

PANDEMICS AND THE CHANGING BUILT ENVIRONMENT

LEARNING FROM HISTORY,
PLANNING OUR FUTURE

Edited by Alessandro Camiz

Pandemics and the changing built environment. Learning from history,
planning our future
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Pandemics and the changing built environment. Learning from history, planning our
future, April 28th-30th 2022, Özyeğin University, Istanbul, Turkey.



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Alessandro Camiz ed.



Dynamic Research on Urban Morphology books - 7

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Thomas Cole, *The Course of Empire. Destruction*, oil on canvas, 1836, New York Historical Society, New York City, NY, US.

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01

Table of contents

Table of contents	5
The conference	9
Wowo Ding	
Alessandro Camiz	
Mohammed Alajmi	
Xiao Hu	
Mosè Ricci	
Editor's note	16
<i>Pandemics and Urban form: The Course of Empire</i>	17
Alessandro Camiz	
Keynote speakers	24
Keynote papers	30
<i>Radical change, or just more of the same? Thoughts on COVID and urban change</i>	31
Peter J. Larkham	
Papers	46
<i>Pandemics and climate change. Towards a new territorial cycle and morphological period</i>	47
Alessandro Camiz	
<i>A small investigation on the effects of applying market rules in public spaces and architectures in everyday life and during a pandemic crisis</i>	63
Giorgio Verdiani	
<i>Walls of the present time. Reformulation of the relationship between the individual and the territory</i>	73
Silvia Dalzero	
<i>The Rediscovery of our Dwelling Space during Covid-19</i>	83
Mustapha El Moussaoui	
<i>Holy Spirit Hospices in Mecklenburg – charitable institutions in the urban tissue of the 13th and 14th century</i>	93
Martin Ebert	
Fred Ruchhöf	
Gudrun Ruchhöf	
Philip Hansen	
<i>Extramural Chapels in the medieval towns of Mecklenburg</i>	107
Fred Ruchhöf	
Gudrun Ruchhöf	
Martin Ebert	
Philip Hansen	
<i>Between Emotional Management and Real (Infra). Structural Response: Covid-19 in the Peripheries of Barcelona</i>	119
Sena Aydin Bergfalk	
<i>Post-Pandemic Public Spaces: Strategies for Resilient Parks in the Wake of COVID-19</i>	127
Nirupama Sam	
Neetu Kapoor	

<i>The sanatorium typology, its relationship with nature and its influence on Berlin's urban morphology</i>	137
Daniele Roccaro	
<i>Hospital epidemic preparedness: a checklist and case studies</i>	147
Rossella Marmo	
Lorenzo Diana	
Claudia Sicignano	
Francesco Polverino	
Andrej Tibaut	
<i>Morpho-typological relationships between architecture and pandemics: The cases of plague and TBC</i>	157
Raffaele Tarallo	
<i>Evolution of Hospital Typology in 19th and 20th century Algiers, Algeria. Maillot el Kettar hospital and Mustapha Hospitals</i>	169
Khettab Samira	
<i>Historical correlation between pandemics, architecture and urban planning</i>	179
Stefania Farina	
Camilla Mileto	
Fernando Vegas	
<i>Impact of Covid'19 on Space-use in Compact Multi-Family Residential Highrise Apartment Houses: a case of Surat and Ahmedabad</i>	191
Jitendra Menghani	
Rachana Patel	
Chintan Shah	
<i>LOCKdown Dictionary: Daily Life Practices in Pandemic + Post Pandemic Era</i>	203
Nagehan Acimuz Isbakan	
Hulya Turgut	
Buse Usta	
<i>Re-shaping the Contemporary City. Insights from 'KM0 – Displaying Perceptions of Quarantine Landscape'</i>	215
Romina D'Ascanio	
Francesca Paola Mondelli	
<i>Urban layout (a)temporality in pandemic times. The case of Almirante Reis Avenue, Lisbon</i>	225
Sérgio Proença	
Nawaf Saeed Al Mushayt	
André Lourenço	
<i>CUM-DIVIDO. Design paradigms for variable distance living</i>	235
Andrea Manca	
Francesca Musanti	
Claudia Pintor	
<i>Maieutic aberrations. Can the heterotopias conceived for historical plagues teach us anything about today's pandemic space?</i>	243
Francesca Musanti	
Claudia Pintor	
Andrea Manca	
Drum Books	254
Dynamic Research on Urban Morphology books DRUM BOOKS	255

02

The conference

PANDEMICS AND THE CHANGING BUILT ENVIRONMENT. LEARNING FROM HISTORY, PLANNING OUR FUTURE
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Contacts:

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03

Editor's note

Pandemics and Urban form: *The Course of Empire*

Alessandro Camiz

Özyeğin University
alessandro.camiz@ozyegin.edu.tr
(now d'Annunzio University of Chieti–Pescara)
alessandro.camiz@unich.it

"La fantasia altro non è che memoria o dilatata o composta" (Vico, 1744).

"Fantasy is nothing but memory, either dilated or composed" (Vico, 1744).

Pandemics and Urban form

In March 2020 when COVID-19 arrived in Türkiye, Özyeğin University organised a multidisciplinary research team entitled *Covid-19 Foresight and Solution Development Team*. Within that initiative, we proposed an international conference on Pandemics and Urban Form in order to explore how the pandemic was affecting urban form and life in different countries. It took a while to organise the conference, which had to be entirely online. Due to the lockdowns affecting different countries, and the ongoing pandemic travel restrictions, we organise the conference entirely online using the ZOOM platform. By joining forces with INTBAU, UK; University of Trento in Italy, Nanjing University in China Kuwait University in Kuwait, and University of Idaho in the United States, we are able to organize this as an international event, including the four continents and we did. So i'm very grateful to the conference co-chairs: Mohammed Alajmi, Kuwait University, Kuwait; Mosè Ricci, University of Trento (now "Sapienza" University of Rome), Italy; Wowo Ding, Nanjing University, China and Xiao Hu, University of Idaho, United States for their cooperation in writing the conference call for papers which was launched in May 1st 2021. The call was organised on three different conference tracks: learning from history, shedding light on the contemporary world and the world is waiting for us to take action, in order to include history, social studies, design and planning, looking at the past, the present and moreover the future.

We received 87 abstract proposals, which were peer reviewed by the conference scientific committee, consisting of 120 international members, thanks to all of them for their contribution in selecting the papers. Abstracts of papers and posters in English were submitted online using the Microsoft Conference Management Toolkit, a free platform for conference management, thanks to Microsoft for this service. We should underline that the platform is not very user friendly: we therefore do hope that Microsoft will be able to improve it in this sense. Out of the selected abstract proposals, only 55 delegates registered for the conference. The conference finally included 55 papers, 6 keynote speakers, and 1 Roundtable on pandemics and climate change. We would also like to express special thanks the following for the patronage to the conference: International Seminar on Urban Form - ISUF; "Storia della città", Centro internazionale di studi per la storia della città, fonti d'archivio e patrimonio architettonico-ambientale; ISUF-ITALY and the Cyprus Network of Urban Morphology, CyNUM.

The conference lasted 3 days, from April 28th to April 30th 2022, with sessions ranging from 10.00 AM to 20:30 PM (Turkish time). There were 30 chairs and co-chairs helping us in coordinating the 13 different sessions that the conference included. Finally, there were 128 delegates registered for the conference and attending online.

The participating countries are visible in the maps (fig. 1, 2). Even though we were not able to include Australia, we had some participants from the surrounding Malaysia and Indonesia. We were able to include the four continents in the event and are very happy about this. We published the book of abstracts before the conference (Camiz, Al Hussein and Linnik, 2022), and distributed it for free, PDF format, to all the conference delegates.

The Course of Empire

When we published the call for papers, obviously many scholars criticised our initiative. Some declared that the pandemic crisis is not going to affect the urban form, therefore having the conference no scientific relevance, why would you need to organise it? We can reply today, that the conference not only has shown that there has been some meaningful changes in the built environment in the present time, but also looking back into history, it has underlined how most of the improvements in planning and design of urban settlements were in the past determined as a response to pandemics. In fact, the denial of effects of the pandemics seems to be one of the understandable human responses to such a tragedy, which just to recall it here, caused over 7 million deaths worldwide in 2 years, and substantially changed everyone life for its duration.

Just to conclude few words about the image we have used for the conference poster, so the zoom conference background, the cover of the book of abstracts, and finally the cover of this book.

This is a painting by Thomas Cole, entitled Destruction and belonging to a cycle of 5 paintings, called the Course of empire, accomplished between 1833 and 1836. The cycle depicts the very same imaginary landscape as changing across time, and perhaps besides the specific subject is a metaphor of the cycles of history. All those paintings were done using the on oil canvas technique and are now part of the New Historical Society Collection in New York City.

Starting from the Savage state, to the Arcadian and or Pastoral state, to the Consummation of Empire, Destruction and Desolation, the cycle depicts the very same landscape as changing hence the action of human beings.

The growth of a city in that same landscape and its destruction, somehow may correlated with the evolution of the territorial cycles as described by Saverio Muratori, (1967) or the Morphological periods analysed by Conzen (1960). The core notion of this cyclical understanding of History, as Giambattista Vico taught us, is that History moves in cycles, therefore what happened before, might happen again in a following cycle. Finally, I would like to express my sincere apologies to all the authors for the delay in the publication of this book, in the meantime I moved from Özyeğin University, Istanbul to University of Chieti-Pescara in Italy, and that transition took over most of my time for over a year.

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06

Papers

Walls of the present time. Reformulation of the relationship between the individual and the territory

Silvia Dalzero

IUAV, University of Architecture in Venice
silviadal@virgilio.it

Keywords: borders, city, territory

Abstract

This research opens up a new field of study in architecture and urban planning. In fact, it is not an exclusively descriptive reading but, despite having its greatest strength in rigorous reading, it starts from an attitude expressed by the culture of architectural design. An articulated line of research that problematizes the spatial effects of the border's fortification and reconfigures the world's geography in which the fluidity typical of modern society undergoes a substantial upheaval assuming a diametrically opposite character. The starting point was to note that contrary to what might have been expected, the proliferation of walls and physical borders multiplied after the fall of the Berlin Wall. A simple observation that led me to undertake a verification on a global scale, concentrating on the one hand on cataloguing it as numerically significant data in itself, and on the other hand on the study of the aspects linked to the phenomena of new urbanization or modification of the existing one that this proliferation of barriers he brought with him. The work reveals a new geography of borders that concerns not only the national delimitations between states but also the social, ethnic, and religious differences existing within individual cities or territories belonging to a single nation. In the wake of migrations, walls have become a territorially new presence that characterizes the world, from the USA to the Balkans, and alongside them are unprecedented urban phenomena that research has studied in their differences and similarities: from the urban walls of Jerusalem or Nicosia to temporary settlements in the African deserts or in the forests of Eastern Europe. The punctual description of this new geography constitutes the most relevant aspect of a phenomenon that has so far been read-only in its social and journalistic aspects but which the research restores in its harsh material and urban essence. (Fig.1)

Methodology

Walls have become a territorially new presence in the current world scene of which research returns, for the first time, the harsh material and urban essence. A cartographic description conceived for the occasion is carried out which as a whole contributes to defining an unprecedented architectural atlas of the new walls and invites us to observe the urban phenomena connected to the physical closure of the border from which comes a new configuration of the contemporary world whose historical-economic-social data are told in the files that accompany each case analyzed. Through comparison and in scale redesign, the scientific rigor of the research recognizes and highlights aspects such as dimensions (from the few meters of an anti-favelas fence to the hundreds of kilometers of the border between the USA and Mexico), materials (from the sluice gates of the Israeli walls, the Hungarian barbed wire, the metal bars in the USA) and compare barriers which in their recurring essentiality develop current themes but cannot fail to refer to the ancient constructive tradition of medieval valleys or fortifications. The research, which begins with the many comparisons identified in the housing phenomena that break close to the walls, recognizes new passages, visual or physical, legal or clandestine which over time settle as new cities of waiting which find their only organizing element. In this way, a place is distinguished where migratory flows get stuck, often for a long time and which in some cases reaches a materiality that could be defined as proto-urban where the housing scene, if it can be called that, shows the image of extreme precariousness. A territory in which multiple identities face each other, those who come from afar, with different nations, individual histories and languages, and those who build structures to block them often on the wave of fear of endangering their claimed identity and security. Suffice it to say that, in recent years, the member states of the European Union and the Schengen area have built almost 1,000 kilometers of walls, in contrast to the migratory flow, the equivalent of more than six times the total length of the Berlin Wall. Other than a globalized and

hyper-connected world with closed borders and frontiers. One could say that has never before the perception of the limit coexisted with the aspiration of the unlimited. States continue to want to control and monitor their own "space" inducing an obsession with barriers. On the other hand, conflicts persist unabated as do economic or political dictatorial inequalities or internecine wars that fuel the flight of entire peoples. Consequently, migratory flows push, like a swollen river, at the gates of states which in response fortify their territorial limits with barriers, more or less high, more or less sophisticated but fortified and controlled, not enough to counteract the need for migration to escape. Barriers, since they began to multiply globally between the end of the Short Century and the launch of the "War on terror", have led to the definition of border walls not only as "backdrops", but as "agents", that are living structures and active people who organize the life of millions of people on the move (and not only) everywhere on the planet. Added to this is the fact that it has originated significant settlement forms and led to urban analysis and architectural reading to analyze phenomena which, apparently, do not seem to express any type of interest or quality but only a negative symbolic value in terms of exclusion and segregation and opposition.

The research shows that we are not dealing with phenomena in their own right, that what is manifested on both sides of the walls increases synthetically and extremely, but precisely because of this is extremely evident, the same architectural figures that are already present for some time. Reading the geography of the new walls, the strips of controlled land and the architecture of the shelters that multiply close by is therefore a way to understand the contemporary city in its harshest and most controversial expressions in which the house is configured in its most ephemeral, temporary, basic manifestations. The research unmasks the linearity of borders and settlements that break into them in which ancient figures such as walls or cities replicate themselves in a caricatured and extreme form. Crazy splinters of a malignant urbanity: walls, control areas, precarious settlements are implementing something in the world that goes beyond the very idea of informal city and reaches the point of assuming, in the most extreme cases, stability that appears to us as a variant of it and that is characterized by the containment of a kinetic force sooner or later destined to explode and which on an international level is one of the aspects most on the agenda in the world scenario of urban and territorial transformations. (Fig.2; Fig.3; Fig.4; Fig.5)

Border topography

The articulated line of research that problematizes the spatial repercussions, given by the processes of globalization and international migration, reconfigures the geography of the world which today assumes a multicultural character and shatters the space in which the concept of fluidity, typical of modern society (Bauman, 2011), undergoes a substantial upheaval assuming a diametrically opposite character. As a consequence, spaces are configured in which life habits are conditioned by constraints and by the new idea of a place where being fluid means having to live not perceiving the infinite as a potential field of action, but letting a finite space define the contours of our existence. In essence, we have rediscovered the meaning of the physical limit which, on closer inspection, is engulfing us in a vortex of barriers and walls which take to extremes a phenomenon, which has already been underway for decades, of fortification of the national border and which represents the other side of globalization and international migration, both at the level of everyday urban spaces and at the level of global intercontinental flows (Mezzadra, 2004). This dynamic of progressive re-delimitation of space responds to policies of aversion and division that represent the peculiar trait of architectural thinking, exercised on the border, in which the other is catapulted into a reality of segregation and control. Nothing new, in some ways, from the interpretation of urban development given by Michel Foucault or Henri Lefebvre, starting from the theme of the city as a mechanism of spatial exclusion, surveillance and social control. What changes is the rapid multiplication and overlapping of these phenomena, at different and overlapping scales and domains. Rhythms, speeds, and the very nature of borders change, with often unpredictable and overwhelming effects that can be defined as a sort of analytical-interpretative babel (Brenner, 2017). Ultimately, the very shape of border cities changes which, between ideals of globalization and boundless connection, recognizes the fragmentation of architectural and urban reality as an inevitable resolution. The design of the border is significant which aims, in this acquired physical recognizability, to reveal and make people understand and know a space that takes on specific dimensional properties, that is measurable and understood as relationships in agreement or disagreement and which arise by the very materiality of the border.

Topography of the border emerges as something clear-cut, recognized and inviolable and which constitutes the fundamental cornerstone around which the architectural thought that identifies, on a territorial basis, the identity of the state is structured. It is no coincidence that design culture is taking an interest in these contexts in which the border is no longer just a line on paper but also a physical structure which, in its prismatic decomposition and re-composition, marks and produces differences that establish not only the relationship between states or regions, who enters and who leaves but also the meaning and distinctive value of the architectural composition and the infrastructural continuity or discontinuity. By materializing on the horizon and investigating the resulting architectural transformations, the border has repercussions at both a micro and macro level and acquires special importance where the migrant runs aground and where the defensive works of walls, towers and gates constitute the cornerstone around which migrant living is configured, characterized by the density of scenarios and the acceleration of movements which prove to be an expression of the urban experience and which, in a game of actions and reactions, always relate to the wall. This dynamism operated on the border involves a settlement stretching that has repercussions on different scales from the architectural scales, of individual housing units, to the urban ones of infrastructure and integration between antinomian parts. Dynamics of fortification and opposition take place which, by including and excluding, from time to time, individuals and places, by choice or by necessity, recognize a way of living which is structured in differences and which takes place in conflicting contexts, in which fear and aversion to the other tends to be the dominant feature. Having said this, the articulated line of research that interprets the spatial transformations of social-settlement phenomena such as the outcome of international migrations recognizes new multi-cultural geographies and generates a restructured social mosaic which in the double cities, inhabited by the migrant, is capable of simultaneously enclosing the maximum fragmentation of the room and the homogeneity of the environment in which it takes shape. A socio-spatial upheaval is thus taking shape proposing unprecedented de-structured and dispersed social geometries, which require new interpretative categories within the scope of architectural-urban and are distinguished by mixing of urban forms (stable) and marginal forms (temporary). In short, cities without citizenship are characterized by an oxymoronic ambiguity deriving from a lifestyle that is never completely stable and never completely nomadic.

The combined reading of space

The cartographic processes directly linked to the border wall and its corollary migrant camps often reveal the tension between the clarity of sectarian geographies and mutable and basically unlimited spatial imagery. For this reason, the city of the migrant, as a self-organizing collectivity, openly challenges the stable structure of the pre-existing city and stages multiplicity and diversity as a driving force capable of elaborating a form of inhabiting in opposition destined to result in iper-informal. After all, as observed by Henri Lefebvre: "the result of the complexity of the social, the urban promotes practical rationality, the link between form and information". The city, therefore, speaks through its significant spaces and the experiential forms that are produced there, from which comes a mass of configurative inputs that constantly involve all aspects of migrant living. The text of the city can be defined as a formal polyhedral in which every single element resonates in concert with the others and generates interweaving, conflicts, and agreements capable of configuring a living in which formal and informal are resolved in a configurative iper-informality. The problems of the formal city are subsumed by the self-construction of the informal city which in the composite mix of iper-informal determines the theatre where the two spatialities converge without problems. In this dynamic, the border city comes into play as an urban space that is constantly rewritten, pervaded by contrasts, contradictions and multiplicities capable of generating a mutually established confrontation between distinct parts and antinomian manifestations which, through formal devices such as montage and interlacement, resolve the divided and contrasted space. By highlighting the causal relationship between stability and temporariness, it is possible to identify the divided city and thus reveal the real city from the border fortified and inhabited by the migrant. The resulting changes in the architectural-urban landscape are representative of broader aspirations and, when nationalist power ends and fear of the other disappears, a renewed identity is discovered in a renegotiated interstate stage. Far from being merely superficial and transitory, these compositional changes provide a vehicle for

exploring how the iper-informal city materializes, in the landscape of the earth with an interrupted border, as a driving force capable, over time, of crumbling the very wall that generated it. At this point, using literary cartography - the combined reading of a city's space as text and literary texts about space - it is possible to show that the reality of the fortified border is a battlefield of narratives. Just as political narratives have radically quartered and isolated the border city, and sectarian narratives have consolidated the cultural barriers of identity, a victory of the reimagination could resolve the gap that has always distinguished between formal and informal and result in settlement iper-informality. The resulting scenario proves to be vibrant and dynamic in the juxtaposition of differences that identify in shared spaces the possibility of recognizing a compromised identity and making the process of redefinition free. In this ambiguous idea of a border town, the delay in the understanding and interpretation of the architectural discipline of these new settlement relationships is revealed, which takes shape from the elusive relationship between formal and informal, between stable and temporary, of which the research proposes a critique evaluation and a presumable forthcoming resolution. Like a hypertext, the city of the migrant does not demonstrate a homogeneous structure: it is the result of a multitude of disharmonious factors that obey different logic. The iper-informality of which they report refers to concepts of contrast, tension, discontinuity and free assembly, distinguished by an exaggerated alternation between temporariness and stability and by the close relationship woven with the wall from which, in an antinomic game of action and reaction, are strictly governed. As a consequence, iper-informality, proposes itself as a new key to interpretation, "just as in the twentieth century the artistic currents had been able to create and justify new aesthetics, from cubism to poor art" (Corboz. 1996), is recognized as an ad hoc term to describe the architectural and urban movement that declares itself in contrast to that imposed by the wall, based on order, homogeneity and social and spatial control.

Conclusion: the interrupted horizon

In those places where borders are understood as separation, where there is a strong international migration and also where the geographical horizon, by conformation, is, in itself, a limit between ethnic groups, a problem of proximity, cohabitation and at the same time of meeting is often recognized and also of confrontation, of transit, and of blocking as the case may be. Well, but then, it is precisely there that one identity is exhausted to make room for another and where complex and contradictory aspects are intertwined caused either by natural landscape conditions or by political regulations and social-cultural relations. In some cases the limit of nature and the limit of state administration coincide, identifying themselves materially and politically, divided: end and beginning, line of contact between two territorial and identity realities, sometimes opposing and sometimes accordant. Realities that with time undergo a continuous shuffling, a process of more or less profound transformation both in its political-geographical identification, and therefore in its layout, and its spatial conformation. The territory is certainly not a conceptually immovable element but a mutable, elastic element and the contemporary phenomenon of globalization has proved to be an occasion for continuous encroachments, at the same time fueling territorial tension that led nationalist States to recognize the border limit the power of structure of defensive divisive. This latest spatial revolution discovers the possible material closure in the border limit and outlines a spatial organization function that conforms, in the theoretical and applicative context, to experimental figures of urban-architectural design aware of the temporal and stable factors of the borderland. Therefore, a panorama made up of open and closed systems advances that can be adapted to the logic of the encounter, of contamination but also divided and opposed and which distinguish a new way of living which is built by parts, by oppositions that respond to a binary code which it sees systems of enclaves and dominant centers which, in a game of actions and reactions, resolve themselves into an iper-informal settlement. It can be observed that in the process of fortification of the border and the stranding of the migrant who is primarily close to the wall and then scattered in shreds of urbanity, concludes in themselves, settling the border city and feeds a control architecture that transforms these micro-urbanities in spaces that soon short-circuit and crumble giving way to that much more interesting form of iper-informality, characterized by a precise spatial design dictated by the paradigm of security and control and then by the renegotiated space, by the complicity of opposites.

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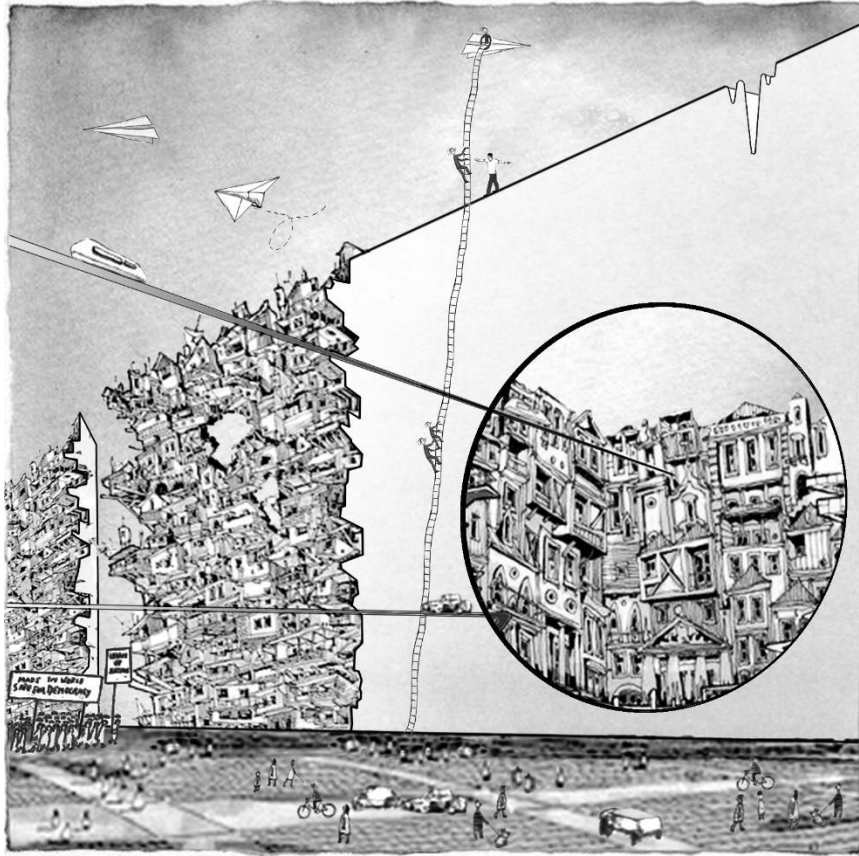


Fig.1 Silvia Dalzero, *Live on the barricaded border*, 2011.



Fig. 2 Silvia Dalzero, *The map of the walls dividing the world, from 1990 to 2022*. The numbering on the map refers to the data specified in the table.

Table 1. The walls that dividing Europe and area Schengen, 1990-2022

N.	Country 1	Country 2	Length/km	Ann.	Start	End
1	England	France (Calais)	1,6	2016	2016	2016
2	Bulgaria	Turkey	30 + 166		2014+16	
3	Croatia	Bosnia	Vukova Gorica		2020	2020
4	Greece Cyprus	Turkey Cyprus	30		1974	1974
5	Greece	Turkey	40+15		2013+ 2020	
6	Estonia	Russia	25 (130)	2015	2019	
7	Hungary	Serbia	152		2015	2017
7a	Hungary	Croatia	42		2016	2017
7b	Hungary	Austria-Slovenia	3		2017	2018
8	Catholic Belfast	Protestant Belfast	13+2	1969	1970	
9	Latvia	Russia	93 (193)	2015	2016	
10	Lithuania	Belarus	115	2016	2021	
11	Macedonia	Greece	37		2016	2016
12	Norway	Russia	gates (173)	2016	2017	
13	Poland	Belarus	partial data (186)	2020		
14	Serbia	Macedonia	Miratovac		2020	2020
15	Slovenia	Croatia	179 + 40		2015+20	
16	Spain. Ceuta; Melilla	Morocco	CE:6+4 ME:8+4		CE:1990 ME:1999	2019
17	Ukraine	Belarus	(180)	2021		
17	Ukraine	Russia	900	2014	2015	

Fig. 3 Silvia Dalzero, Table 1 reveals the material and temporal data of the walls in Europe and area Schengen, from 1990 to 2022. (updated data from: Vallet, Guillarmou, Barry, 2015).

Table 2. The walls that dividing Asia, 1990-2022

N.	Country 1	Country 2	Length/km	Ann.	Start	End
18	Russia	Crimea	60		2014	2014
19	Uzbekistan	Kyrgyzstan	870		1999	1999
19a	Uzbekistan	Afghanistan	45		2020	2020
20	India	Bangladesh	4.053		1989	
20a	India	Pakistan	550		1991	2004
21	Thailand	Malaysia	27		2006	2006
22	Egypt	Gaza	10		2009	
23	Iran	Pakistan	fromTaftan+		2007	
23a	Iran	Afghanistan	partial data		2007	
23b	Iran	Iraq	70		2007	
24	Iraq	Syria	10		2022	2022
24a	Baghdad		5	2007	2007	
25	Israel	West Bank	730+		2002	
25a	Israel	Lebanon	2+4+7		2012	
25b	Israel	Jordan	30+		2013+16	
25c	Israel	Golan-Syria	70	2011	2013	
25d	Israel	Gaza	45		1994	1996
25e	Israel	Egypt	245		2011	2013
a	Jordan	Syria	partial data		2013	
26	Kuwait	SaudiArabia	220		2004	2004
26	Kuwait	Iraq	190+30	1991	2004	2004
27	Turkey	Iran	156 + 87		2015-2021	
27a	Turkey	Syria	828 (911)		2013	2020
28	SaudiArabia	Iraq	811		2006	
28a	SaudiArabia	Yemen	(1307)		2003+2013	
29	UAE	Oman	gates	2002	2005	
30	China	Hong Kong	35		1960	1960
30a	China	Myanmar	659		2020	
30b	China	Vietnam	12		2012	2017
30c	China	North Korea	20		2006	2006
31	South Korea	North Korea	248		1953	1953

Fig. 4 Silvia Dalzero, Table 2 reveals the material and temporal data of the walls in Asia, from 1990 to 2022. (updated data from: Vallet, Guillarmou, Barry, 2015).

Table 3. The walls that dividing Africa, 1990-2022

N.	Country 1	Country 2	Length/km	Ann.	Start	End
32	Algeria	Morocco	100		2015	2015
33	Botswana	Zimbabwe	482		1996	
34	Kenya	Somalia	8 (626)	2015	2016	
35	Morocco	Sahara Liberate	2720		1982	1987
36	Tunisia	Libya	196		2015	2015
37	South Africa	Mozambique	120		1975	
37a	South Africa	Zimbabwe	40		2020	2020

Table 4. The walls that dividing America, 1990-2022

38	USA	Mexico	1.130+ 270		1990+ 2017	
39	Brazil	Bolivia	difficult to document	2007		
39	Brazil	Paraguay	difficult to document		2007	
39a	San Paolo formal city	San Paolo slum	scattered fragments		1980	
39b	Lima formal city	Lima slum	10+		1985	
40	Mexico	Guatemala	gates		2014	

Fig. 5 Silvia Dalzero, Table 3-4 reveals the material and temporal data of the walls in Africa and America, from 1990 to 2022. (updated data from: Vallet, Guillarmou, Barry, 2015).



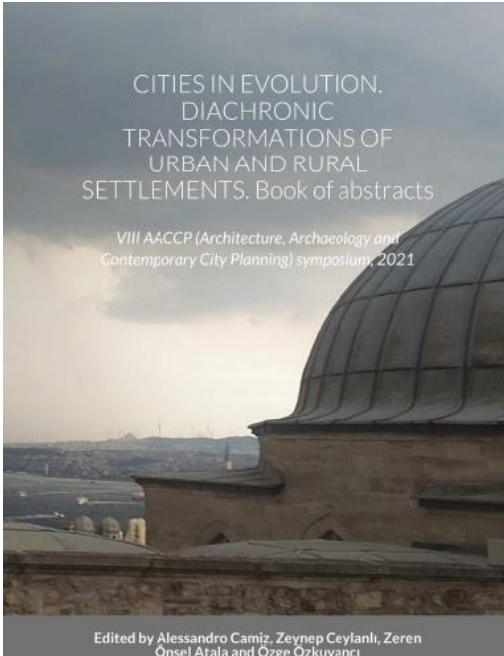
Silvia Dalzero, architect since 2006 and a PHD in architecture since 2011. She carries out research at the IUAV since 2012: at the beginning with a research in theme of: *Ruins, debris and rubble in the theatres of war* and then with other research until now in one entitled: *Walls and borders, a new geography of the World*. In 2018 she carries out research also at University of Architecture in Pescara with a scholarship in theme: *Territories destroyed by war and their reconstruction*. She has collaborated, since 2011, in the teaching at the IUAV and also since 2018 at the University of Arch.Eng. in Brescia where, since the 2020, she is visiting professor in Laboratory of project. In 2016 she was a teacher at the Academy of Fine Arts in Brescia and since 2012 she has been a visiting professor at POLIMI. She has several publications and participations in conferences, exhibitions, lectures in national-international research institutes and universities.

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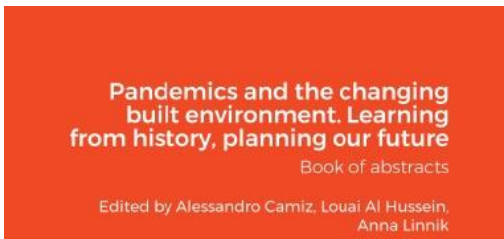
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