2O and the Waters of Forgetfulness", Ivan Illich (1926 – 2002) writes about the stench of the modern city contributed by pollution, waste by-products, sewage system and the deceased, which made it a difficult task to deodorize the aura in the city.<sup>29</sup>

Therefore, to attract society into a healthy, clear space, fundamentally free of the city aura became the utopian vision. Architects and planners of the century envisioned society with improved means of work, unity between man and nature, societal harmony, and clean, healthy cities idealized with greenery.



[Figure 28, 29]  
– 19th Century City  
Conditions

28. *Horses drive traffic on London's Oxford Street in 1890*, London Stereoscopic Company.

29. *Sanitary Conditions in the Late 1800s in America*, Getty Images.

27. Kenneth Frampton, *Modern Architecture: A Critical History* (London: Thames/Hudson, 1980), 21.

28. Frampton, *Modern Architecture*, 21.

29. Ivan Illich, *H2O and The Waters of Forgetfulness: Reflections on the Historicity of 'Stuff'* [Dallas: The Dallas Institute of Humanities and Culture, 1985], 45-54.

## 2.2 Utopian Ideals and Culture

Realization of the city conditions led to an imaginative approach to reinvent societal conditions. Thus, utopian imaginaries are politically vital for a society to envision an alternative future for continual growth. Correspondingly, in utopian literature such as Thomas More's "Utopia" (1516), he proposes a socio-political satire of an utopian city on an island.<sup>30</sup> Envisioned as a homogeneous society, the island of Antwerp is isolated from the rest of the world. In the utopian city, the resources are abundant and the city is walled-off as a defence mechanism from any sort of unwelcomed individuals.<sup>31</sup>



[Figure 30 - 33]  
- Utopia & Arcadia

30. *Map of Utopia*,  
Abraham Ortelius,  
1595.

31. *Dream of  
Arcadia*, Oil on  
Canvas,  
Thomas Cole,  
1837-39.

32. *The Mountain  
Ford*, Oil on Canvas,  
Thomas Cole,  
1846.

33. *Evening in  
Arcadia*, Oil on  
Canvas,  
Thomas  
Cole, 1843.



30. Thomas More, *Utopia*, (London; New York: Dover Publications, 1997).

31. Miles Malcom, *Urban Utopias: The Built and Social Architectures of Alternative Settlements* (New York: Routledge, 2008), 19.

Note:

figure 30. Abraham Ortelius' map of Utopia, circa 1595. Retrieved from: <http://www.orteliusmaps.com/book/ort234.html>.

figure 31. Retrieved from: <http://www.the-athenaeum.org/art/list.php?m=a&s=tu&aid=375>

figure 32. Ibid.

figure 33. Ibid.

## \ MODELS OF SOCIAL HARMONY

Designed by Charles Fourier in the early nineteenth century, phalanxes of social harmony were stand-alone buildings that would house approximately 1500 people. The “Phalanstère” was intended to operate on a system of “passional attraction”, where the same types of personality led to mutual attraction.<sup>33</sup> The key to Fourier’s project was the liberty of human passions, derived from the deceptions of the bourgeois lifestyle and marriage society, yet denoted as capitalism and criticized by Marx in the Communist Manifesto. Rather than recognizing class struggles as per Marx, Fourier forestalled the coexistence of classes.<sup>34</sup> The phalansteries were vehicles for social mixing that on a theoretical level allowed for harmony. Fourier believed in a unity: “if the phalanstery of a life of unity, in which joy is unrepressed, then its social form is a settlement in which life is organized according to passional attraction.”<sup>35</sup> The phalanstery planning consisted of a central gathering space for dining rooms, exchange, meeting rooms, library, studies and quiet activity. The core section included the temple, the tower, the telegraph, coops for pigeons, the observatory, as well as a winter courtyard.<sup>36</sup> Fourier envisioned a central room which is used for parade grounds for celebratory events. Thus, the context of the phalanstery is neither urban nor rural, rather the building is like a small city in itself, located in the country area where other phalanxes have a considerable distance from each other.

- **Passional attraction:**

Fourier’s advocacy on a reconstruction of society based on idea that the natural passions of man would, if properly channeled, result in social harmony. <sup>11</sup>



[Figure 34]  
– The Phalanstère

34. *Phalanstère, L'Avenir*, Charles Fourier, Early 19th Century

33. Frampton, *Modern Architecture*, 22.

34. Malcom, *Urban Utopias*, 37.

35. Malcom, *Urban Utopias*, 44.

36. Malcom, *Urban Utopias*, 43.



## 2.3 The Social Realm

The social climate of the nineteenth century was an opportunity to engage in solutions and speculate alternatives that would cope with the wide range of social problems with a unified ideology that was meant to fit all. Howard's intentions of the garden city proposal delineated a transformation that would allow interaction between human society and nature.<sup>38</sup> The utopian dream was a means to unify society with nature, as Howard "advocated a rational, scientific, industrious society in which people held control over the means of production through public ownership of the land and the internalization of social wealth."<sup>39</sup> Zygmunt Bauman (1925 – 2017) elucidates on utopia and the modern mind, claiming "of all human beings, the Utopian is perhaps the one who most faithfully approximates the Heideggerian vision of man as a creature to whom the future is primary because it is the region toward which man projects and in which he defines his own being."<sup>40</sup> To understand the comparison, Martin Heidegger (1889 – 1976) elaborates on how the poetic roots of technology have been obscured by mechanization, which has compelled human beings to hold on to the natural.<sup>41</sup> The natural consists of the "standing reserve" that conceals the truth. Humans are innocently acting as part of a standing reserve in resemblance to an industrial assembly line, thus, an absence of man's own consciousness. Due to the capitalist world-view, criticized by Marx, humans have become slaves to a process that constructs an appearance of the truth, rather than a revelation of truth itself. Guy Debord's (1931 – 1994) idea is considered to understand how commodity can absorb man's consciousness, where man alienates himself to the profit of the contemplated goods.<sup>42</sup> In this process, man

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38. Howard, *To-Morrow: A Peaceful Path to Real Reform*.

39. Clark, *Ebenezer Howard And the Marriage of Town and Country*, 96.

40. Zygmunt Bauman, *Socialism: The Active Utopia*, [Great Britain: George Allen & Unwin, 1976], 22.

41. Martin Heidegger, *The Question Concerning Technology*, [New York: Harper & Row, 1977].

42. Guy Debord, *The Commodity as Spectacle*, (London: Rebel Press, 2001).

has subjected himself as part of the spectacle, while simultaneously estranged from the real world. To diminish the alienation of humanity, Utopia is envisioned as the new "Arcadia", a region of ancient Greece of simple pleasure and quiet.<sup>43</sup> The idealization of nature and the city is harmonized in society as a unified cosmology.

- **Arcadia:**

an imaginary place where people have a simple pleasant life in the countryside;

area of ancient and modern Greece which is shown in literature and art as a perfect, unspoiled, natural place.<sup>38</sup>

## \ EXPERIMENTAL UTOPIA

The solution to defy technology and industrialization is through the repressed roots of the arts. Thus, Howard's ideal city brings one closer to the arts through the interaction with the natural. The Garden City remains a model for a sustainable relationship with nature, aiming towards a future in which human society and nature can co-exist in a unified cosmological framework. Utopian socialism acts as a praxis for imagined worlds of the future.

In contrast, the nineteenth century utopian socialist believed in a harmonic unity. Society were to live together peacefully in the proposed place of being, however, many critique that these utopian visions remain merely imaginaries because the lack the consideration of class struggles. Alternatively, the avant-garde movements that followed began to embrace a closer grasp of reality post-World War I (including Italian Futurism, Russian Constructivism, and Deutsch Expressionism specifically the Crystal Chain).<sup>44</sup> Thus, proposing a gradual architectural transition to accommodate a new way of living in a total work of art. It is a transition to a socially superior mode of life by

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43. Macmillan Publishers Limited. "Macmillan Dictionary." Macmillan Dictionary, 2018. <https://www.macmillandictionary.com/>.

44. Frampton, Modern Architecture, 84-148.

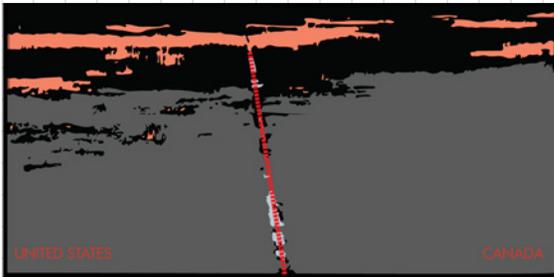
stimulating how society should live. While avant-garde movements and modern utopian architects strive to transform the way of life through a social vision that guides everything in a totality, the utopian principles are core in transitioning a radical change to society. These values can be applied further to the border condition:

“Borders, including international ones, are typically defined by their differentiating function. That is, borders are recognizable locations because they demarcate where one named space and/or place ends and another begins... Therefore, according to our border regionalism framework, analyses of border place and space should begin with the following questions: who are the stakeholders of border regions? Who are the border residents? And, who has the “right” to define a space or region?”<sup>45</sup>

By classification borders connote location, insofar as they are also correspondent to places, spaces, people, culture and society. Border regions must be understood within their context in society and culture. When the border condition is re-adapted with utopian principles, it will reveal opportunities to resolve social discourses and present a new way of living through architecture.

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45. Randall W. Monty and Alyssa G. Cavazos, “Building Rhetorical Theory through Discursively Constructed Borders.” *Journal of Borderlands Studies* 31, no. 1 (2016): 59–72.



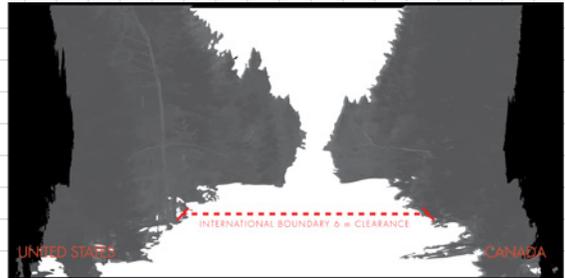
This is how the vista between United States and Canada look from afar... and the beginning of the refugee crisis



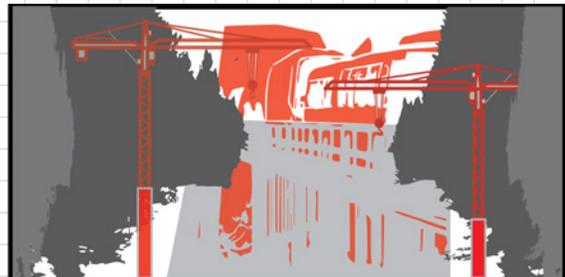
As thousands of refugees illegally cross the border at non-official ports of entries, they deliberately get arrested in order to seek asylum in Canada



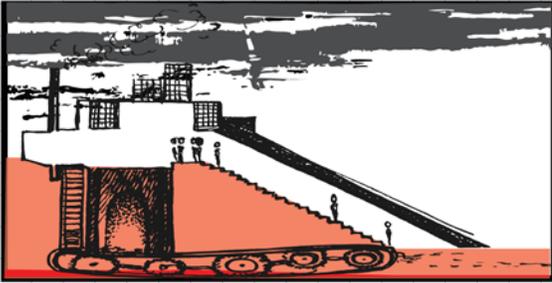
With the crisis condition in Canada an on-going challenge, what becomes of the situation and the state of the refugees?



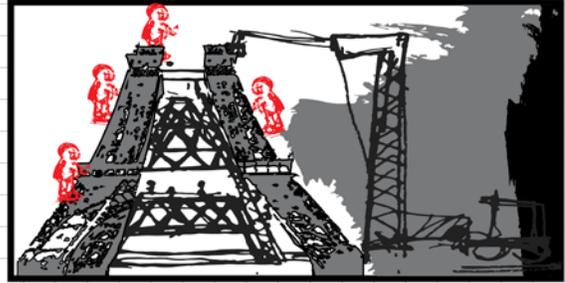
The zone between the two nations exists as an opportunity for situating the stateless people for the duration of their asylum application status



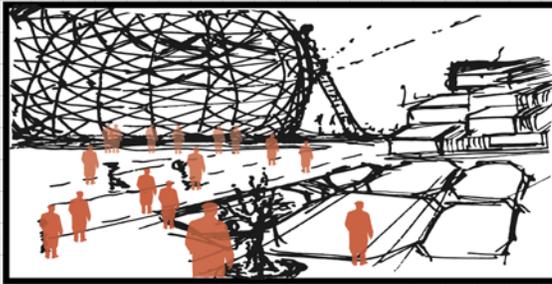
[Figure 37] – *Bordertopia Storyboard, Issue 1, Volume 1, Spring 2018.*



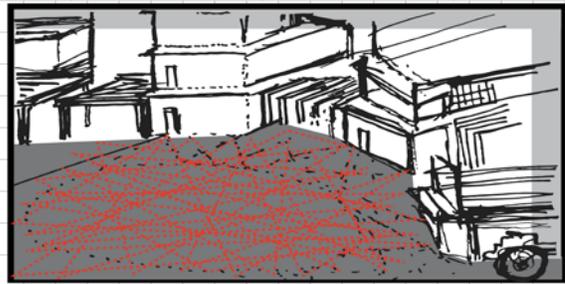
On board the megastructure, the border construct continues to roll along the boundary line between the two nations



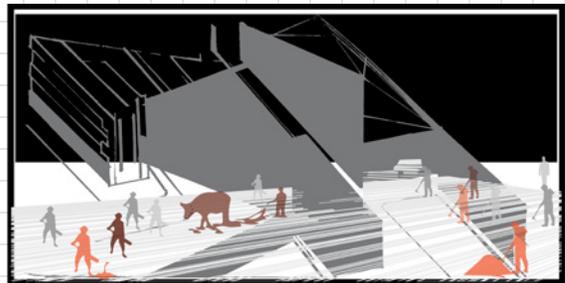
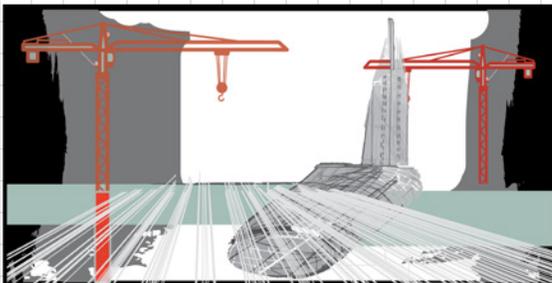
The sight of the construction becomes a part of the experience; a sublime appeal with an aesthetics of incompleteness



Bordertopia exists as a co-operative means of labour; inhabitants work to contribute back to the border community



Upon the border construct, dwelling units exists to house the hundred and fifty thousands of refugees in Canada over the course of time; of a near future



[Figure 38] – *Bordertopia Storyboard, Issue 1, Volume 2, Spring 2018.*



III - ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF TECHNOLOGY



## PART III

### ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF TECHNOLOGY

*“Whatever is fitted in any sort to excite the ideas of pain and danger...is a source of the sublime; that is, it is productive of the strongest emotion which the mind is capable of feeling...  
When danger or pain press too nearly, they are incapable of giving any delight, and are simply terrible; but at certain distances, and with certain modifications, they may be, and they are, delightful, as we every day experience.”*

**Edmund Burke, *Of The Sublime, A Philosophical Inquiry  
into the Origin of Our Ideas of The Sublime and Beautiful*  
2015, 20-21.**

#### 3.1 The Border Construct

Engaging the question of how architecture can affect the political body, this thesis will link three seemingly disconnected areas of study: architecture, politics and philosophy. In a global context, the ideologies of border crossings as a contested space are defined by the political regime of governing nations. Over the course of political history and territorial events, there has been a shift to securitize and advance border control systems and practices. The refugee problem remains a global issue regarded as an international political problem between United States and Canada. Nevertheless, these individuals lack bare essentials, and are in need of finding shelter or a place of residency throughout specific conditions worldwide.

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Take into consideration locations of contested territories where the geographical conditions between nations create complications for states to exert control. These undefined territories are called non-state spaces, yet people who seek refuge from borders deliberately choose to settle in these spaces between the reach of two contrasting governments.<sup>46</sup> Examples of indigenous groups and religious minorities include, but are not limited to, the Inuit in the Arctic, Berbers in North Africa, Jivaroan of the Amazon rainforest, and Tibetans in Nepal and China. Evidently, it is not unusual for cultural groups to retreat to remote border regions all over the world and form their own community, in order to escape war, famine, suppression, taxes, and other forms of political governing from state power.<sup>47</sup>

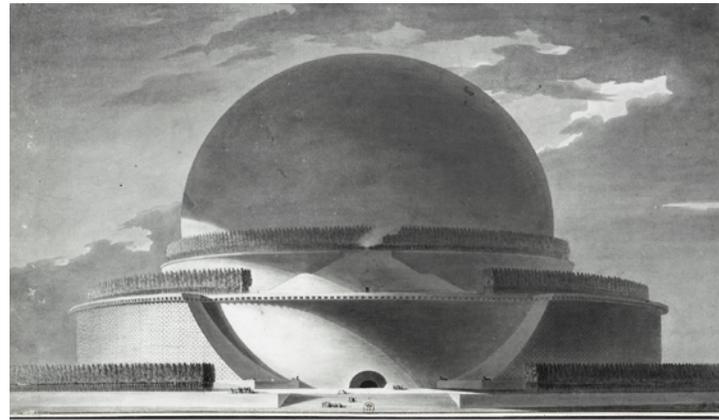
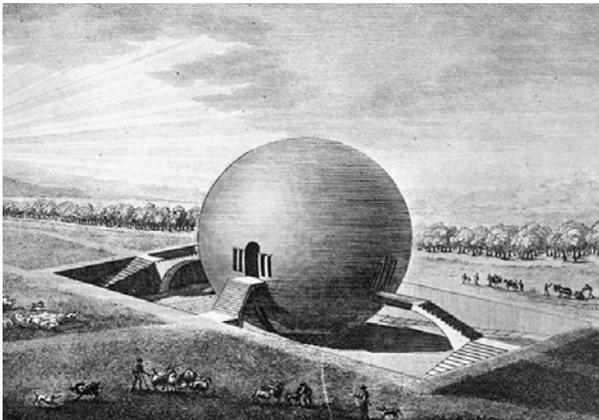
Re-iterating that the border line is an imaginary construct between Canada and the United States of America, we begin to question what becomes of the situation for the stateless people? What if the clearance zone between the two nations became an undesignated territory to temporarily situate the nomads where they can dwell? Imagine the megastructure, continually maintained by the stateless people, as a moving mechanism that continues along the borderline towards locations of concern, while the growing refugee community can remain in one dwelling for the long duration of time pending their application status.

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<sup>46.</sup> Vox Media Inc. Nepal/China How Mountains Become Borders. Vox Borders: Vox Borders, 2017. <https://www.vox.com/a/borders/nepal-china>.

<sup>47.</sup> Ibid.

The characterization of the sublime was exemplified by visionary architects, Claude Nicolas Ledoux (1736 – 1806) and Étienne-Louis Boullée (1728 – 1799). As a provocative notion, the sublime creates emotions of grandeur and unity to be applied to the megastructure in totality. Heavily influenced by *Archigram's* influential work of *Walking City* and *The Plug-In City*, the project execution has evolved into a utopian approach with a futuristic state of mind. Through implications of new technologies that are beyond the modern age, the future will engage new opportunities to concretely transform the border.



[Figure 39, 40]  
– The Sublime by  
Visionary Architects

39. *House of the Agricultural Guards of Maupertuis*, section, Claude-Nicolas Ledoux, ca. 1780.

40. *Cenotaph for Sir Isaac Newton*, Étienne-Louis Boullée, 1784.

Note:

figure 39. Kaufmann, Emil. "Three Revolutionary Architects, Boullée, Ledoux, and Lequeu." *The American Philosophical Society* 42, no. 3 (1952). [https://monoskop.org/images/3/38/Kaufmann\\_Emil\\_Three\\_Revolutionary\\_Architects\\_Boullée\\_Ledoux\\_and\\_Lequeu.pdf](https://monoskop.org/images/3/38/Kaufmann_Emil_Three_Revolutionary_Architects_Boullée_Ledoux_and_Lequeu.pdf).

figure 40. Ibid.

## \ ARCHIGRAM

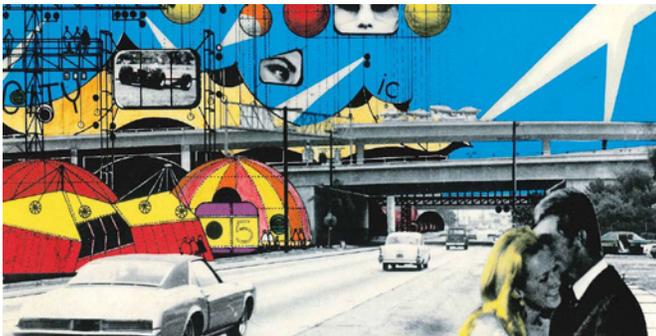
Archigram was an avant-garde architectural group that formed in the 1960's with a neo-futuristic vibe and drawings inspired from technology.<sup>48</sup> They created a radical break from the norm expressed through hypothetical projects. Experimental projects included modular technology, mobile architecture, space capsules and mass-consumer imagery, however critics claimed they neglected real life social and environmental issues of concerns in their work.<sup>49</sup>

“Archigram created a style - assembled from nineteenth-century industrial architecture - twentieth-century manufacturing, military apparatus, science fiction, biology, electronics, constructivism, pop art, cutaway technical illustration, psychedelia, and the English seaside - which would serve as an inspiration for an architectural movement, high-tech, and feed into the stream of postmodern/deconstructivist trends of the 1970's, 1980's and 1990's. In the process of demonstrating the potential of technology to create deformations and nonmonumental networks, Archigram became radical stylists of technology.”<sup>50</sup>

[Figure 41, 42]  
- Neo-futuristic  
Archigram Style

41. *Instant City concept*, Archigram, 1968.

42. *City Interchange*, Archigram (Chalk, Herron), 1963, Deutsches Architekturmuseum



48. Simon Sadler, Archigram: Architecture Without Architecture, (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2005), 4.

49. Sadler, Archigram: Architecture Without Architecture, 5.

50. Sadler, Archigram: Architecture Without Architecture, 8.

Note:

figure 41. Instant City, Archigram, 1968, Deutsches Architekturmuseum, Frankfurt. Retrieved from: <https://web.archive.org/web/20080702214724/http://www.designmuseum.org/design/archigram>

figure 42. City Interchange, Archigram, 1963, Deutsches Architekturmuseum, Frankfurt. Retrieved from: <https://web.archive.org/web/20080702214724/http://www.designmuseum.org/design/archigram>

Archigram brought forth an utopian impulse. The intent with many avant-garde movements was to explore the conjunction of the living realm, and faced the reality that the modern world was not contently achieving unity. Foremost, the movement was a reconciliation of previous traditions of modernity, followed by an absolute rejection of all traditions. In essence, the avant-garde was a destruction of the past and a development of the future; a new consciousness of space, technology, transformation in relation to society and replacing reality. Eventually, by the 1970's the group strategized their impulses primarily towards the design of "megastructures", idealized to change the rational architectural conditions of post-industrial England.<sup>51</sup> Archigram used the possibility of a future of infinite resources, where Buckminster Fuller's approach realizes the reality of limited resources and efficiency of outcome to achieve the same quality of output.<sup>52</sup>

- **Megastructure :**

An architectural concept, popularized in the 1960's mainly by the avant-garde group Archigram, where a city could be situated within in a singular building structure, or a series of relatively small buildings interconnected together to form the whole structure.<sup>51</sup>

The aim of Archigram was to re-imagine the world of desire using mutable design strategies and an elastic ideology. It was interpreted as Archigram's "aesthetic and its avant-garde ethic: to promote a world of perpetual becoming," thus, an endless transformation to existing forms or extreme formations and exploration of outcomes altogether.<sup>53</sup> Two key megastructures of inspiration include Peter Cook's Plug-in-City, 1964 and The Walking City, 1964 designed by Ron Herron. The idea of the Plug-in-City reflected the issues concerning the urban environment post World War II. It was devised to increase circulation and accelerate the fluidity of the city. Designed as a massive framework, it stands with cone-shaped towers and services connected by giant cranes, while standardized

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51. Sadler, Archigram: Architecture Without Architecture, 8.

52. "Archigram Archival Project." Project by Centre for Experimental Practice, 2010. <http://archigram.westminster.ac.uk/>.

53. Designing Buildings, "Megastructure." Designing Buildings Ltd., 2017. <https://www.designingbuildings.co.uk/wiki/Megastructure>.

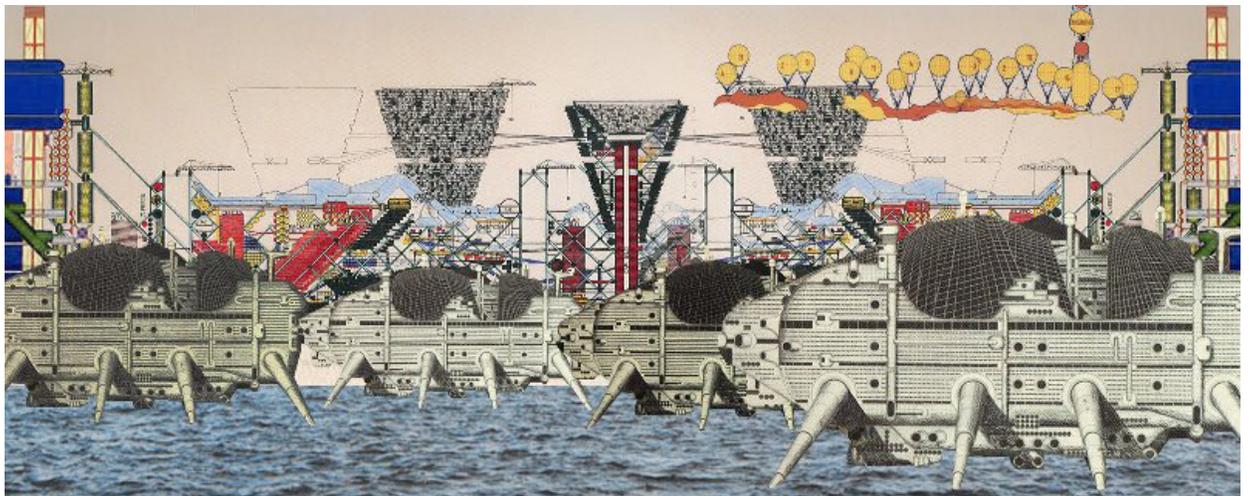
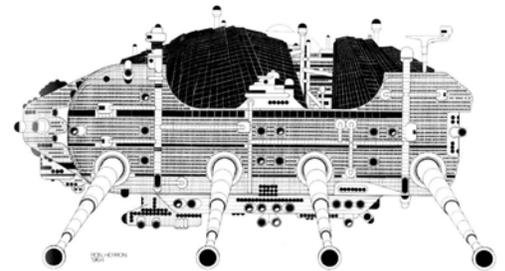
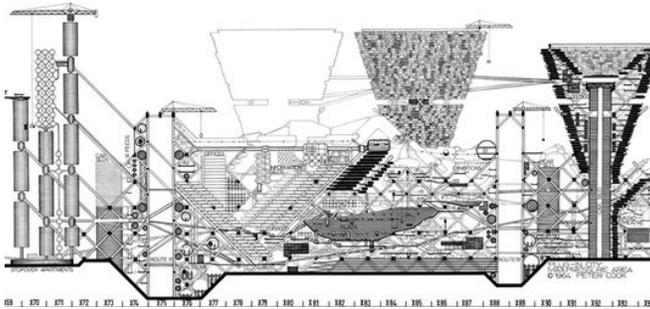
dwelling units can then be inserted into the framework structure. The framework remains unfinished and constantly growing, and as a result it prompts active involvement of its inhabitants with the architecture itself. While envisioning a new sustainable metropolis, the network city also addressed problems of population growth, land use, and traffic.<sup>54</sup> Comparingly, The Walking City is comprised of small, self-contained living pods that overall form an oversized, technologically intelligent, robotic moving structure. The form originated from the appearance of an insect with steel legs; an amalgamation of insect and machine.

[Figure 43 - 45]  
- Neo-futuristic  
Archigram Style

43. *Plug-In City*,  
Peter Cook,  
Archigram, 1964.

44. *Walking City*,  
Ron Herron,  
Archigram, 1964.

45. *Plug-In City*,  
Peter Cook,  
Archigram, 1964.



54. Sadler, Archigram: Architecture Without Architecture, 47.

Note:

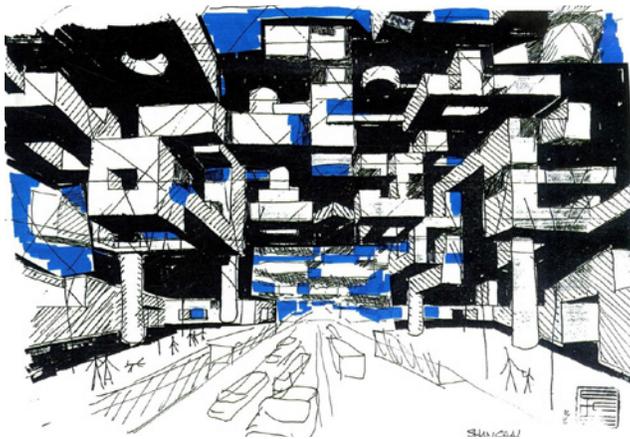
figure 43. Deutsches Architekturmuseum, Frankfurt. Accessed from: <http://www.dam-online.de/portal/>.

figure 44. Ibid.

figure 45. Ibid.

However, the setting of *The Walking City* was drawn further away from reality, with the context set in a futuristic world of ruins. Adapting Le Corbusier's aphorism of "a house as a machine for living", the living pods were independent units situated within the structure, yet it could also be removed and plugged into various stations to exchange occupants or replenish resources.<sup>55</sup> Therefore, Herron's fantasy addresses a city of nomads within a central station of units, services and amenities.

Likewise, through his manifesto Yona Friedman introduces the idea of Mobile Architecture. By mobile, it reduces the impact of buildings on the ground by elevating the structure to make the city mobile.<sup>56</sup> Friedman calls it "ville spatiale", where the technique consists of floating volumes, leaving the ground level free for public functions, including streets, parks, playgrounds, etc.<sup>57</sup>



[Figure 46, 47]  
– Mobile  
Architecture

46. *Spatial City*,  
Aerial perspective,  
Yona Friedman,  
1958.

47. *La Ville Spatiale*,  
Yona Friedman,  
1923.

55. Sadler, *Archigram: Architecture Without Architecture*, 20.

56. Yona Friedman, *Pro Domo*. European Union: Actar, 2006, 15.

57. Friedman, *Pro Domo*, 127.

Note:

figure 46. *Spatial City*, project, Aerial perspective, Yona Friedman, 1958, Ink on trace, MoMA | Design and Architecture, 2018.

figure 47. "Mobile Architecture / Yona Friedman," in *ArchEyes*, February 2016. Retrieved from: <http://archeyes.com/yona-friedman/>.

## **\ AN EXPRESSIONIST APPROACH**

The drawing process of this thesis is represented through a series of collage drawings; an overlay of hand sketches and digitally mediated drawings. The perspectives achieved are an exploration process that visually narrates the experiential and spatial qualities of the border construct. The implication of the future state of technology in this timeline can then be represented from imaginative to illustrative. Insofar, the construction of the perspectives represents a particular instance in time to exemplify the future speculation of the border city.

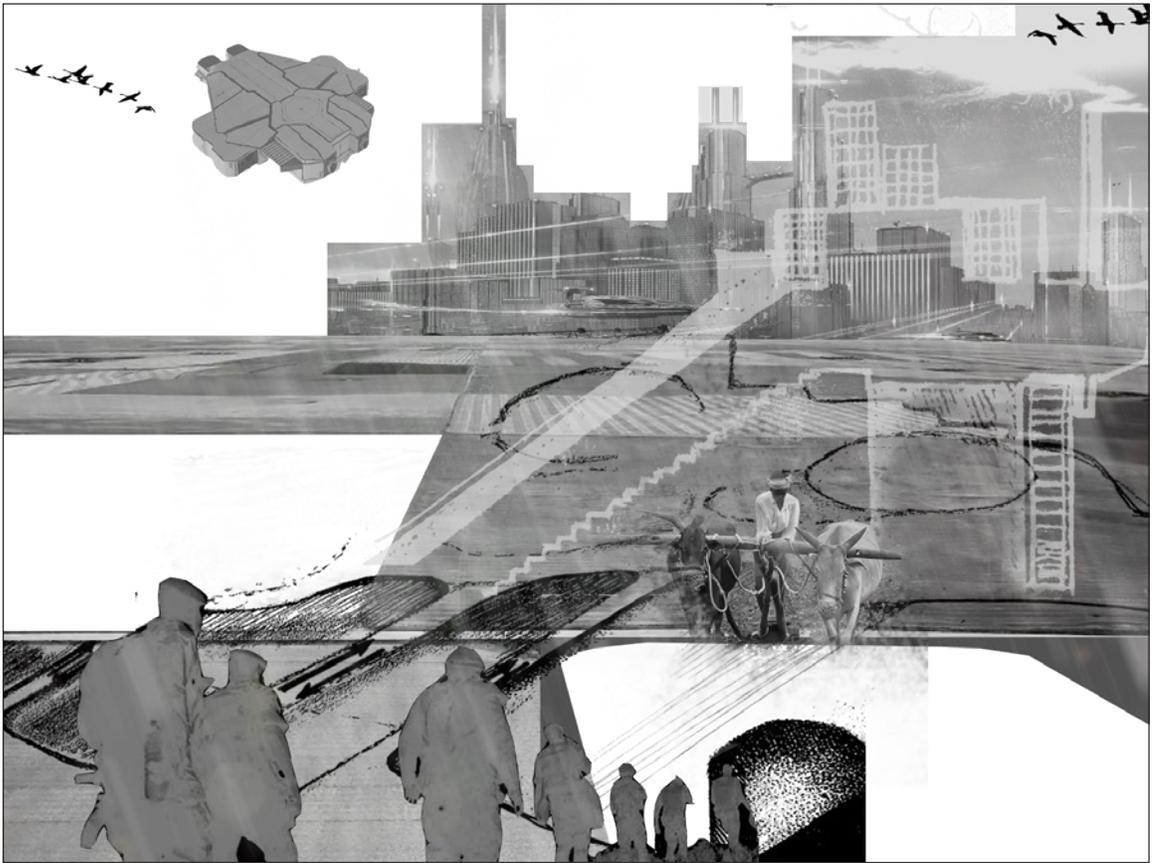
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*Large cranes operate the sky as construction of the megastructure at the national border continues. The sight of the border construct is a sublime experience.*

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[Figure 48] - *Collage Drawing-i*



*Journey for the refugees begin, with eyes on the border city beyond, as they travel towards the border in order to seek asylum in Canada.*

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[Figure 49] - Collage Drawing-ii



*Continuing onwards through the liminal crossing, several lanes exists across the transporter rails, as refugees cross the threshold from one country into another.*

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[Figure 50] - *Collage Drawing-iii*



*Dispersed at intervals throughout the crossing, stations exist at each terminal for the refugees; services include border processing, security checks, interview and application processing, and clinical and legal aid.*

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[Figure 51] - *Collage Drawing-iv*



*The megastructure of Bordertopia is raised above ground level.*

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[Figure 52] - *Collage Drawing-v*



*Synchronously existing between the zone of the Canadian-American border, the border construct continues to move and transform, while maintaining its incompleteness and temporariness.*

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[Figure 53] - *Collage Drawing-vi*

### 3.2 A New Expressionism

The megastructure of Bordertopia intends to carry ideas exchanged thus far on utopian ideals, principles, machines, technology and mobility. The initiation begins at the port of entry for the stateless people, starting with the ephemeral, liminal crossing from the southern side of the boundary towards Canada. Once crossed onto the opposite side of the border, a means of egress exists to bring individuals up to the elevated megastructure stretched along the border zone. The narrative of the thesis begins to formulate into three key questions of the design approach:

1. How can architectural thinking be employed to design for a new future where the state-less people are the drivers for change?

2. How can the top-down approach be applied to the megastructure based on vastness of scale, function of design, mechanism of movement and the visual portrayal of border imaginaries that bridge from one nation to the other?

3. How will the futuristic society formulate together where the state-less people are no longer drifters, and the border construct is no more a concern but an opportunity of endless interactions?

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## \ NEW PRINCIPLES OF PLANNING

The reinvention of the borderscape has manifested into four main themes of progression, transcendence, dynamism, and movement to decipher how the refugee community will enter the country, situate themselves in Canada, find a place to dwell and call home for the years to come and conceptualized through the spatial and experiential characteristics.<sup>58</sup>

To design for the future of Bordertopia, twelve principles of planning are implemented:

1. The future of borders exists as a liminal crossing;
2. Through the act of crossing, the purpose is to arrive at the destination to the north;
3. Speculation of up to 150,000 inhabitants of the refugee community;
4. Organization of distinct spaces with designated areas of control;
5. The new society must not be solely dependent on the influence of a planner, but rather be subjective to the inhabitants themselves;
6. Technique of three-dimensional overlap and positioning will create various spaces in the community;

- **Progression:**

The process of developing or moving gradually towards a more advanced state.<sup>58</sup>

- **Transcendence:**

Beyond or above the range of normal or physical human experience. Surpassing the ordinary; exceptional.<sup>58</sup>

- **Dynamism:**

The theory that phenomena of matter or mind are due to the action of forces rather than to motion or matter.<sup>58</sup>

- **Movement:**

A change or development, a group of people working together to advance their shared political, social, or artistic ideas.<sup>58</sup>

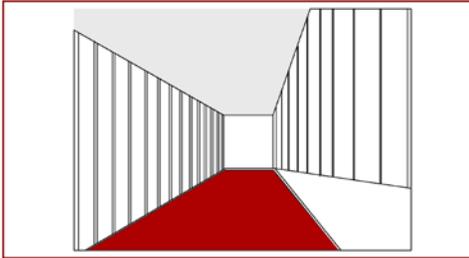
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<sup>58</sup>. Oxford Dictionary of English. Oxford University Press, 2010. Accessed on March 19, 2018, <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/>.

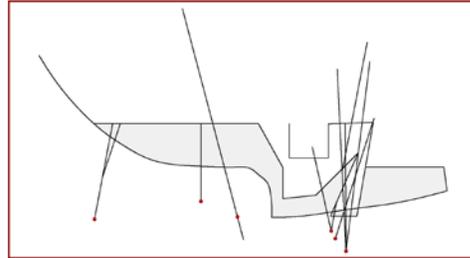
7. The mobile city is a spaceframe structure which can be filled at will;
8. Connectivity of buildings and livability to build trust between the refugee community;
9. Leisure spaces, service hub, and the telecommunication tower exists in the center;
10. Agriculture in mobile community is a social need;
11. Process of construction is a sublime experience;
12. While speculated to be on the Canada-USA border, it can exist everywhere along the border and nowhere, as in the case of utopia.

Thus, the liminal crossing and megastructure of Bordertopia will fulfill these twelve principles of planning.

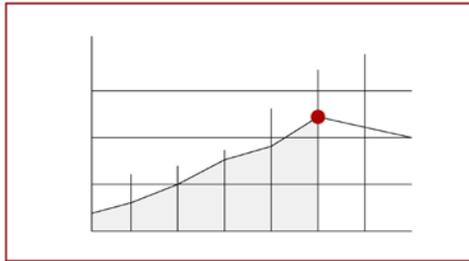
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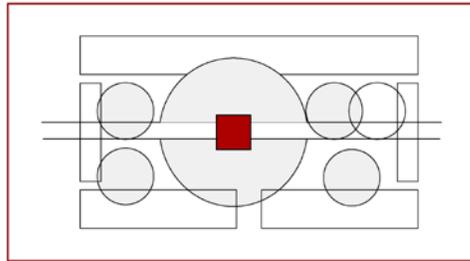
1 - THE FUTURE OF BORDERS  
EXISTS AS A LIMINAL CROSSING



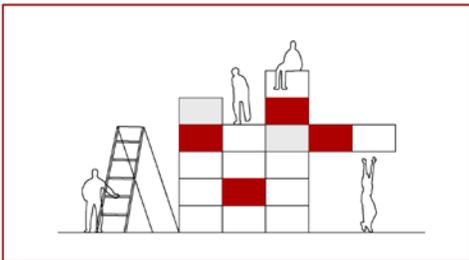
2 - THROUGH THE ACT OF CROSSING, THE  
PURPOSE IS TO ARRIVE AT THE DESTINATION  
TO THE NORTH



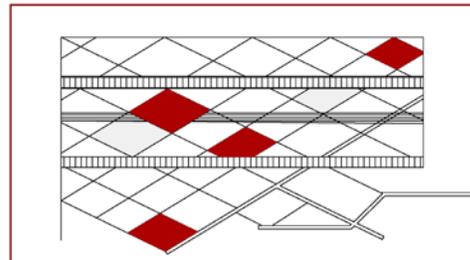
3 - SPECULATION OF UP TO 150,000  
INHABITANTS OF THE REFUGEE COMMUNITY



4 - ORGANIZATION OF DISTINCT SPACES  
WITH DESIGNATED AREAS OF CONTROL



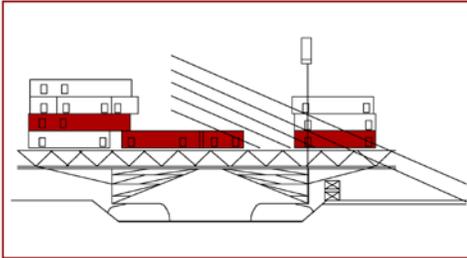
5 - THE NEW SOCIETY MUST NOT BE SOLELY  
DEPENDENT ON THE INFLUENCE OF A  
PLANNER, BUT RATHER BE SUBJECTIVE  
TO THE INHABITANTS THEMSELVES



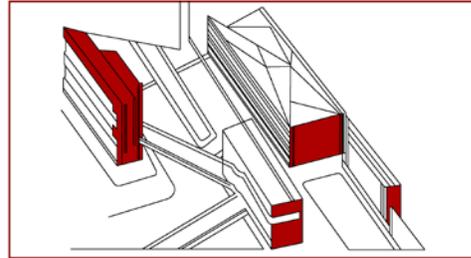
6 - TECHNIQUE OF THREE-DIMENSIONAL  
OVERLAP AND POSITIONING WILL CREATE  
VARIOUS SPACES IN THE COMMUNITY

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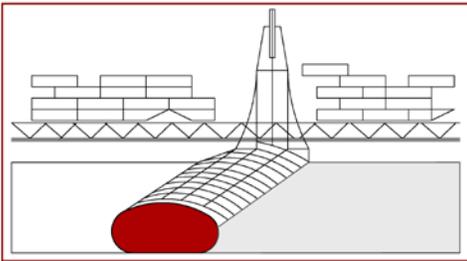
[Figure 54] - *Twelve Principles of Bordertopia Planning-i*



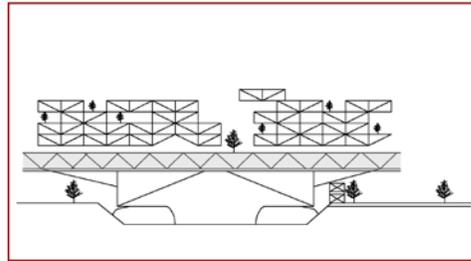
7 - THE MOBILE COMMUNITY IS A SPACE FRAME STRUCTURE WHICH CAN BE FILLED AT WILL



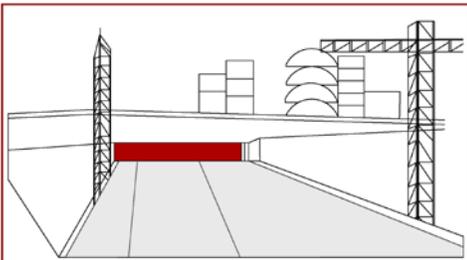
8 - CONNECTIVITY OF BUILDINGS AND LIVABILITY TO BUILD TRUST BETWEEN THE REFUGEE COMMUNITY



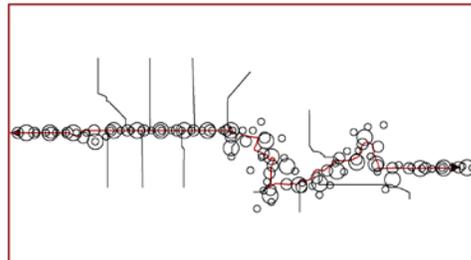
9 - LEISURE SPACES, SERVICE HUB AND THE TELECOMMUNICATION TOWER EXISTS AT THE CENTER



10 - AGRICULTURE IN MOBILE COMMUNITY IS A SOCIAL NEED



11 - PROCESS OF CONSTRUCTION IS A SUBLIME EXPERIENCE



12 - WHILE SPECULATED ON THE CAN-USA BORDER, IT CAN EXIST EVERYWHERE AND NOWHERE, AS IN THE CASE OF UTOPIA

[Figure 55] - *Twelve Principles of Bordertopia Planning-ii*

### **3.3 The Sublime Appeal**

Of the Bordertopia construct, the megastructure acts as a framework system and within are insertions of living units; existing on a duality of interconnected elements. Specifically intended for the refugee community, the central service hub is designed with greater access to goods, services, aid, and communication. Atop the central hub is the telecommunication tower connected directly to the official tribunal locations of Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada. Most significantly the constructions of the megastructure are equipped for living at an escalated quality of temporary dwelling for the refugee community as an integrated society.

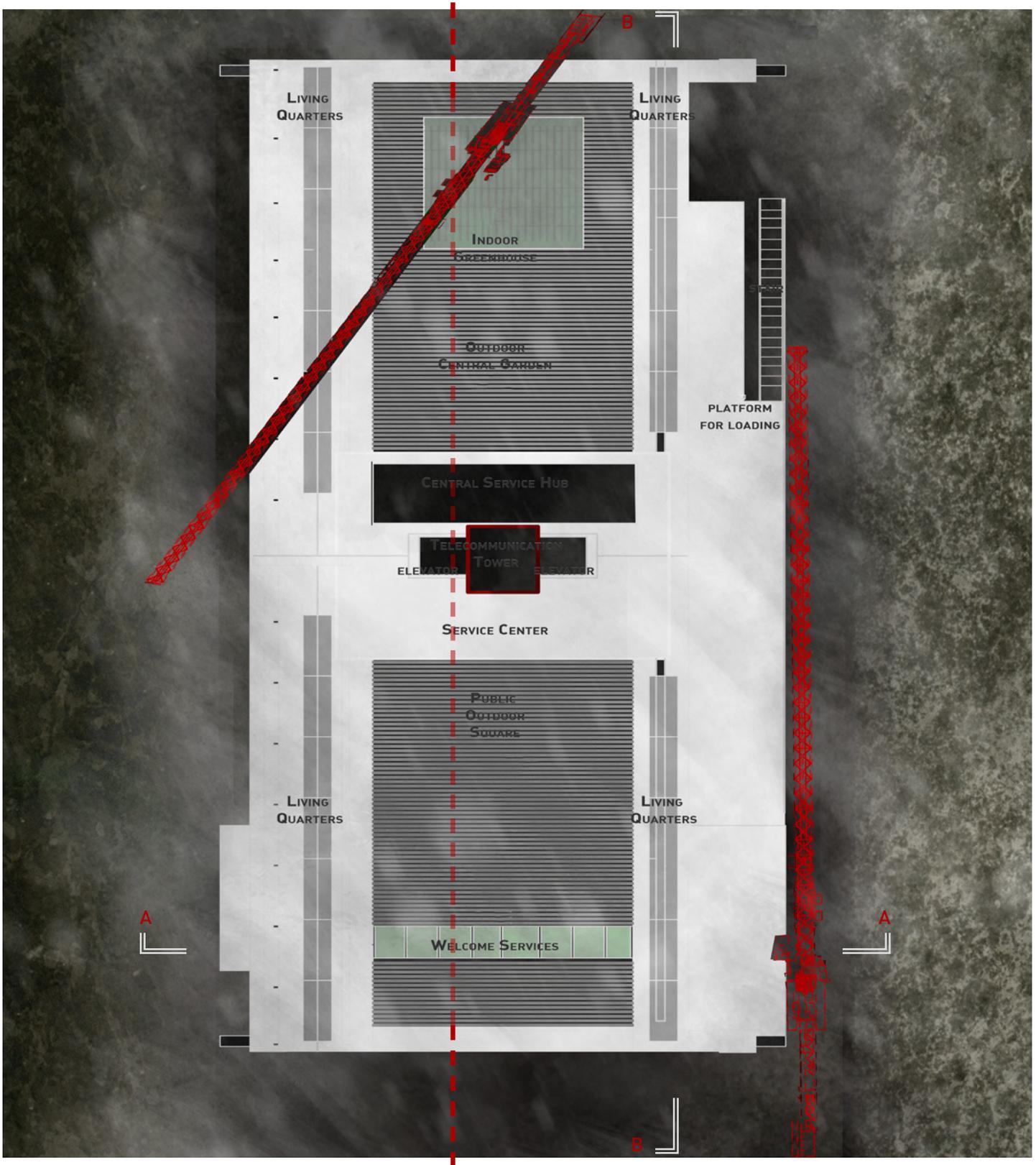
In reinventing the new border-scape, the challenge is manifested in four stages upon entering and arriving into the Bordertopia construct. Foremost, portraying the progression of the main crossing hall as a liminal space towards Canada. When arrived on the other side of the border, a transcendence of the megastructure above, constantly maintaining an aesthetics of incompleteness and temporariness, reveals itself. The characterization of the sublime is presented through a central monument of dynamism and gathering space for the community. With the growth in the number of state-less individuals joining the community, the dwelling modules continue to increase. The people of the community will not only continue to build the migrant community, but maintain the space as a sanctuary, farm for food, provide schooling for the youth, and

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goods and services between each other, while continually moving and transforming. A combination of awe and astonishment conquers over oneself approaching the megastructure. For some it is a new beginning, for others, a feeling of hope with a hint of fear. The vastness in scale, the constant changing momentum, and the mechanization of parts that embodies the overall is the work of a sublime attraction; this is the future of Bordertopia.



[Figure 56] - *Bordertopia, the Megastructure, Rendering*

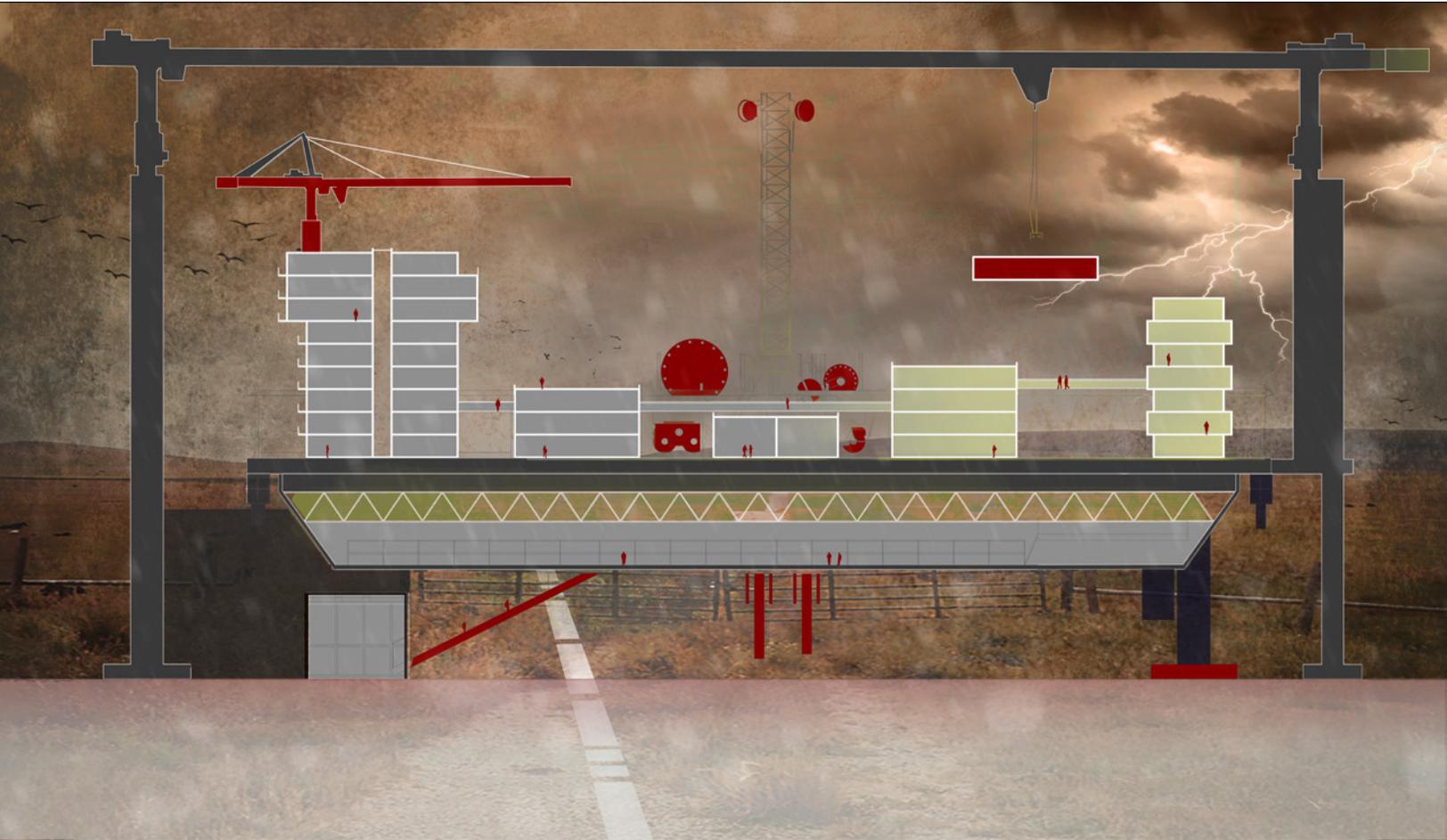


[Figure 57] - Bordertopia, Plan / Spatial Programming



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[Figure 58] - *Bordertopia, Lateral Section*



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[Figure 59] - *Bordertopia, Longitudinal Section*



# IV - A UTOPIAN FUTURE



## PART IV

### A UTOPIAN FUTURE: BORDERTOPIA

*"[F]or utopia in the industrial age is not only about the evocation of a brave new world painted with the vivid colors of a dream. No longer a mere literary genre as it had been from the Renaissance to the eighteenth century, after the model of Thomas More's seminal fiction, it aims to transform concretely the world. Because of that ambition, utopia is closely allied with the communication techniques that can make the dream persuasive enough to generate political and social effects."*

**Buckminster Fuller, *Starting with the Universe*, (New York: Whitney Museum of American Art, 2008): 20-21.**

The following exploration uses narratives to inspire the experience of the future conditions of Bordertopia. Using a network of informal crossings as a liminal port of entry, the destination for the refugees is a self-determining community that continues to move and transform, while maintaining an aesthetics of incompleteness and temporariness. Critically written to fictionally describe first-person accounts of arrival, status processing, adaptation, and rehabilitation. Eventually the refugees become newcomers, and the newcomers become citizens of the growing community. It becomes a societal restructuring in which the individuals are no longer stateless. The border construct is no longer a problem of concern, but an opportunity for endless interactions. Thus, the architectural design evolves from the creative and ephemeral effects of the narratives, and vice versa, working collectively to imagine the future Bordertopia.

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## 4.1 FOUR ACCOUNTS OF BORDERTOPIA

### FIRST ARRIVAL // [NARRATIVE 1]

*I can still remember the first day we arrived here.*

*We made our way across the lengthy underpass crossing. The steel tunnel structure stretched as far as I can see, and a bright light shone in the distance. We past the last transporter station, and received our care packages before climbing up the lift. As we ascended the glass elevator, my heart beats with anxiety of what lies beyond, while the children pressed their faces against the glass surface in awe. "Mama, look!", they cried. Upon exiting the lift, a high disparate structure shadowed over us. I looked up and realized the elevator shaft continued all the way up. I learned much later that that was the telecommunication tower, with restricted access to the top for scheduled tribunal hearings only. For now, we must wait our turn for a hearing and settle in.*

*I looked to my surroundings; I can barely see the entirety of Bordertopia. Only the units and structure along the main boulevard seem to be complete. Everything else was incomplete and constantly moving. Large cranes operate the sky, while men in hard hats paint the town. We made our way down the boulevard, minding*

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*the line that continued across the lane, which signifies the border line. I grinned and gracefully kept both my feet on the Canadian soil. About twenty or thirty paces down, I saw the number to our unit, #42A. We prodded forward to the doorstep. As the security reader scanned my pupils for authorization, the shackles to the door unlocked and granted us access into our new home. Today, we'll get cleaned up and I'll let the kids settle in. As for tomorrow, I'll take the kids to school and find work for myself.*

---

## THE PIPELINE // [NARRATIVE 2]

*They call it the pipeline to Canada.<sup>59</sup> Another day, another group of them made their way up with restless eyes, treading suitcases along and bags across their shoulders. I watched cautiously as each person clear for processing and made their way towards my lane. As I handed out care packages for each family unit, another vehicle rolled towards the border constraint and a new group exits the cab. From where I'm stationed, I can hear the RCMP officer yelling: "this is an illegal crossing, are you aware the very minute you cross this border your status in the United States is nullified".<sup>60</sup> The newcomers continued forward without hesitation.*

*I am a clinical worker with the Government of Canada. I usually tend to medical care and health and clinical needs at the service hub station. Many of the newcomers are wounded, over-fatigued, dehydrated or traumatized. My mentor had offered me this opportunity to help people in need. With a higher salary and accommodations included, I cannot complain. I kicked off my shoes, poured myself a drink, and sunk down in my armchair while scanning my premises for the remote control. My living quarter is quite spacious for one. I have all that I need in this unit, including a kitchenette and a bathroom.*

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59. Ormiston, Susan. "'Please, We Need a Home': Nigerian Asylum Seekers Follow Well-Trodden Migrant Route to Canada | CBC News." CBC News, 2017. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/world/nigerian-migrants-plattsburgh-1.4307257>.

60. "This is an illegal crossing" RCMP tell asylum seekers, CNC News. [Video file]. [2017, September 26]. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/thenational/this-is-an-illegal-crossing-rcmp-tell-asylum-seekers-1.4308619>.

*Even though it's been nearly a year, it's quite difficult to get used to being alone here. Perhaps I ought to interact with the people in the community more often or utilize the community space down the hall in my spare time. Some of the refugees in this row of unit construction have very interesting stories to tell.*

*The other day I heard a rumour that they can disengage the living quarters and transport it elsewhere like a mobile home. Perhaps when the flow of refugees slows down, I ought to take a vacation that way; in my transportable home. As for now, there are tons of people in need of help.*

---

### ON BOARD BORDERTOPIA // [NARRATIVE 3]

*I opened my eyes, startled, as the bus hit a bump. It was just before dawn when the Greyhound bus wheeled into its final stop by a gas station in Plattsburgh, New York.<sup>61</sup> I stretched out my legs, barely reaching the seat in front of me. I hopped off my seat, almost forgetting my blanket, and hastily followed my brothers off the bus. We were told from here we must hail a yellow taxi to bring us towards Quebec, forty-five kilometres till the end of the road is steps away from Canada.<sup>62</sup>*

*That was nearly nine years ago. Thinking back, it felt like a dream. I dropped my school bag and laid down on the lawn in the middle of the garden, enjoying the mid-afternoon sun beaming on my face. I quite enjoy moments of simple pleasure and quiet. I've got some time left before my volunteer shift at the work site to help out around the town. Everybody contributes around the community, they called it "co-operative labour of Bordertopia". I closed my eyes and I can faintly hear the giant cranes grinding in the distance, putting up the framework for more units, a structure with mixed living units of social harmony.*

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61. Ormiston, Susan. "Please, We Need a Home": Nigerian Asylum Seekers Follow Well-Trodden Migrant Route to Canada | CBC News." CBC News, 2017. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/world/nigerian-migrants-plattsburgh-1.4307257>.

62. Ibid.

*My brother said we're months away from getting our status approved. Then, we can detach our living quarter from the structure and transport our home to elsewhere in Canada. Personally, I quite like it here. Well, it is isolated because we're elevated from the ground, but it's not like it is walled-off. When I stand near the edge, I can see the rest of Canada and speckles of city developments in the distance. It also seems as if we're free to roam anywhere, even away from the border construct. On one occasion, my friends and I snuck down to the transporter tracks and nobody stopped us. We walked for nearly five kilometers following the rails, but even so, there wasn't any thrill in that. Nothing was familiar to me. Like I said, I quite like it here in this community.*

---

## **NEW BEGINNINGS // [NARRATIVE 4]**

*In the beginning, I could barely communicate in English. In my hometown, I never used cookers, heaters or even have electricity. In the beginning, life on-board Bordertopia Canada was challenging. The border agency staff reassured me that it will be okay, and patiently guided me in filling the paperwork for my asylum application. The only reassurance was the guarantee of safety and a private, temporary living quarter for my family. That was the beginning, on the very first day.*

*Today marks the tenth anniversary since the day of my arrival. They call me a veteran here. My refugee status is still pending, with only a short length away from receiving my formal approval, as my heart truly desires.*

*Sometimes I volunteer in the booths at the service hub to help rehabilitate the newcomers. "This is how life here starts," I reassure them. Nonetheless, of the entire border construct my favourite place is the magnificent greenhouse, where I tend to all the crops and maintain the entire conservatory. While the good, virtuous community workers help with the harvesting when it is ready. Every morning I take the longer route across the border construct before I reach the greenhouse. Not only*

*to enjoy the Canadian landscape in the distance, but to also see what's new in store, such as new facade going up, new living units being inserted into the framework, all while, rounds of community workers maintain the spaces constantly.*

*I heard a myth that the cranes are going down, that they will no longer operate and build anymore, but as I looked out this morning the cranes still soared as high as the birds. Perhaps tomorrow will be the day that the cranes come down.*

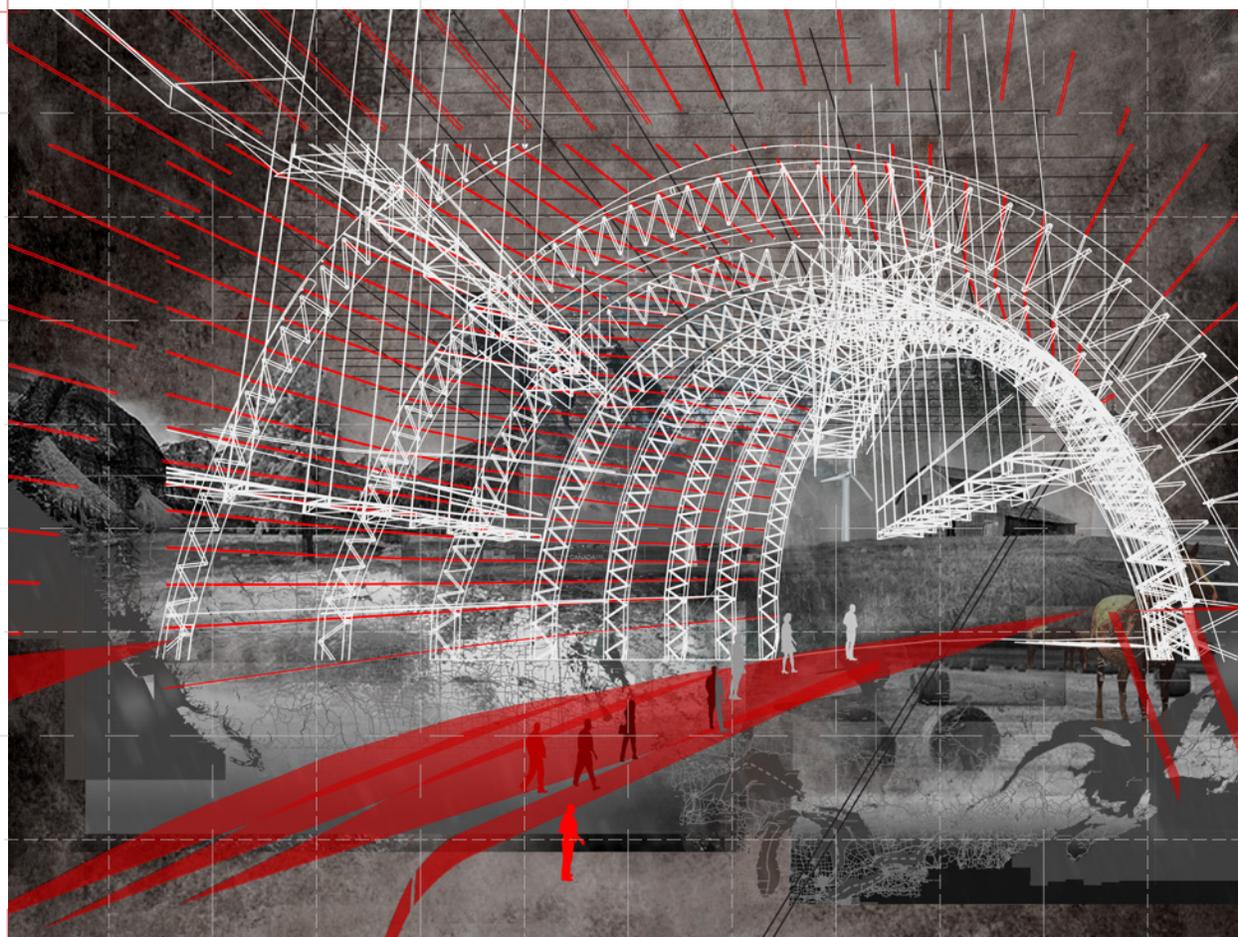
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## 4.2 IMAGINING THE BORDER CONSTRUCT

### DRAWING SERIES

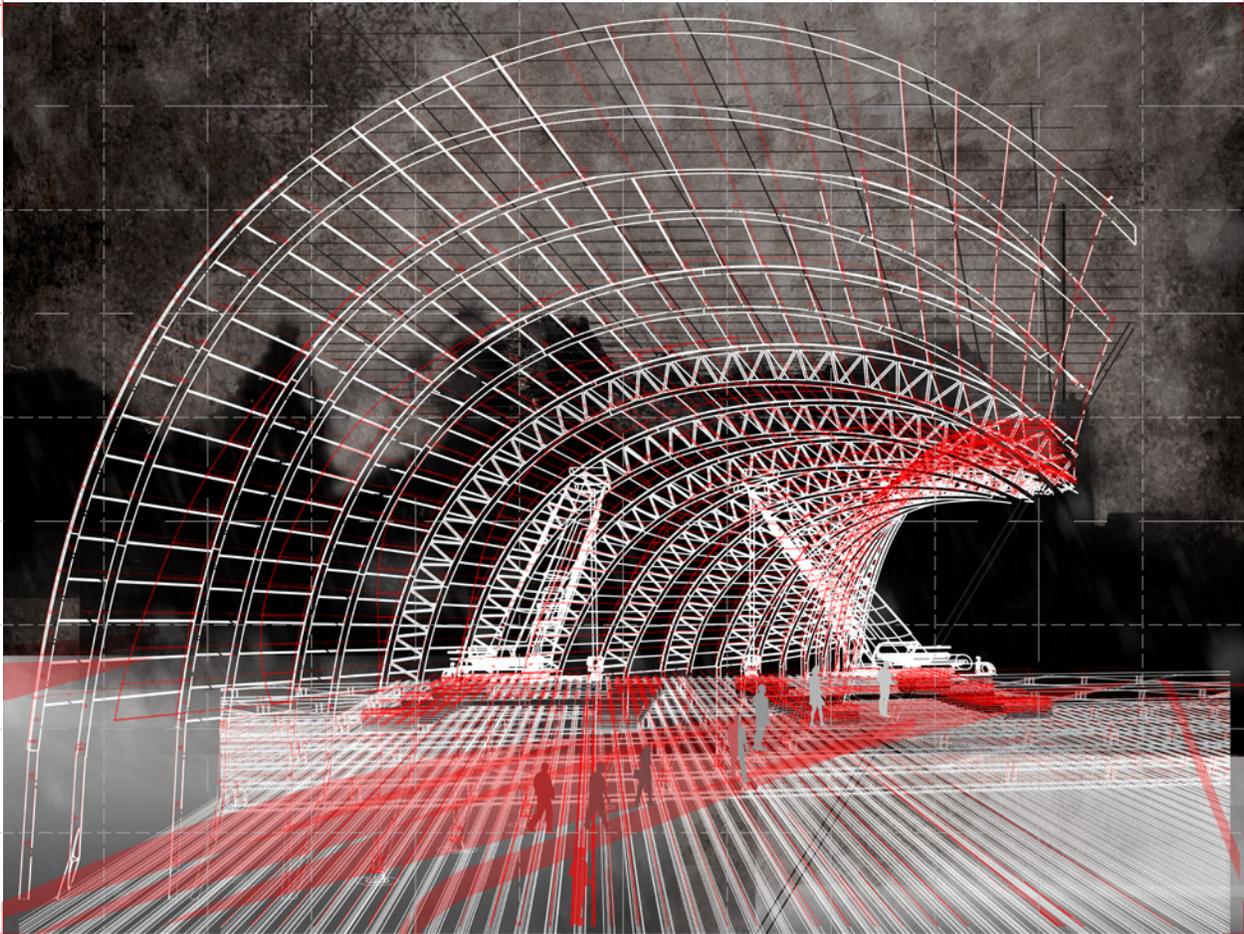
The following creations are representative of the spatial sequences in experiencing Bordertopia. A representation of illustrative and ephemeral drawings is utilized to distinguish the border construct, the idea of the liminal crossing, and the megastructure as a dwelling place. Achieved by the act of overlaying a series of imagery and lines, the drawings use a distinct palette of red, white and black tones only. Expressively, the red represents the movement of people, while the white highlights the architectural construct at different segments of the sequence. The featured architectural elements include the liminal crossing tunnel between the boundary, the transporter stations where the crossing rails terminate, the megastructure, the glass elevator that ascends to the top, the central gathering space and greenhouse construction, and the mobile dwelling units, as well as, the interior of the living quarters. Affirmatively, the idealization remains that the growing refugee community will continue to construct the brave, new world of Bordertopia. While newcomers arrive, and veterans of the community depart (once approved of their refugee status), the conditions of spaces are continually maintained by self-distinguished roles of the society.

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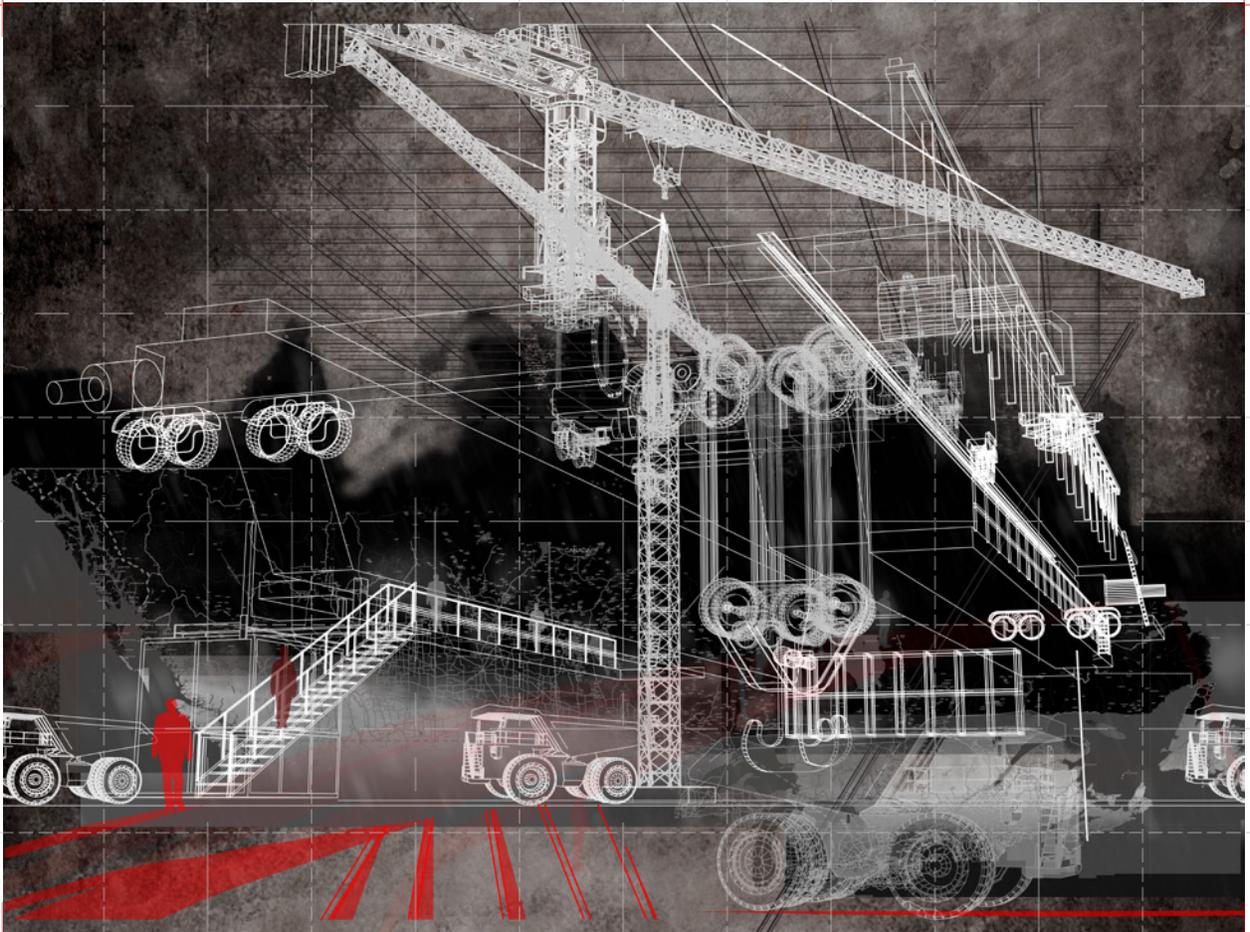
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[Figure 60] - *Drawing-i : Progression*



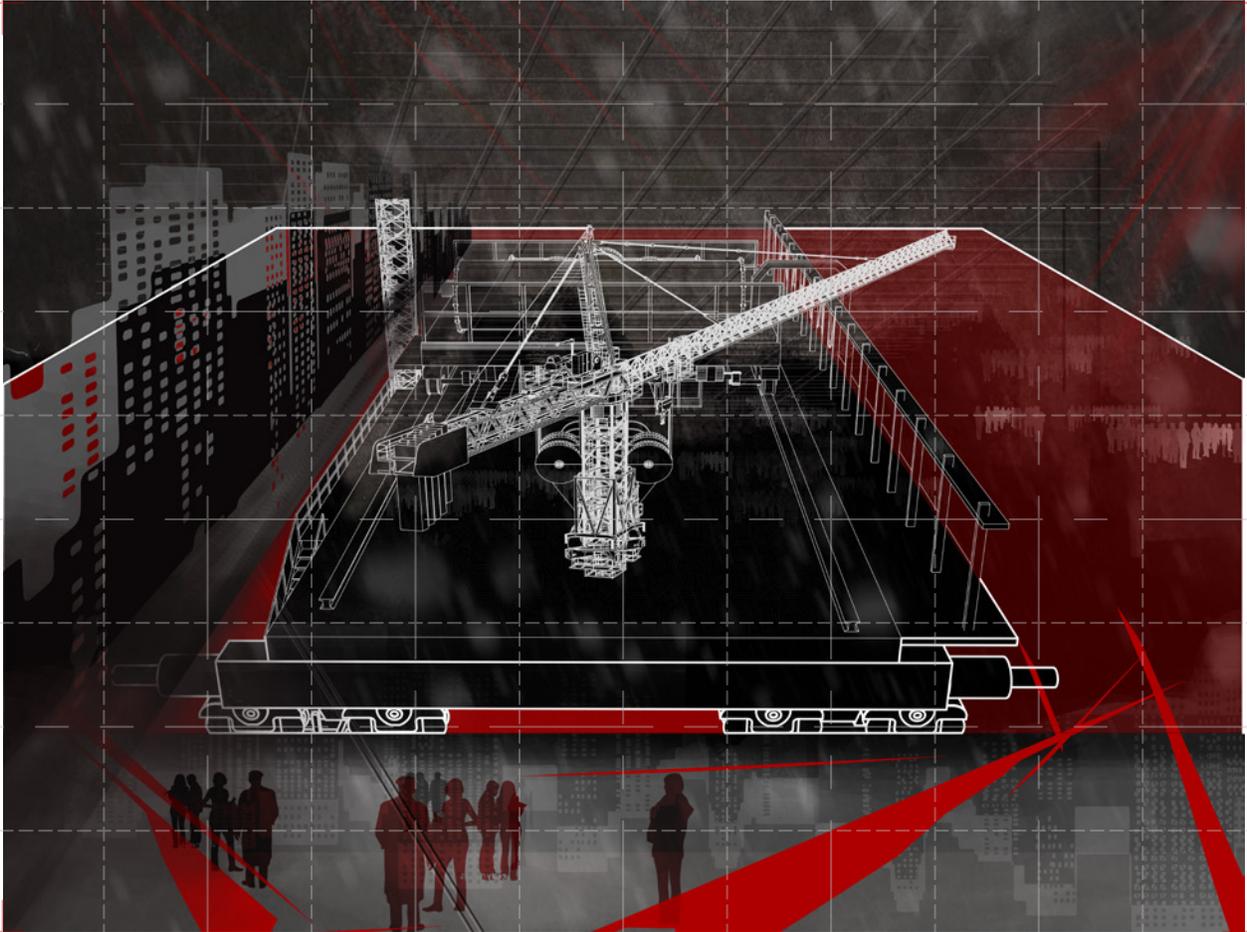
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[Figure 61] - *Drawing-ii : Liminal Crossing*



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[Figure 62] - *Drawing-iii : Transcendence*

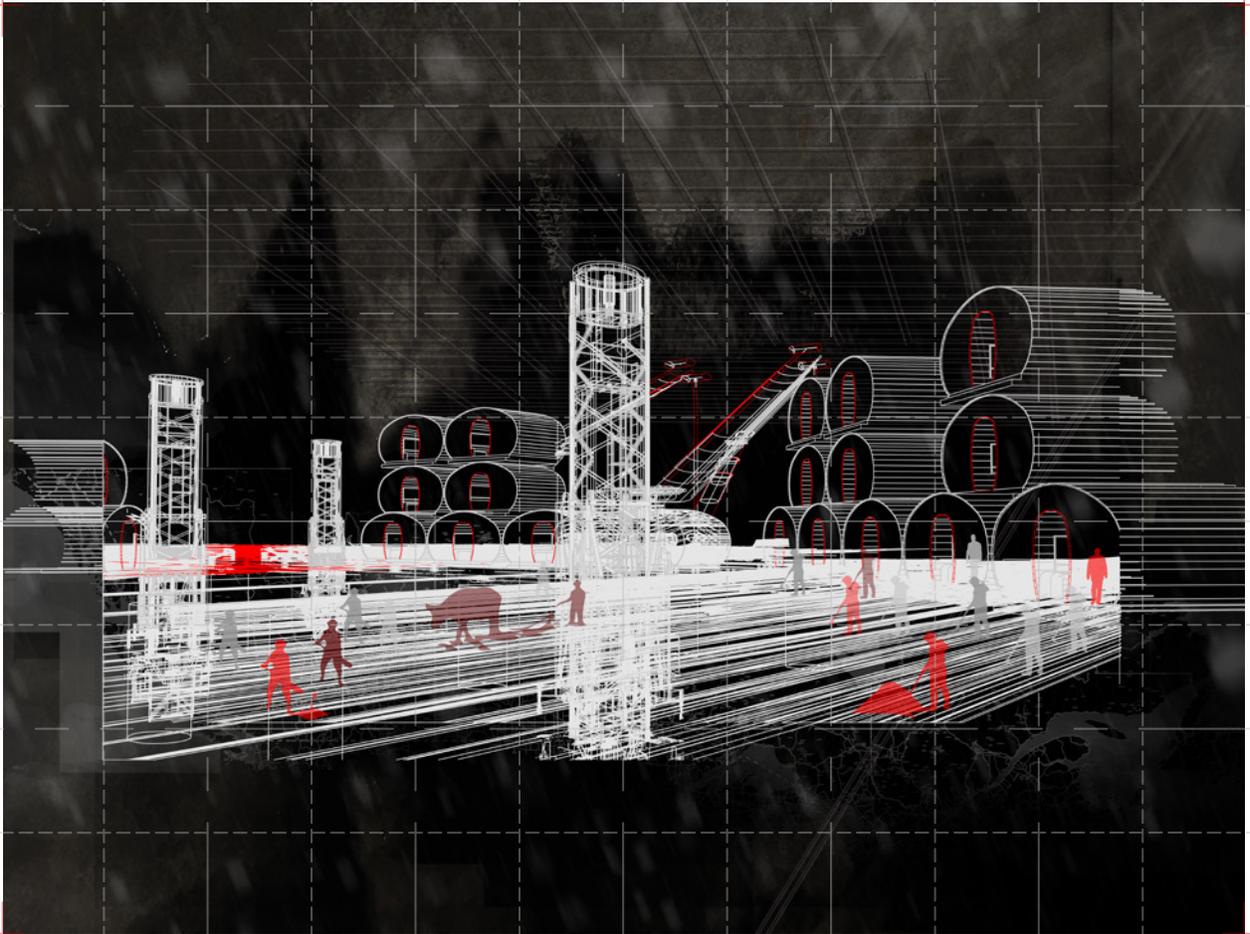


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[Figure 63] - *Drawing-iv : Megastructure*

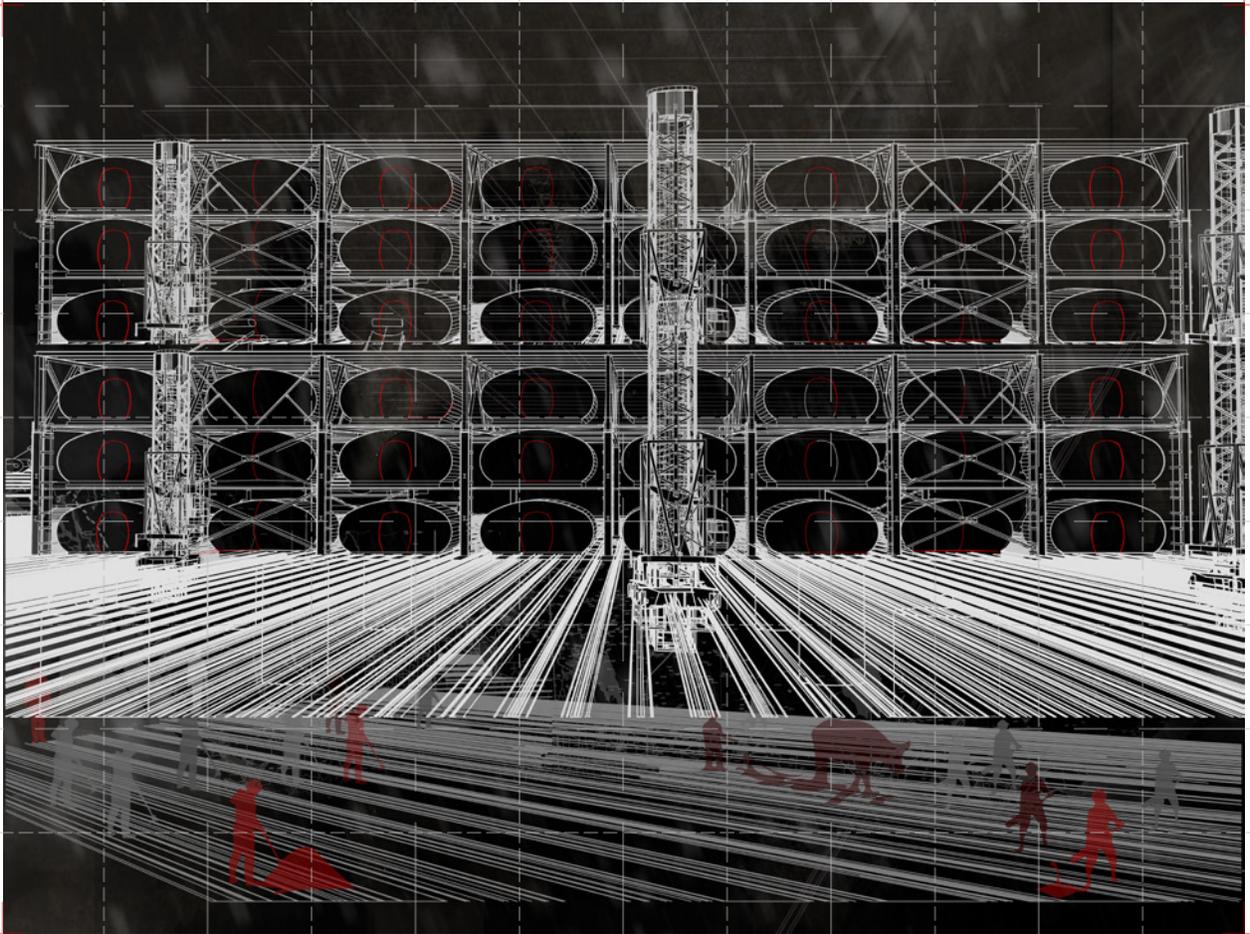


[Figure 64] - *Drawing-v: Dynamism*



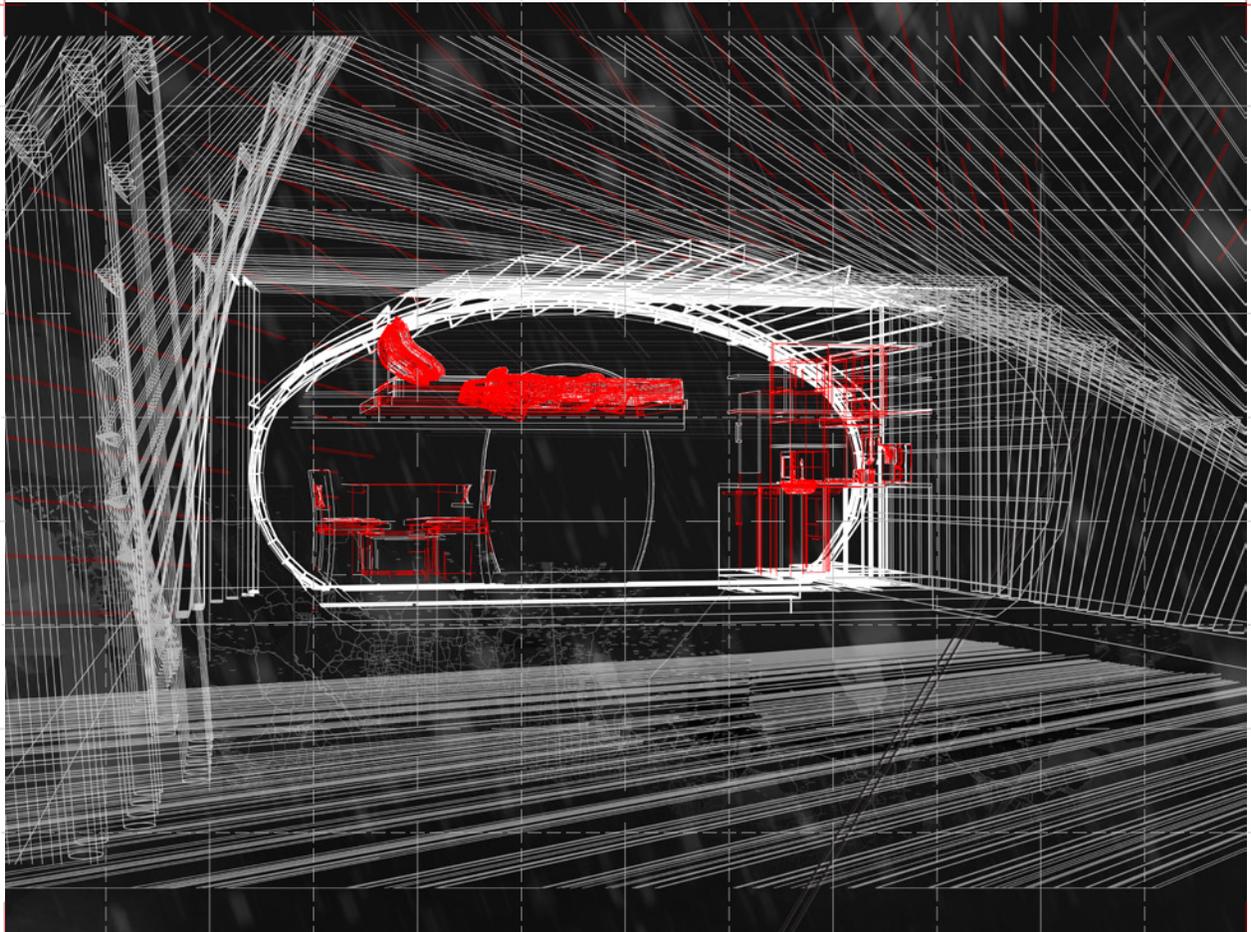
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[Figure 65] - *Drawing-vi : Movement*



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[Figure 66] - *Drawing-vii : Modules in Framework*



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[Figure 67] - *Drawing-viii : Interior Living Quarters*

### 4.3 BORDERTOPIA'S MOBILE UNIT

By simply shifting the focus from the intangibility of the megastructure to the construct of a single dwelling unit, the impact of the design intends to conclude with a higher level of tangibility in a comprehensive speculation. The living unit initially serves as a temporary home for the refugees of the community. However, with regards to the drastically long time-frame and uncertainty of the situation, the intention of the living quarter is reconsidered as a holistic environment of comfort and privacy for each family unit. From the temporariness of the living unit, the condition becomes a decade-long situation to be in. While each living unit is designed as a module, it is repeated, reconfigured and inserted into a fixed structure, thus, building a framework of living units within the Bordertopia community.

Furthermore, the living unit is designed for mobility. While stationed within the structural framework onboard Bordertopia, when the time arrives that the refugees are approved with legal paperwork and status, their home can be transported and re-stationed elsewhere in other domains of Canada. Once the refugees acquire the status and decide to move away, they have a range of options to choose from with regards to their home unit. The question at large is the option whether to disregard the home and physically remove themselves from the border construct entirely or move away with their belongings, including the living unit, to be transported to a new location of their choice.

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While some may consider the architectural design of the living module as a stigma that generates a label for the formerly stateless people, the primary intent of the design is practicality and simplicity in replication. For that purpose, the living module can be quickly constructed and assembled to accommodate for the population surge. However, the notion of stigma is only generated by society. The negative implications made by the greater population is the only means of making the idea of stigma possible. Therefore, it is through the refugee's personal perception whether or not to be affected by this characterization.

Nonetheless the range of choices in relation to the home unit's life cycle is not only limited to the aforementioned options. If abandonment of the home is chosen, the family can make a profit by selling the home, or renting to other families in need for income. Otherwise, there are multitudes of ways to re-adapt the living unit aesthetically to the homeowner's desire. Extensive alterations and expansions are widely considered by many families to differentiate themselves from the identifiable living modules originally from the border construct. Alternatively, there is an opportunity to recycle existing parts to redesign a new home environment altogether. The idea of the transportable home unit shall not be impacted negatively through the societal stigma, but rather generate a range of opportunities for a new home and a new future.

---

01/

Living units fixed within  
framework structure



02/

Individual units  
removed by crane



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[Figure 68] - *Living Unit Diagrams-i*

# 03/

Unit transported to other domains of Canada at the homeowner's desire

# 04/

Tranportation vehicle detached from mobile home unit



[Figure 69] - *Living Unit Diagrams-ii*

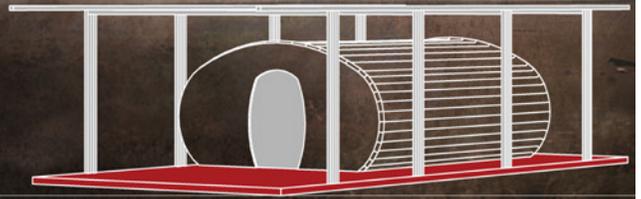
05/

Transformed mobile unit  
for improved comfort and  
livability



06/

Unit can be stationed on  
ground level and no longer  
raised on platform for  
mobility



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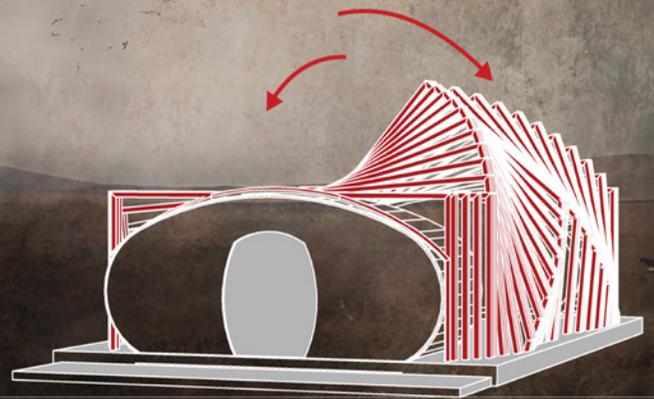
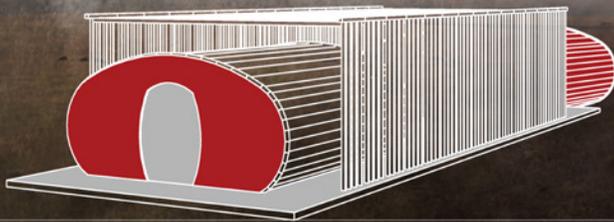
[Figure 70] - *Living Unit Diagrams-iii*

07/

Multiple units can be joined and extended into a larger living area

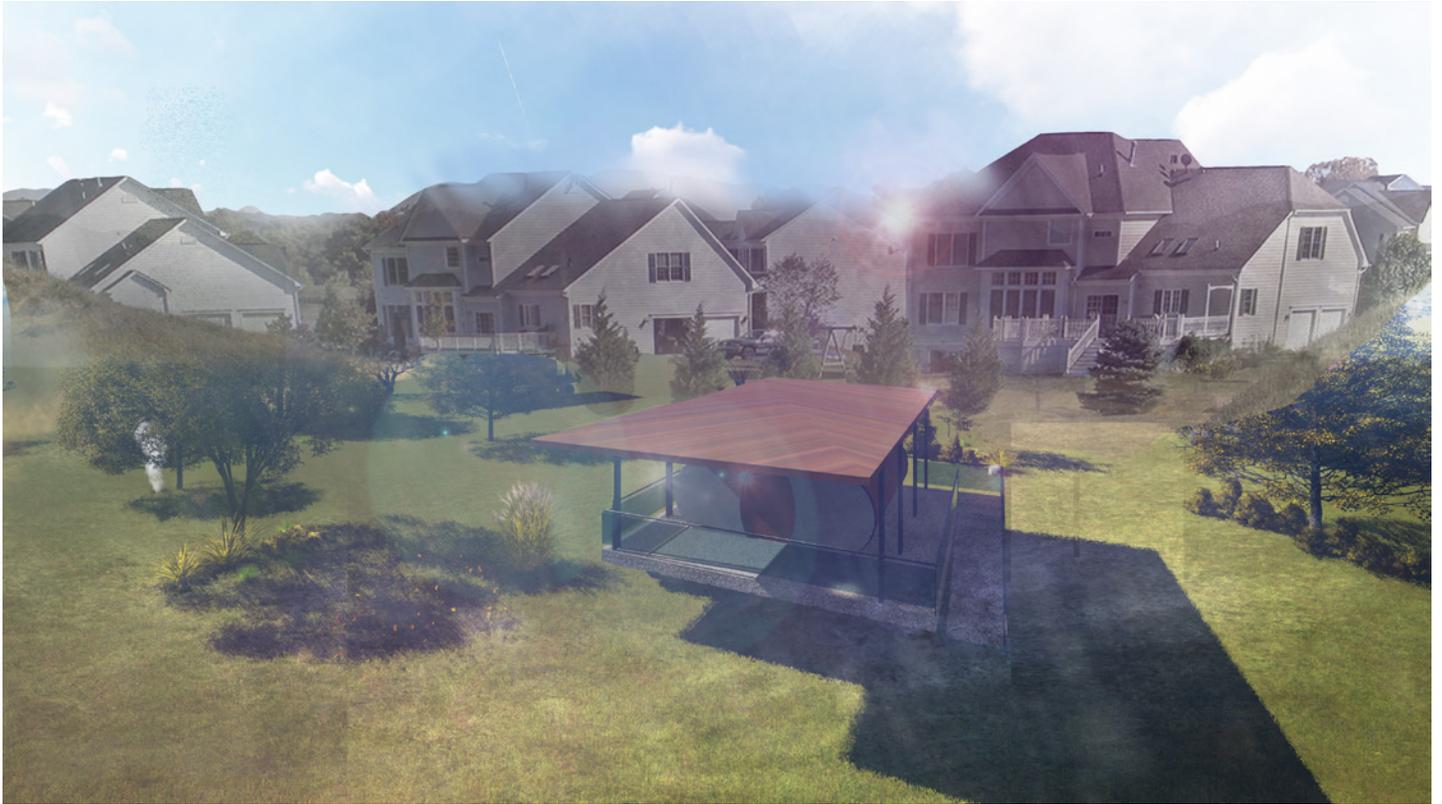
08/

Versatility of structural framework can be manipulated to alter spaces and create dynamic living conditions within



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[Figure 71] - *Living Unit Diagrams-iv*



*Bordertopia's mobile unit, once disengaged from the framework, can be transported off the megastructure. The tangibility of the mobile unit is designed to exist anywhere.*

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[Figure 72] - *Mobile Unit Rendering-i*



*The transportation process of the mobile unit becomes a part of the refugee's journey of becoming a Canadian citizen. The location in Canada of where they situate their home becomes their choice.*

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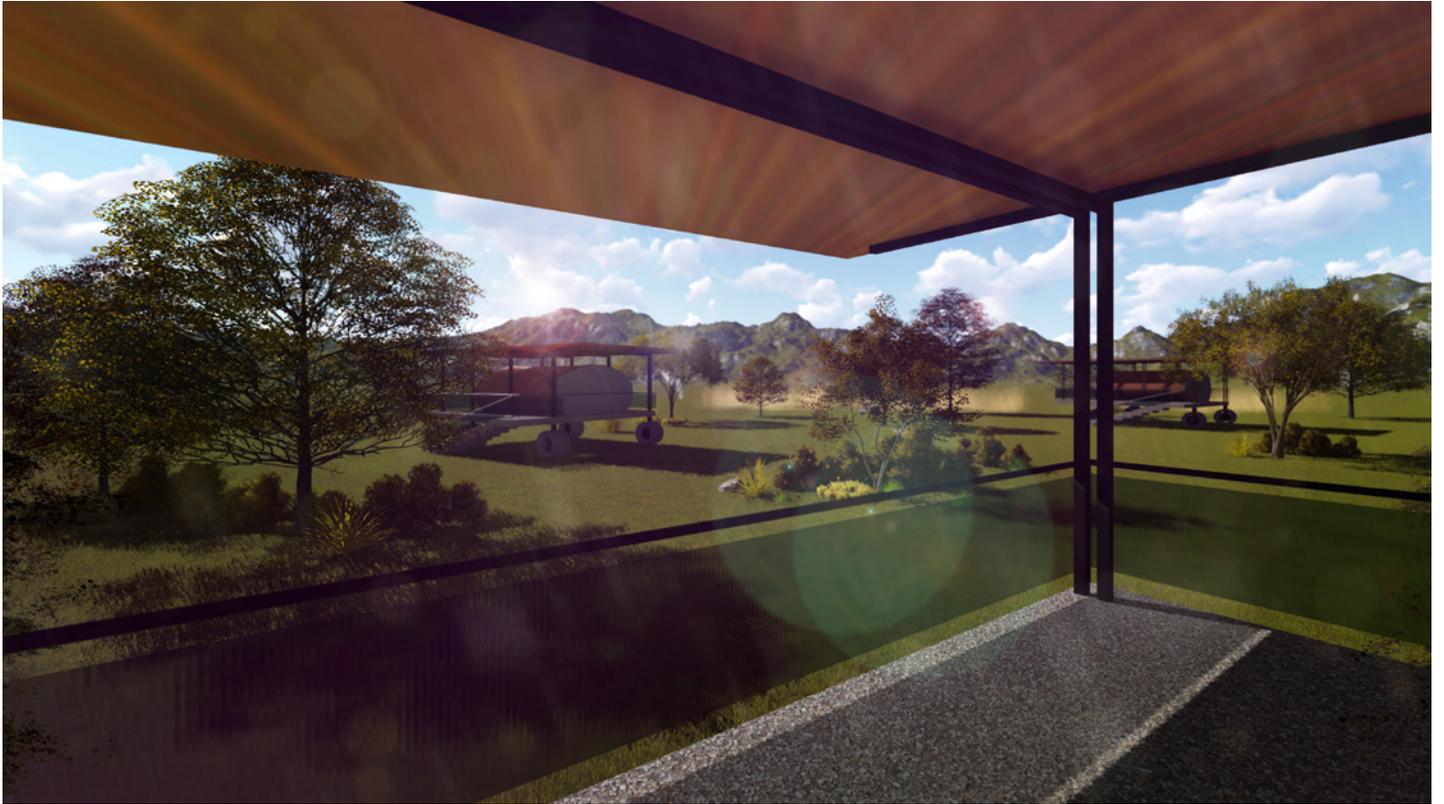
[Figure 73] - *Mobile Unit Rendering-ii*



*Located in greenbelt area, interaction with nature.*

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[Figure 74] - *Mobile Unit Rendering-iii*



*View from unit terrace.*

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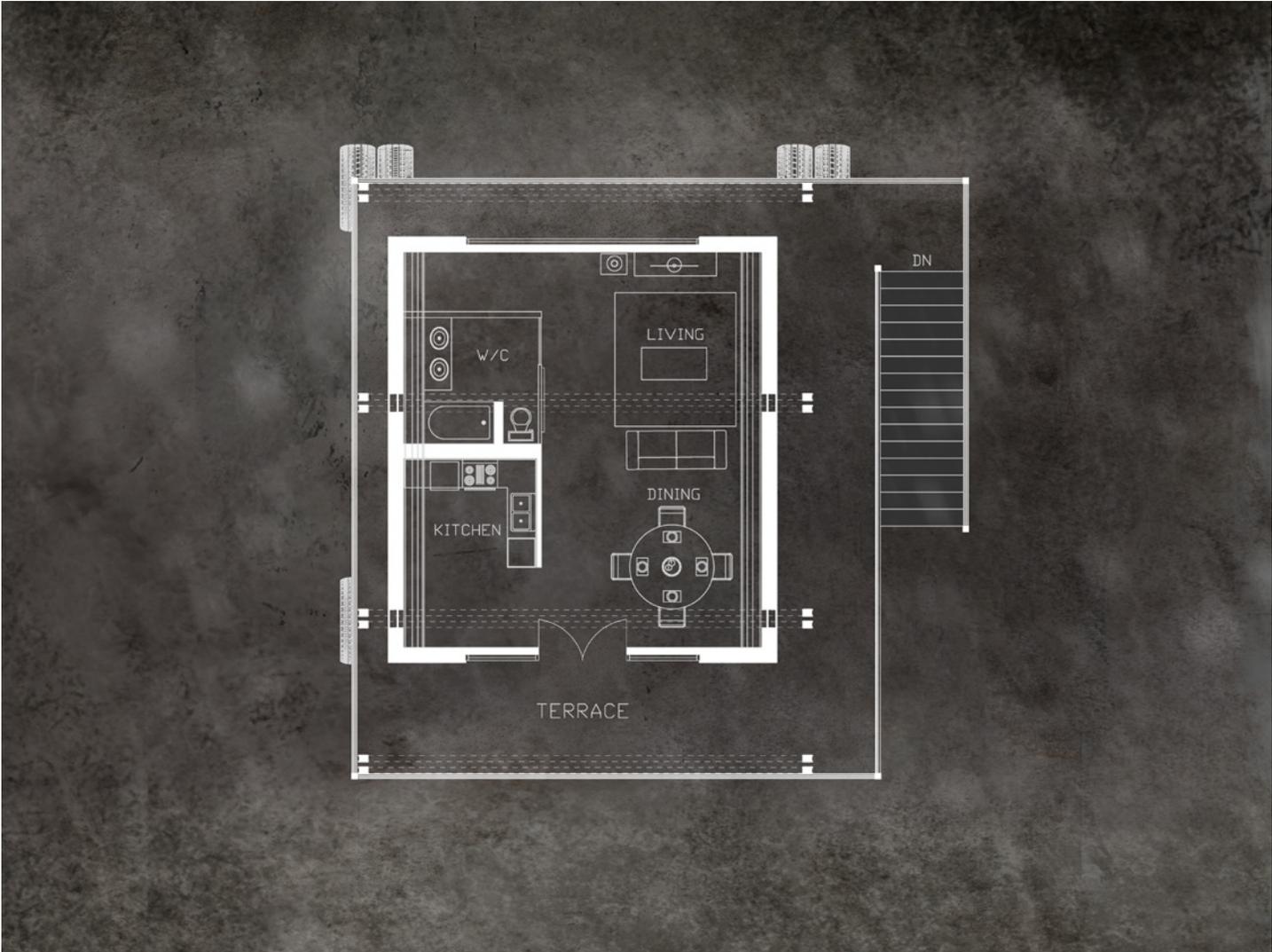
[Figure 75] - *Mobile Unit Rendering-iv*



*Multiple homes of multiple families interact with each other in same location.*

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[Figure 76] - *Mobile Unit Rendering-v*



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[Figure 77] - *Mobile Unit, Plan Drawing*



[Figure 78] - *Mobile Unit, Section Drawing*



*Once adapted to a certain site, the mobile unit can be permanently stationed by removing it from the transportation unit. While simultaneously, the unit can also be extended from one unit to multiple units at the home owner's desire.*

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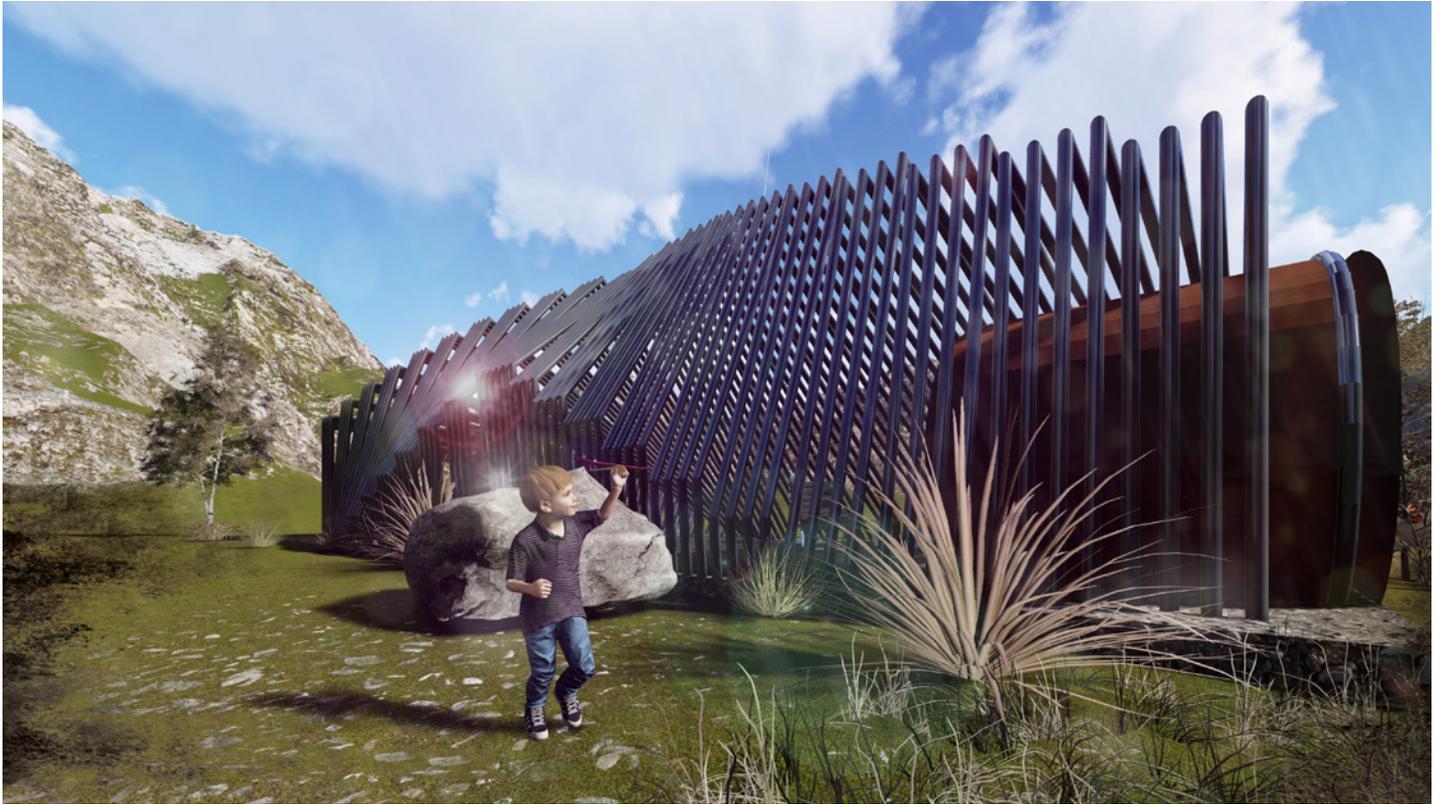
[Figure 79] – Stationed Unit Rendering-i



*Idealized in an isolate location with views to the lake.*

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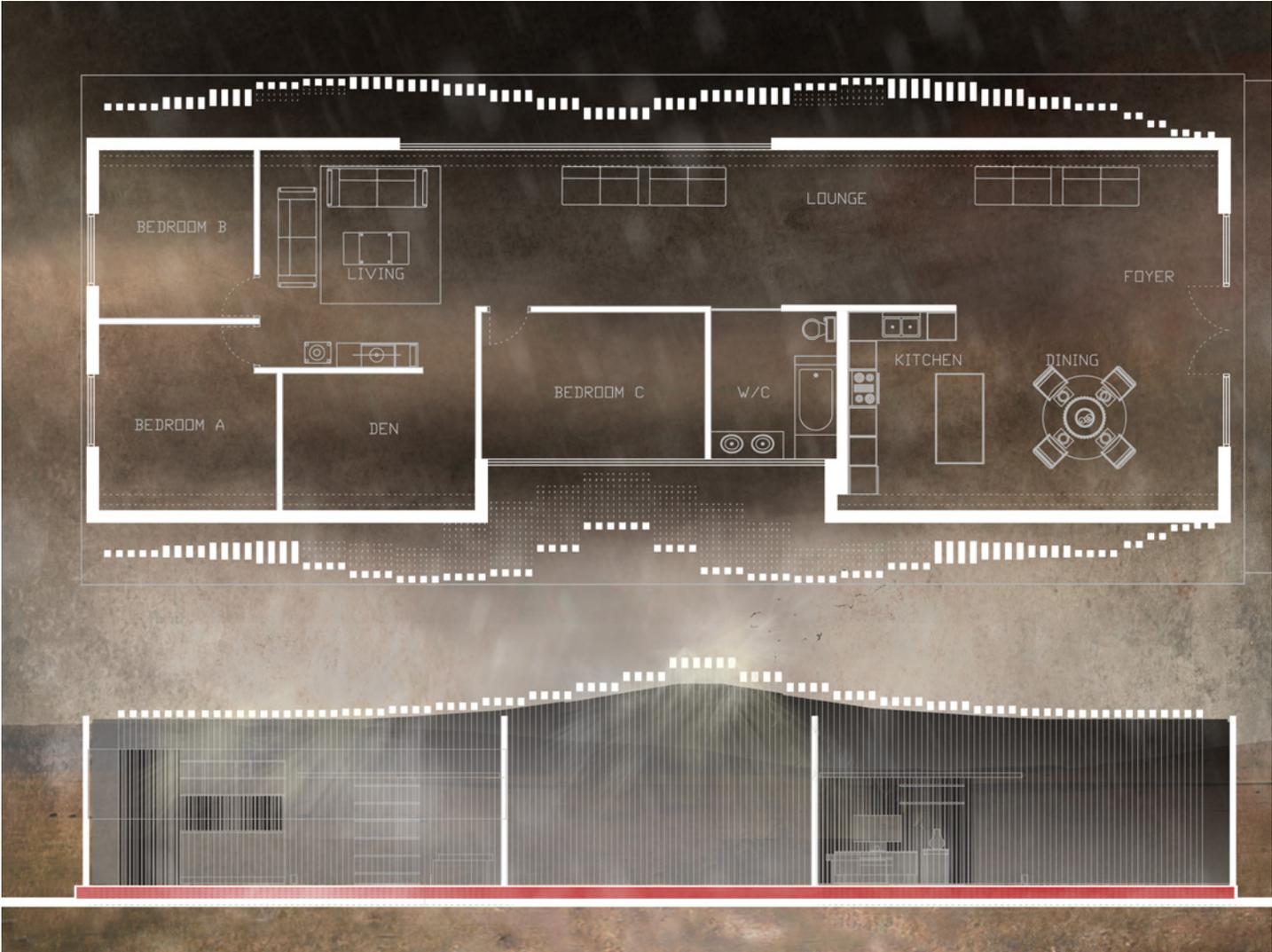
[Figure 80] - *Stationed Unit Rendering-ii*



*An example of how an extension can be utilized as a semi-open lounge space within home unit.*

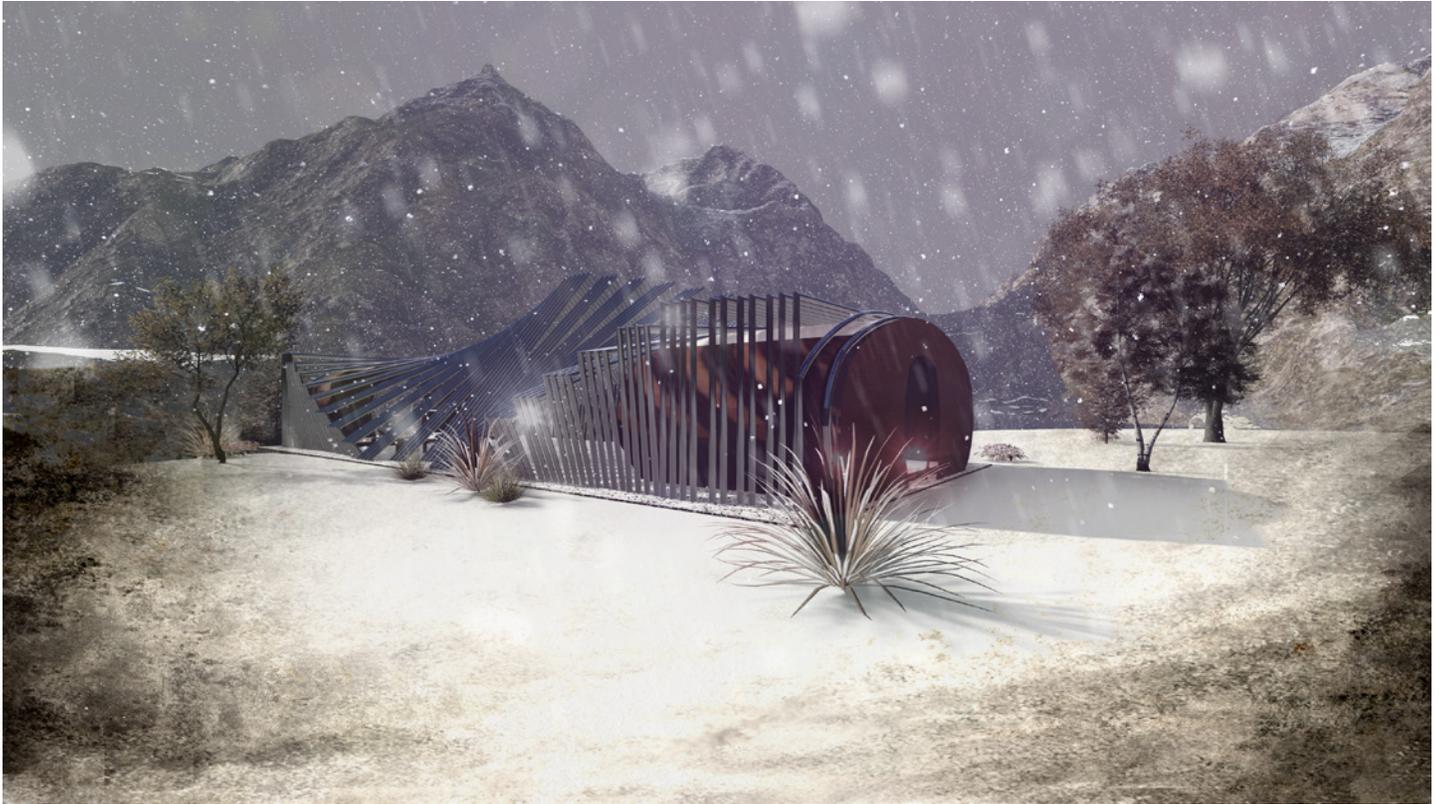
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[Figure 81] - *Stationed Unit Rendering-iii*



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[Figure 82] - *Stationed Unit, Plan & Section*



*Adapting to various climate and weather conditions.*

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[Figure 83] - *Stationed Unit Rendering-iv*

## POST-SCRIPT

Consider the architectural response as a new attitude of optimism and enthusiasm towards a new functionalist ideology of the future. The aim is to explore an architectural duality between the dynamic city-scale megastructure and the mobile living unit. It reflects on a divergence between the permanent structure with temporary modules. Nonetheless, the duality is also echoed in the roles of the political asylum of the border versus the society of stateless individuals.

Considering the reality of national politics, regulations, and boundaries, it proves that the proposed perception is merely a fantastical illusion. The ongoing issue of the surge in numbers at the Canadian-American border remains an underlying problem, yet also an inspiration that generated an ideal setting and circumstance for this speculative thesis exploration.

The ideas generated pose as a critical synthesis in response to the core themes of research, while abstraction is represented in the drawings of the border construct and the living unit. The drawings provide an alternate perspective with respect to how future divided nation-state spaces can be utilized. Thus, Bordertopia is an exploration that envisions border topologies of a near future, inventing a unique reality of hope for the refugee community.

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In critique of the ephemeral architectural concepts and narratives, the question on whether, or not, utopia is achieved remains ambiguous. The intention is to avoid simplification of the design process based on factual arguments; rather in this speculative outcome the factual is replaced by the fictional. As an intangible response to the overlying conditions, the exploration, discovery and invention of the new reality may be perceived controversially; whether as possibilities of a utopic or dystopic future, mirroring the real ambiguity of a fast emerging condition of illegal immigrants crossing the border in staggering numbers that are hard to predict and plan for.

To conclude, this thesis does not intend for the architecture to generate a solution, rather an exploration in the implication of a new community planning and dwelling units in the altercation of a national border environment. It is difficult for us to imagine the lives of a refugee, while assumptions may be made in consideration of their feelings and emotions, full accountability is taken to generate greater awareness of the situation.

Insofar, as this thesis concludes the Government of Canada still do not have complete control of the situation; in ending the act of crossing illegally, estimations in the number of deportations that may occur, or solutions to expedite the asylum application process altogether. The question remains open-ended to the ambiguities and the uncertainties of the situation of the stateless people.

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