

# UNBUILD THE WALL

OPEN IDEAS COMPETITION

# INTRODUCTION

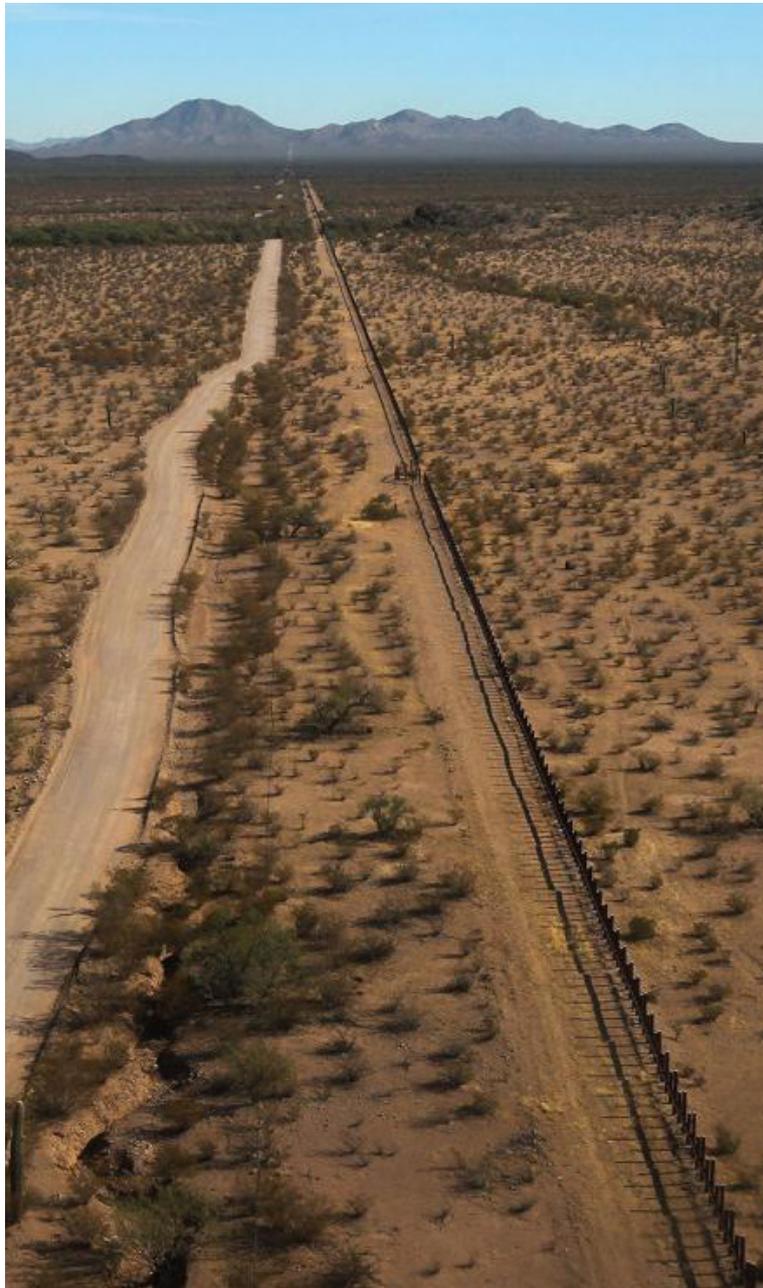
In the history of humankind there has always been an individualistic desire to protect what is his, even if this is detrimental to others. The need to create barriers has been part of our past, present, and unfortunately our future.

In the 21st century we find ourselves in a world full of walls; According to a study by Elisabeth Vallet, Director of Geopolitics at the University of Quebec, today the world has a total of 65 walls either completed or under construction. A good example of this are the walls splitting apart North Korea and South Korea, Ceuta/Melilla (Spain) and Morocco, or Pakistan and India.

Reece Jones, professor at the University of Hawaii, claims that the construction of physical borders is not effective against drug cartels nor terrorist groups, since they have plenty of resources to overcome these relatively simple obstacles. To make matters worse, these barriers end up affecting mainly the poorest and most desperate.

The construction of these walls only forces immigrants to seek more aggressive –thus, risky– methods to reach the other side. The International Organization of Immigration estimates at 40,000 the number of deaths from border crossing attempts since 2000.

This project places under the spotlight the most famous wall in recent times: the border between Mexico and the United States.



# THE WALL

Donald Trump's main campaign promise relaunches and gives a definite boost to an old and obsolete project of physical separation that had been abandoned by the last US governments, given the manifest inefficiency to obtain the intended results of tackling drug trafficking, illegal immigration and arms trafficking and which would actually bring disastrous humanitarian and environmental consequences.

As it has happened with the construction of the current barriers, the number of deaths is expected to skyrocket, especially among those who keep trying to improve their and their family's living conditions (more than 8,000 bodies recovered in the last two decades); people who, after all, will still look for more dangerous passageways, like crossing the Arizona desert or the Rio Grande river. Also, the heartbreaking scenes of immigrants talking to their relatives through the wall after years without hugging them will be multiplied, as well as grandparents knowing their grandchildren for the first time or children talking to their deported mother or father. In addition, damage to the environment in border areas will be inevitable, disturbing the natural passage of species and fragmenting their habitats. Not to mention the always forgotten Native Americans of the Tohono O'odham Nation, the second largest ethnic group in the United States, after the Navajos. Its current territory is located in the Altar desert, between the states of Arizona (USA) and Sonora (Mexico), place where Nogales, the project site, is located. Donald Trump's most vicious electoral promise aims to cut off hundreds of years of language, traditions and culture shared on both sides of the border.

All these economic, humanitarian and ecological costs will not prevent, according to experts, the relentless entry of illegal immigrants driven by despair. In the last two decades walls have been built, sensors, cameras, satellites and other technologies have been installed and the amount of border agents has increased by 518% to 21,000 today, however, these measures have been proven incapable of stopping those who have left everything behind to travel thousands of miles in their quest of a better life.

It won't even prevent the entry of drugs into the United States as the demand and volume of the business are too large to be cut by a wall that will only enlarge the proven resourcefulness of drug traffickers who have already used catapults, cannons, ramps, drones and tunnels to evade the current barriers.

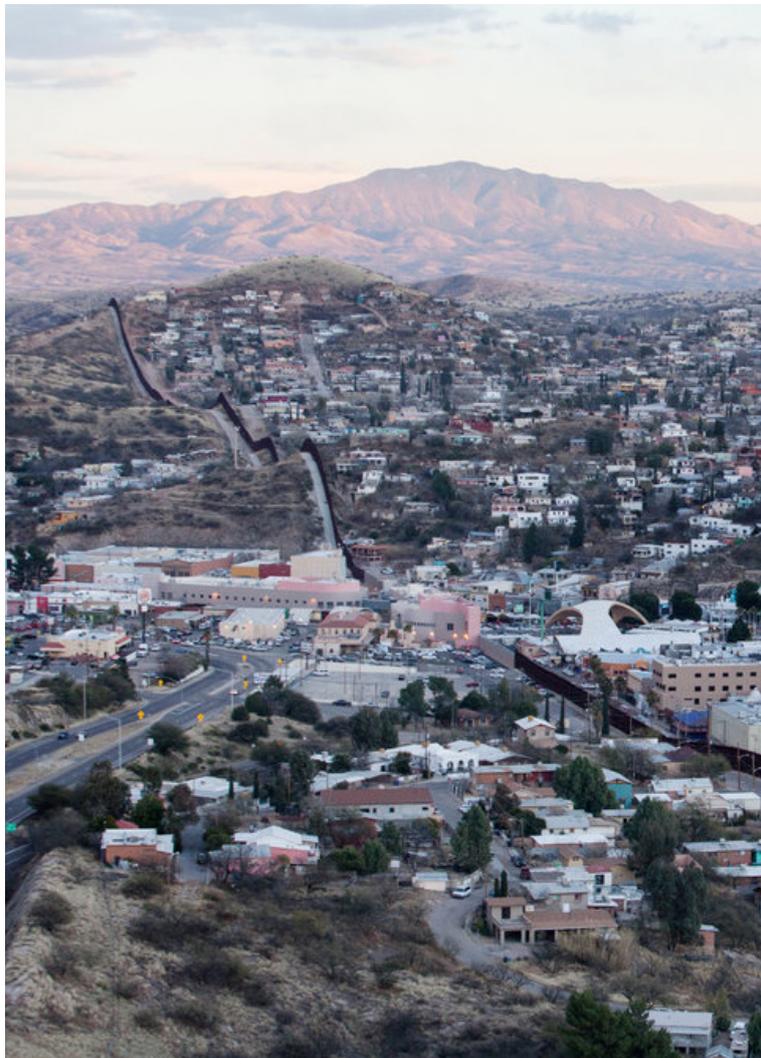
Based on experience, we propose a solution based on compromise and mutual understanding that has to be endorsed by the local authorities, civil associations and all the agents involved and which, in our opinion, is incompatible with the physical separation of the two countries intended by the new President of the United States.

# NOGALES

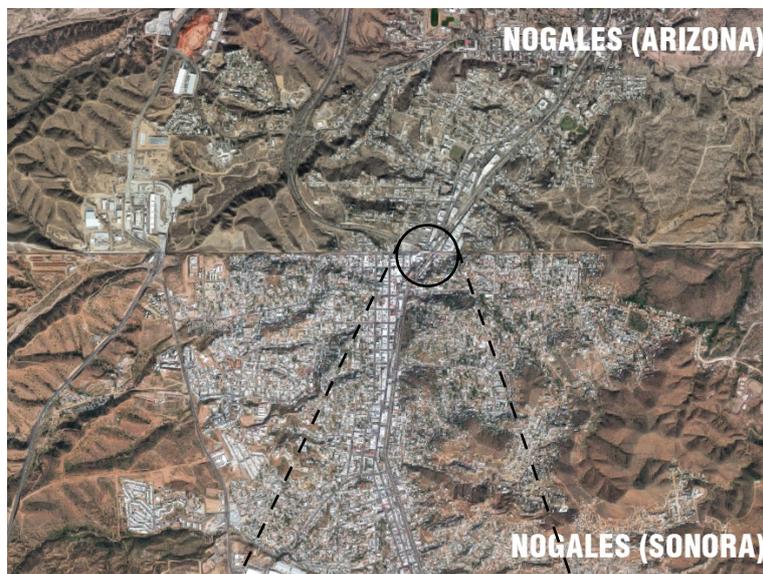
From the hills surrounding the city you can see American Nogales separated from Mexican Nogales with a wall that extends far beyond the city through the arid desert. Mexican Nogales is a meeting point for the newly deported, the newcomers from the south who assess whether to continue their trip to the United States or to return home, and for the volunteers and organizations that help migrants. The main topic on both sides of the border is no other than the construction of the controversial wall, that only brings fear into the minds of relatives on both sides who don't know if they will see each other again.

The current version of the wall is quite recent and consists of high steel beams arranged in a row with two border crossings that monitor the transit of goods and people daily, several shrines that remember the places where a migrant has lost his life and some artistic manifestations that use the wall as a canvas. Following the end of this imposing wall of solid steel appears a barrier built with old railway tracks covered with barbed wire where you can find evidence (traces) of the migrant's bustle, such as bonfires and leftovers.

Currently, the States of Arizona and Sonora maintain close ties and work together to build bridges instead of walls. Both states are carrying out a lot of collaboration and union projects on both sides of the border, but their continuity will be called into question by the impenetrable wall that plans to raise the new American President.



# LOCATION



The project focuses on the current border crossing that separates the cities of Nogales. The Archstorming Team **is calling for proposals to eliminate the existing buildings and the wall, building instead a space for coexistence that allows at the same time a respectful and controlled supervision of the migrants flow.**

# THE CHALLENGE

Archstorming encourages all participants to demonstrate that there are other ways of building borders. To this end, it is proposed to project a **non-aggressive and socially inclusive border crossing, eliminating the current wall.** The following program is proposed:

**Migratory checkpoint space**  
**Border division that removes the current wall**  
**Meeting spaces for the inhabitants of both cities**  
**Showroom / multipurpose room**  
**Offices**  
**Bathrooms**  
**Interventions in the public outdoor space**

As long as the participant fulfills the premise of **creating a wall-less border crossing**, the program may be discretionally modified if deemed appropriate.

In addition, we recommend that the proposals address the following topics:

Use of architecture to promote social cohesion  
Research into the creation of non-intrusive barriers  
Use of volumetrics adapted to the environment  
Creation of public spaces

Whether or not to eliminate the buildings currently used as a migratory checkpoint is an individual decision of each participant. You can keep them or give them a different use.



# COMPETITION DETAILS

## ELEGIBILITY

Any architecture student or actual architect can participate in UNBUILD THE WALL, regardless of their nationality. Likewise, people from other disciplines can also participate, such as philosophers, sociologists, photographers, etc. Not being necessary the presence of an architect in the team, although it is recommended.

Teams may be formed by a maximum of four (4) members and a minimum of one (1).

All team members must be 18 years of age or older.

The registration fee must be paid per team, regardless of the number of members (1-4 people)

In the event that a team or participant wants to participate with more than one proposal, it will be necessary to register twice (or as many times as proposals will be submitted), paying the full price corresponding to each registration.

Under no circumstances may jurors, the organization or persons directly related to the jury participate in this competition.

## AWARDS

Prizes totaling 3.700€, broken down as follows:

1st PRIZE

**2.000 €**

2nd PRIZE

**1.000€**

3rd PRIZE

**500€**

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

**200€**

+10 HONORABLE MENTIONS

In addition, the winning projects or finalists can be published in magazines, blogs or architecture web pages, social networks or the Archstorming website.

\*Depending on the country of residence of the winners, the prize may be subject to the withholding or payment of taxes foreseen in the law of that country.



# COMPETITION DETAILS

## CALENDAR

MAY 8th 2017	EARLY REGISTRATION BEGINS
JUNE 7th 2017	EARLY REGISTRATION CLOSES
JUNE 8th 2017	REGULAR REGISTRATION BEGINS
JULY 7th 2017	REGULAR REGISTRATION CLOSES
JULY 8th 2017	ADVANCED REGISTRATON BEGINS
AUGUST 7th 2017	<b>SUBMISSION DEADLINE</b>
AUGUST 21st 2017	WINNERS ANNOUNCED
AUGUST 22nd 2017	PEOPLE'S CHOICE VOTING VEGINS
SEPTEMBER 3rd 2017	PEOPLE'S CHOICE VOTING CLOSES
SEPTEMBER 4th 2017	PEOPLE'S CHOICE WINNER ANNOUNCED

\*No submissions will be accepted after the general deadline indicated above: 23:59:59 Mexico City time (UCT / GMT-5) or CDT.

## PAYMENT

Registration fees will depend on the registration date, and will evolve as follows:

EARLY REGISTRATION: **40€ + VAT**

REGULAR REGISTRATION: **60€ + VAT**

ADVANCED REGISTRATION: **80€ + VAT**

VAT: 21%

Registration process must be completed on the official Archstorming website. In order for the registration to be successful, the team must pay the fee corresponding to the registration date. Once the registration and payment process have been completed, there will be no refunds.

## PAYMENT METHODS

Visa, Mastercard, Discover and American Express credit or debit cards may be used. The Archstorming team will not have access to credit card details. Please provide the information on the card as it appears on it.

Likewise, payments are accepted through Paypal.

## REGISTRATION

Within 24 hours after registration and payment, the Archstorming Team will send a confirmation email that will include the work material (photographs and drawings in DWG), as well as the "registration number". This number must be placed in a visible spot on the team's competition board, preferably the lower right corner.

At the time of completing the submission form when sending the proposals, the registration number will also be required to identify the team.

<http://www.archstorming.com/register.html>



# COMPETITION DETAILS

## **SUBMISSION MATERIALS**

Participants must submit one (1) A1 format board (841x1189 mm or 33.1x46.8 inches) oriented either landscape or portrait with the registration number in the lower right corner.

The content of the board is open, as long as the idea that the participants want to communicate is clearly expressed. The board must be delivered in JPEG or JPG format and its name must be the registration number provided by the Archstorming Team (eg UTW156.jpg)

In addition, one (1) description of the project no longer than 200 words must be submitted. The description must be submitted in PDF format and its name must be the registration number provided by the Archstorming Team (eg UTW156.pdf)

If the participant delivers more than one board, only the first board will be considered.

All the materials must be submitted in the Submit section on the Archstorming's website.

<http://www.archstorming.com/submit.html>

## **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

The jury will evaluate the projects based on the proposed objectives, the main being the elimination of the wall that divides the city of Nogales and the creation of a non-aggressive barrier, as well as the construction of an unconventional check point that promotes social cohesion.

The jury is free to add other criteria that they consider important for the creation of the new border crossing.

A total of 50 proposals will be selected for the final round. Among the 50 finalists, the jury will choose the winner, the second and third place, and the 10 mentions of honor.

After the announcement of the winners the competition will proceed with the people's choice award through contest on Facebook. You can check the particular conditions of the contest in the Terms and Conditions site, within the website of Archstorming.

## **FAQ**

You can check the most common questions in the corresponding section on the Archstorming website:

<http://www.archstorming.com/faq-utw.html>

Also, during the competition, all questions sent by email will be answered individually and uploaded to the section of the website mentioned above.



# COMPETITION DETAILS

## **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND COPYRIGHT**

All materials submitted to the competition will become property of Archstorming, and therefore give Archstorming all rights to that material from that moment on.

Archstorming will publish all materials given appropriate attributes to the authors.

Archstorming reserves the right to modify the proposals and text in order to better adapt them to any publication format, without changing the essence of the proposal itself.

The participant is responsible for using copyright-free images. Archstorming is not responsible for the use of protected images by the participants.

## **NOTES**

Archstorming reserves the right to make any changes in the rules of the competition (dates, requirements, etc.). It is the obligation of the participants to check on a regular basis the website of Archstorming to verify if the Terms and Conditions or the competition information have been modified.

The competition is only a theoretical project of what could be done in the border, without meaning that the winning proposal or any other presented will never be build.

Archstorming is not responsible for any research done by participants in the area.

The breach of the norms and terms defined in this briefing or in the Terms and Conditions of the website of Archstorming will result in the immediate disqualification of the team without any refund of the payments made.

Archstorming reserves the right to cancel this contest in case it does not reach a minimum number of participants, defined in the Terms and Conditions. In that case Archstorming will return the full amount of registration fees to the participants enrolled at the time of cancellation.

<http://www.archstorming.com/terms-utw.html>

