

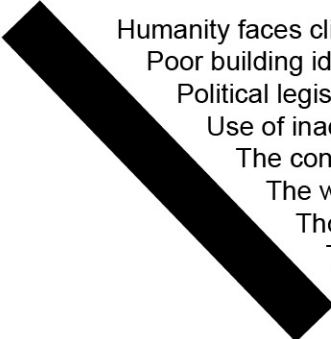
# ***THE POLITICS of THE TRASH HEAP***

*Towards a new material dwelling*



How we dwell in this reality faces **OBLIVION!**

**A fire is burning under our existence, A smokeless sky leaves us in peril to our malcontent brutality. Our inability to reconcile facts leads us down this path of inherent demise, Dwelling is a moral right! Recognize these facts to preserve and improve our collective cultural and climactic context!**

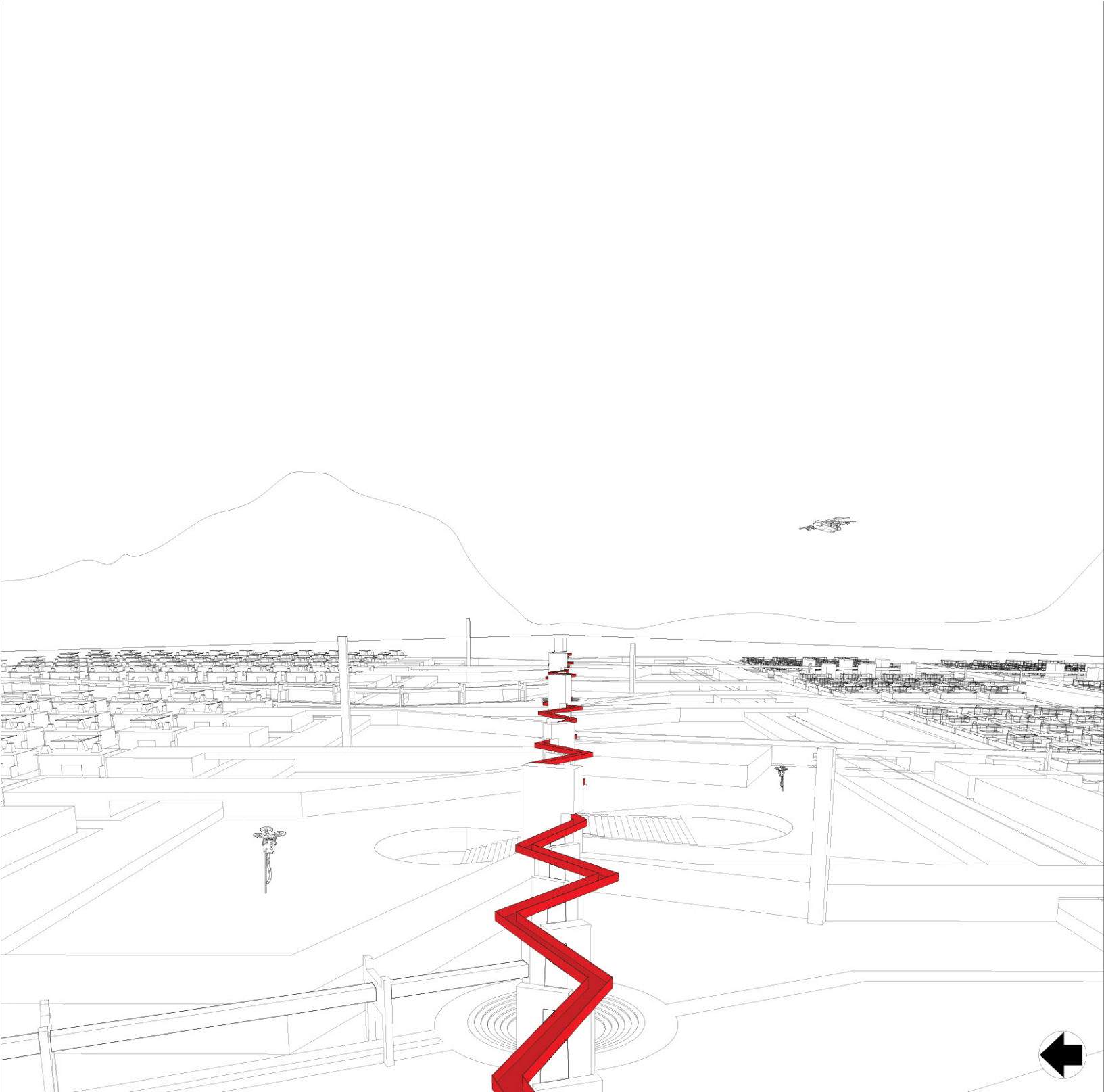


- Humanity faces climactic and cultural **Obliteration**,
- Poor building ideologies have become a **Volatile Practice**.
- Political legislation on border resource allocation is morally **Corrupt**.
- Use of inadequate building material is **Negligence**.
- The concept of ownership in our capitalist society faces **Extinction**.
- The way we interact with our bordering country needs to be **Scrutinized**.
- Those who produce architecture without climactic consideration are **Unscrupulous**.
- Those who take no consideration of their material sourcing are **Cyclically Inept**.
- Those prone to ignorance should no longer expect **Understanding**.

**The hard boundary is just that. HARD! Preexisting policies promise a palpable new threshold in which the allocations of life-giving resources are obtained unanimously by all municipalities. This is a FALLACY! The inept nature of such preexisting treaties have found their policies antiquated and impotent for the tasks at hand. Leaving communities fighting scrambling over one another to obtain enough to survive in this context. This boundary is not a transparent threshold. It is HARD. And until it can be dissolved this region will find its issues ever-growing.**

- We REJECT** the inability to consider climactic building positioning.
- We REJECT** the monetization of home as commodity and not necessity.
- We REJECT** the blatant ignorance of building material sourcing and construction methods.
- We REJECT** the loss of our habitation/habitat in result of capitalistic monetization.
- We DEMAND** issues on building with climate change be addressed.
- We DEMAND** adaptive dwellings that work in tandem with their social/political/climatic contexts.
- We DEMAND** the permeability of our border for egalitarian transfer of resources.
- We DEMAND** that the fragility of cultural relevance be preserved through integration of modern building practice.

AMENDMENTS TO PREEXISTING TREATIES ARE EXISTENTIAL FOR EGALITARIAN ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES TO MUNICIPALITIES ON EITHER SIDE OF THE BORDER. WITHOUT THESE CONTINGENCIES, LIFE GIVING RESOURCES WILL NOT FIND THOSE WHO NEED THEM MOST AND ACTIONS SO INFORMAL WILL HAVE TO TAKE PLACE IN ORDER TO PRESERVE ORDER. ON THE EDGE OF A RESOURCE AND HOUSING CRISIS, ARCHITECTS ARE CALLED TO INTERVENE WITH THE UPMOST CULTURAL COMPETENCE TO EMERGE A NEW MANIFESTO ON HOUSING AND WHAT IT MEANS TO DWELL IN EVER-SHIFTING REALITIES.



# Summary / Agreements

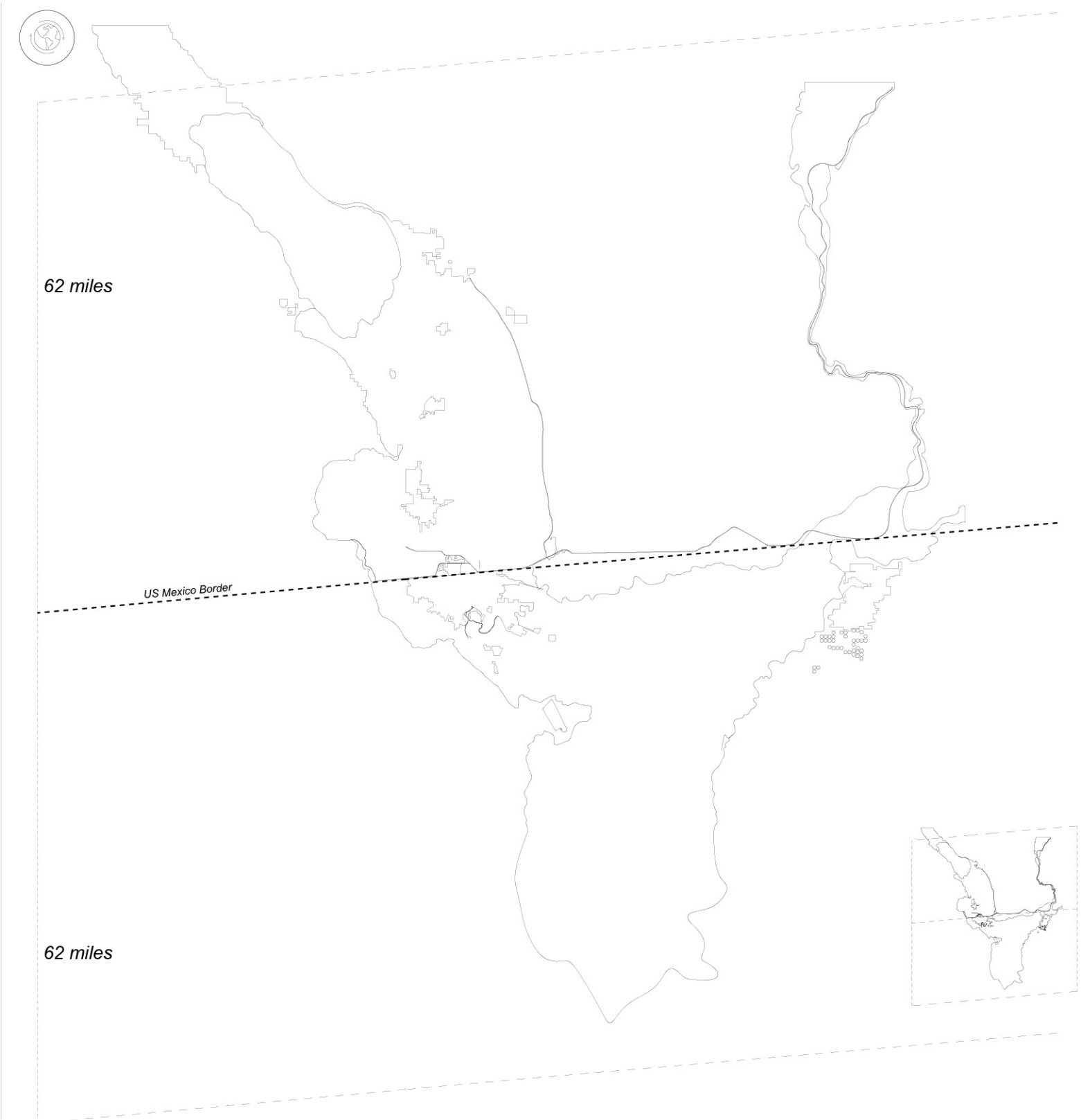
The border region that lies between the US and Mexico is a ribbon of over 2000 miles and stretching 62 miles to the north and south, effectively developing a new **BORDER COUNTRY**. The La Paz agreement in 1983 was developed to maintain a strong alliance between the two countries, allowing resources to be shared and policies to overlap in the interest of a more **PERMEABLE BORDER THRESHOLD**. But for whom dose this thresh provide the most benefit? Arguably not for the citizens like Mexicali or Tijuana where a lack of sufficient policies leave them vulnerable to poverty, and related issues. The largest of these is **LACK OF PROPER HOUSING** due to **infrastructure responsible for distributing resources such as water and building material is essential.** and lack of sufficient resources such as building materials for homes.

## 1. The La Paz Agreement

The La Paz Agreement of 1983 affects over 2000 miles of border territory between the US and Mexico expanding 62 miles on either side of the border developing a politically unique border area. The agreement covers a broad area of subjects with 5 annexes and over 100 articles addressing specific issues, most notable are the articles on allocating resources between the two countries and the effort to develop a more integrated border region. This agreement was meant to provide mutual benefit for individuals on either side of the border, yet the Mexican side suffers from severe medical, insurance, migration inequitable health and poverty issues. While Mexico's sister cities in the US see little to none of these issues due to different policies and access to essential resources like **WATER AND BUILDING MATERIALS FOR HOMES**.

## 2. Water Treaty of 1944

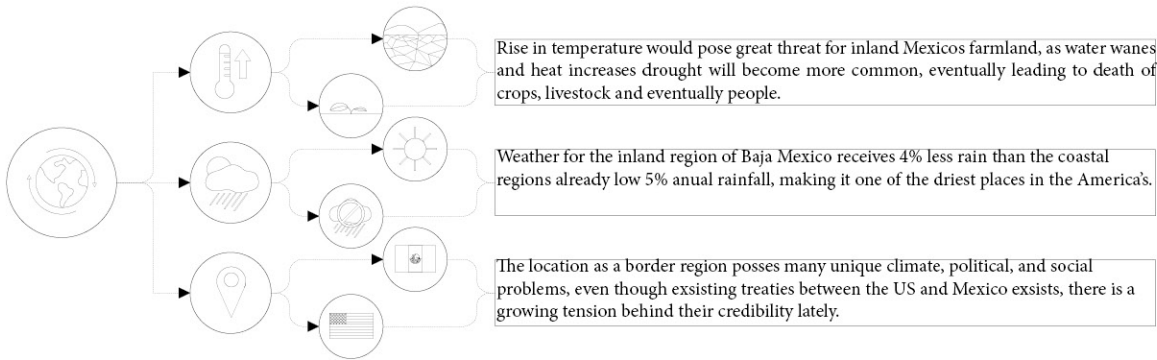
The Water Treaty, signed in Washington on February 3 1944 allocated water along the United States-Mexico border based on a negotiation formula. in Article 4, the 1944 Treaty allotted the waters, of the Rio Grande/ Bravo between Fort Quitman, Texas and the Gulf of Mexico to the two countries as follows:



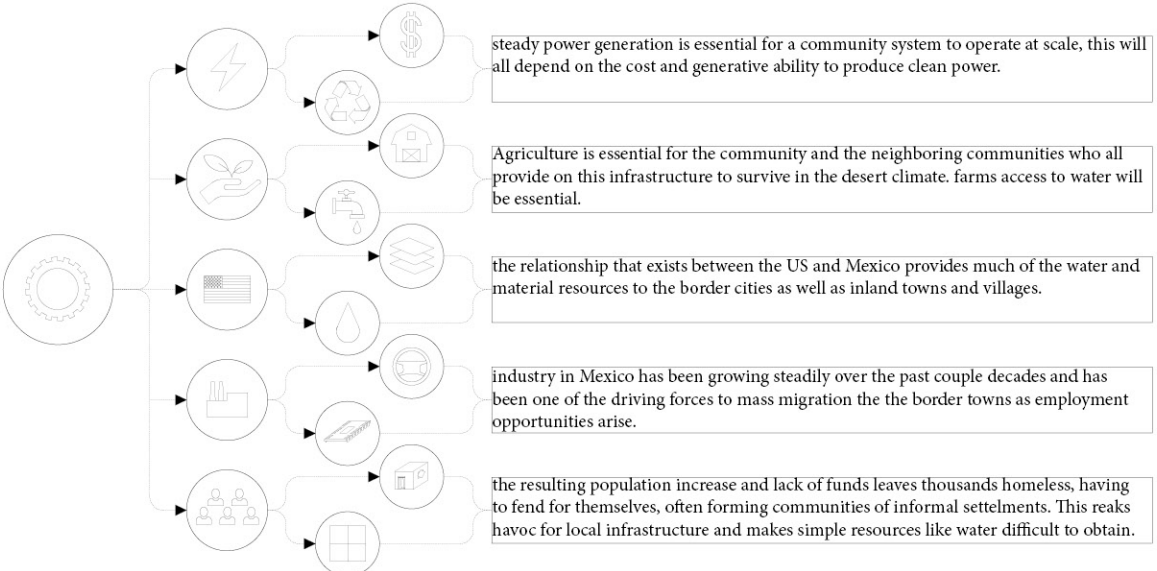


Issues at 3 scales

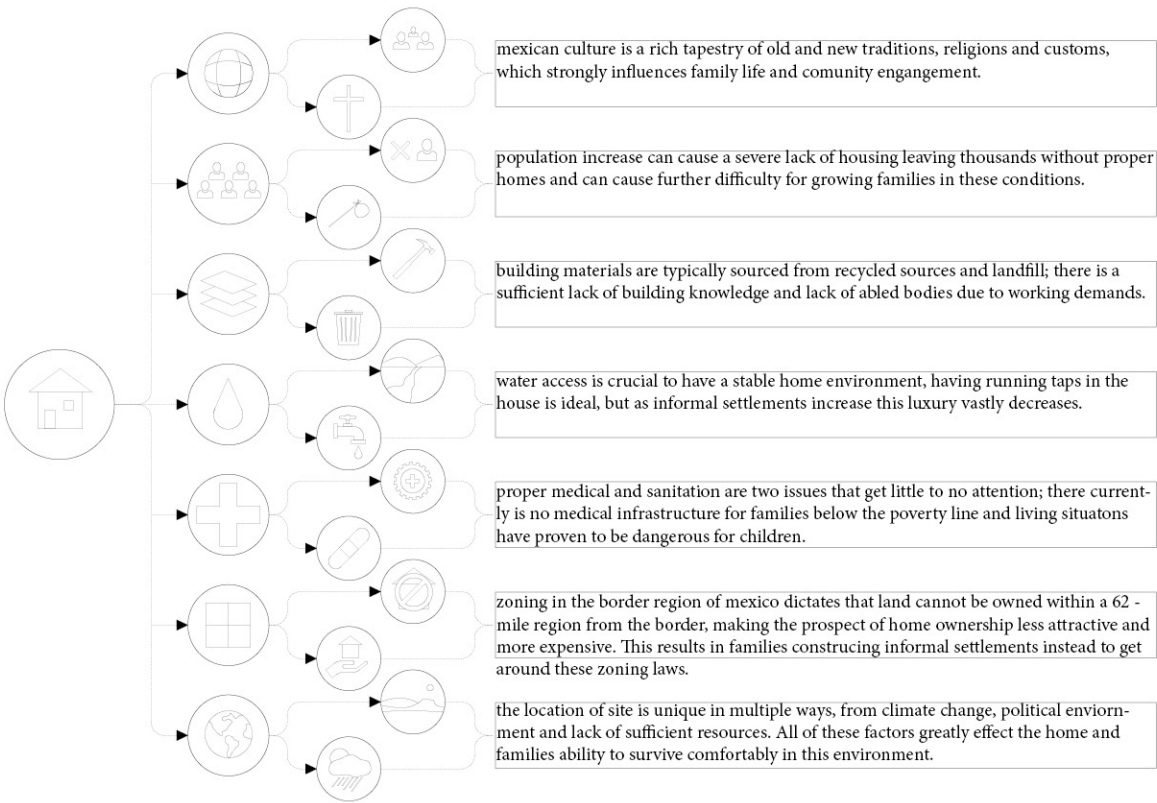
Macro Issues



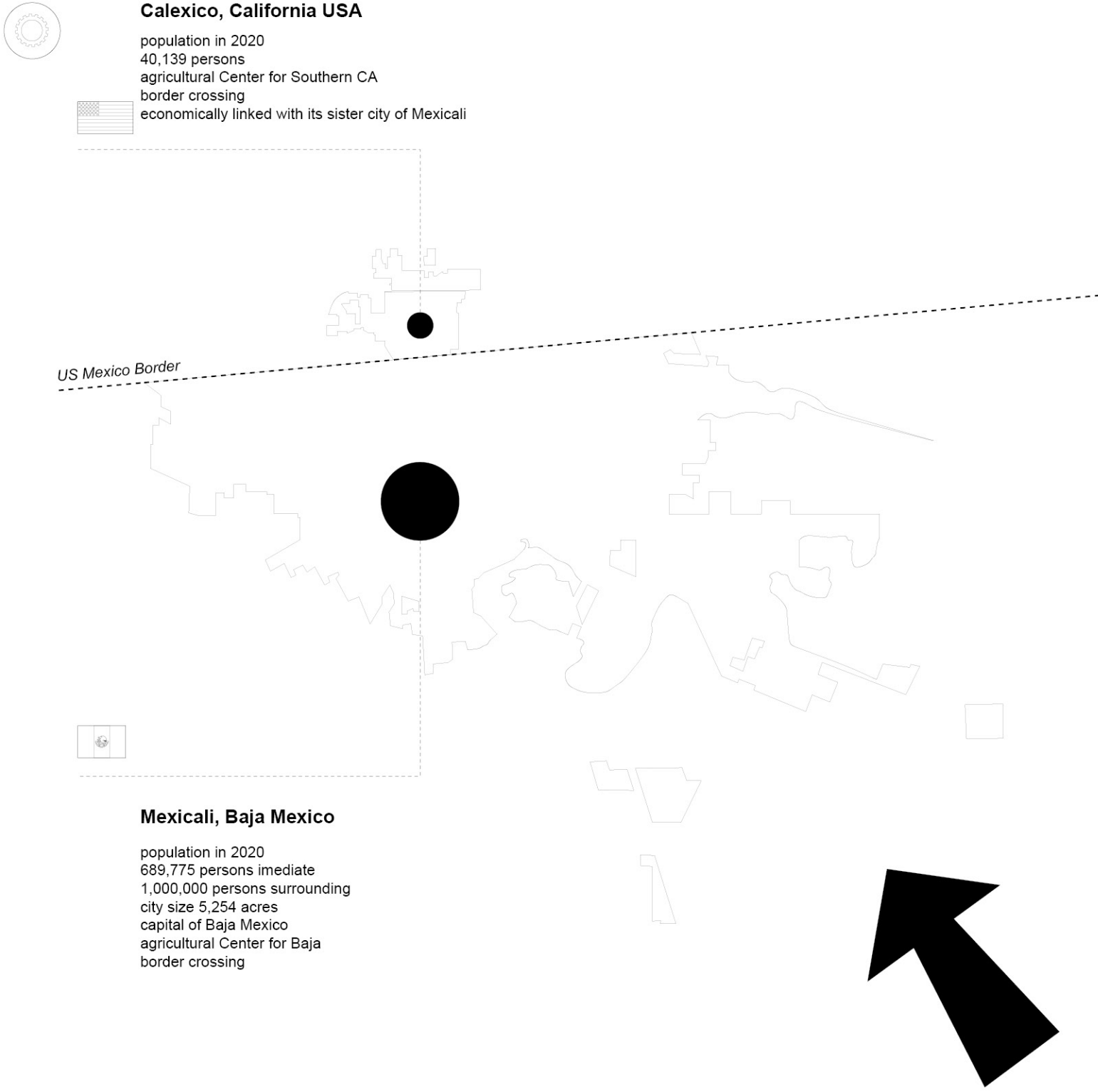
Meso Issues



Micro Issues



The Site



This site of this thesis focuses on the Mexicali and Calexico border region, in which there is an economic relationship between the two cities, as well as being the main agricultural hub for the Baja Mexico region, cementing its relationship to the environment as a necessity to the region of the surrounding Baja and Yuma.

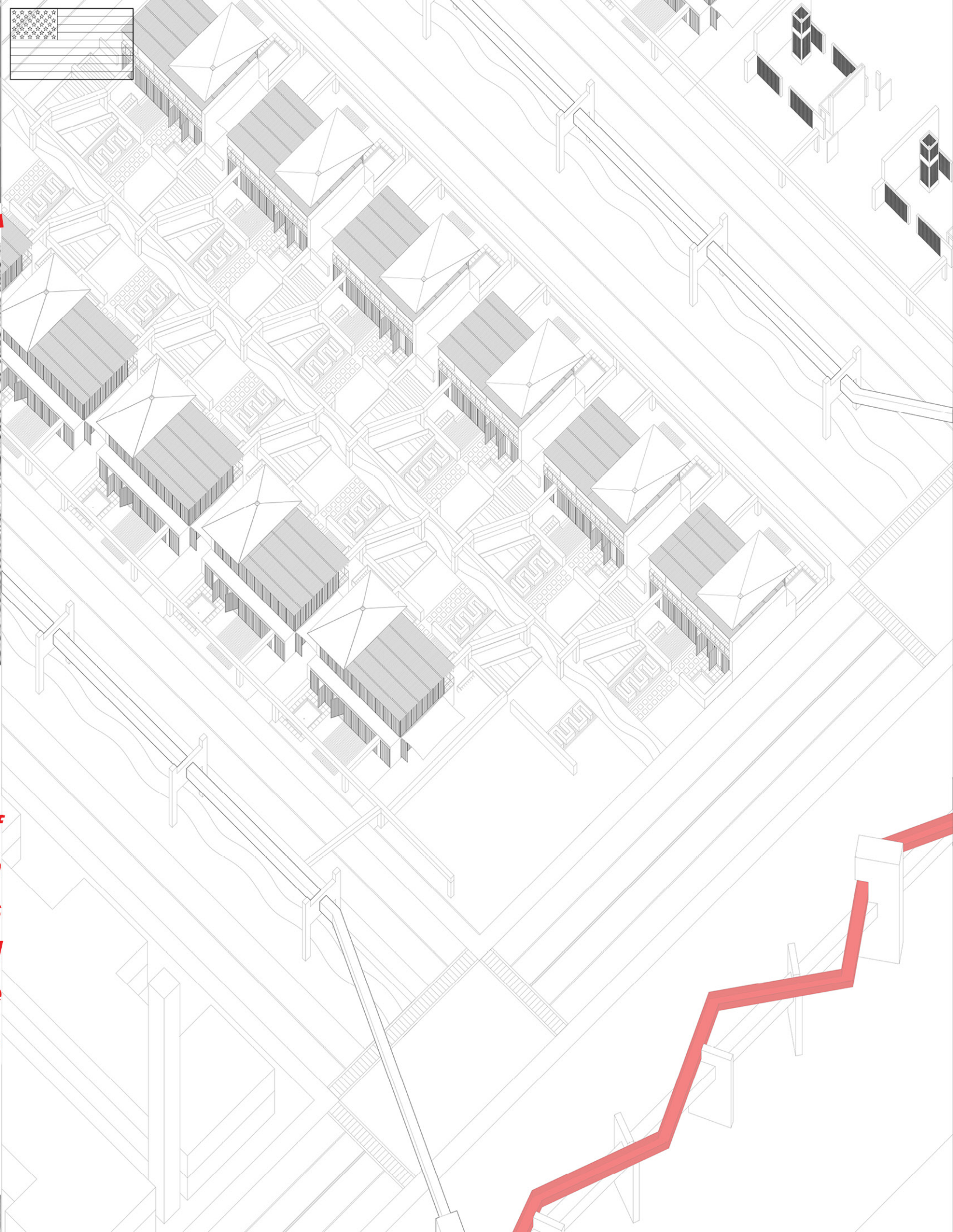




I propose to develop a new methodology on housing fabrication and community development and engagement in the region of northern Baja to be achieved through material sourcing and fabrication, localized infrastructure, and larger scale infrastructure throughout the border region of Mexico and California. This will be done

*I propose a new superstructure that overlays the border region of Mexicali and Calexico, merging the policies and resources of both countries and developing a system that delivers said resources to its people, by its people. The metabolization of this new superstructure and policies will be distributed by means of a manual of a kit of parts, putting the necessary tools for living back in the hands of the border regions citizens.*

construction of necessary dwelling for families of workers on both sides of the newly formed border country. The development of these homes will be made more obtainable through a comprehensive kit of parts and a modular interchangeable system that allows for family growth/downsizing and mobility if climactic threat such as fires infringe on settlements.





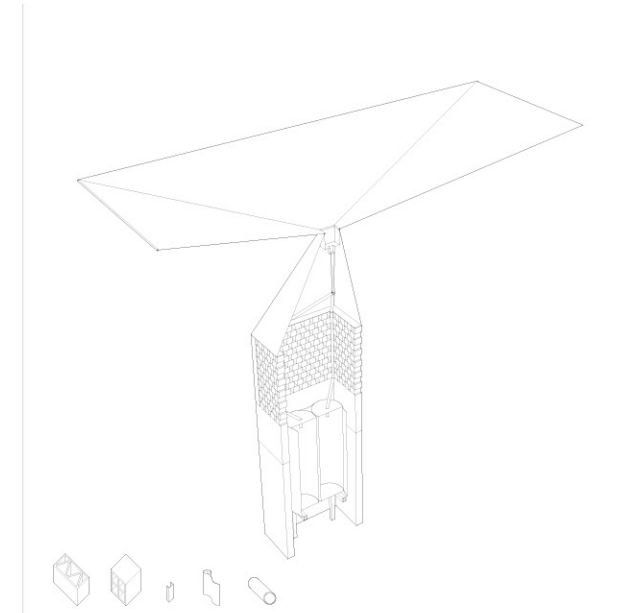
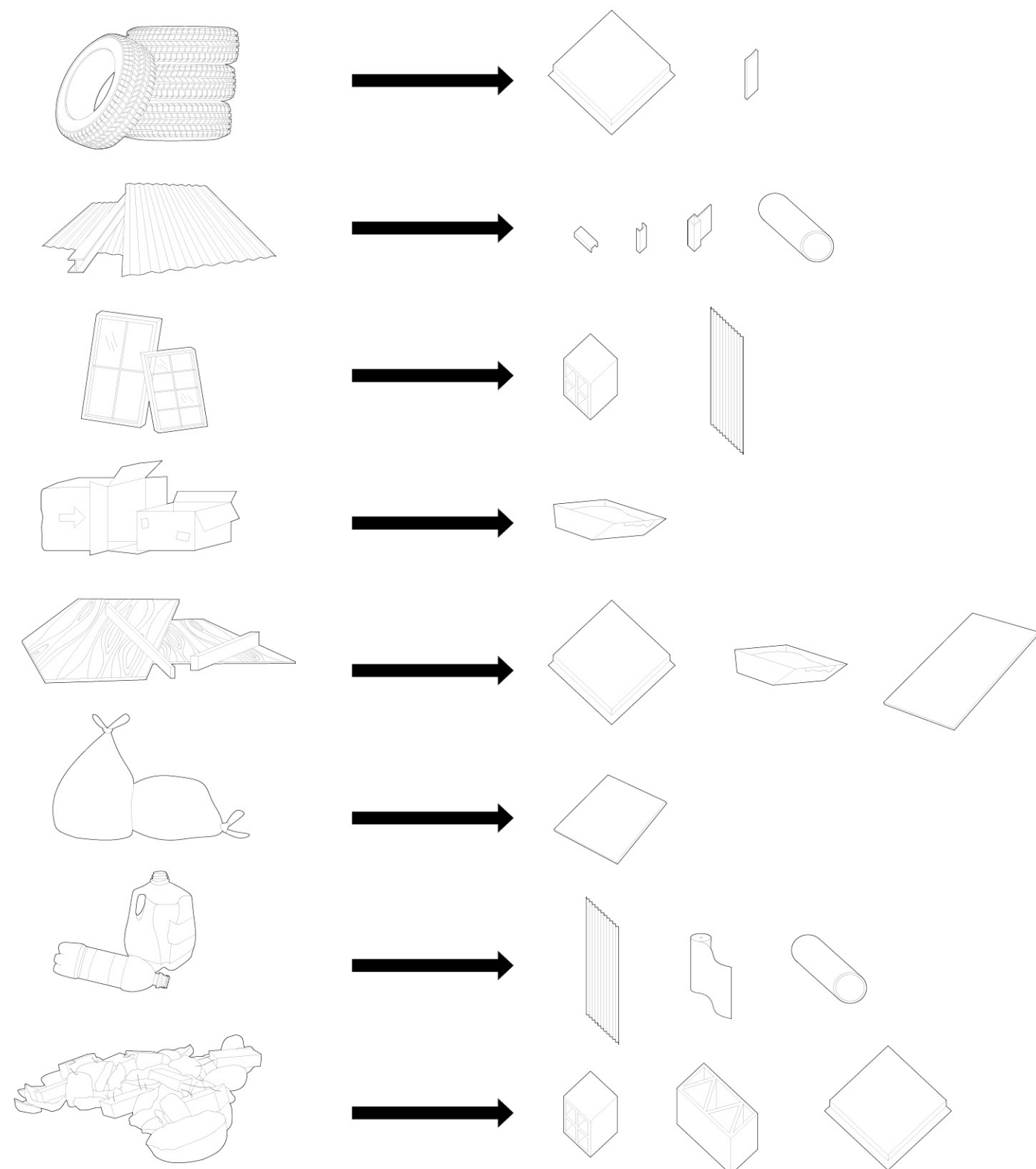


*The political boundary of the border wall transforms from a solid fortification, broken open by a **twisted operation** that forms the assemblage of the support structure that carries water and conduit through the preexisting fabric of the cities, unifying the region. The augmentation of the wall creates a region that informs light manufacturing industry, promoting the flux of material resources and other economic staples to move along the border wall region. Aqueducts diverge from the wall, meeting with the preexisting layout of the streets of Mexicali and Calexico's urban fabric, branching out to supply the agricultural sector. These tributaries offer a framework to establish new forms of architectural intervention at the individual housing scale. The housing and infrastructure begins with replacing previously abandoned and distressed regions, starting with the periphery of the city and working towards the border as economic and social situations allow.*

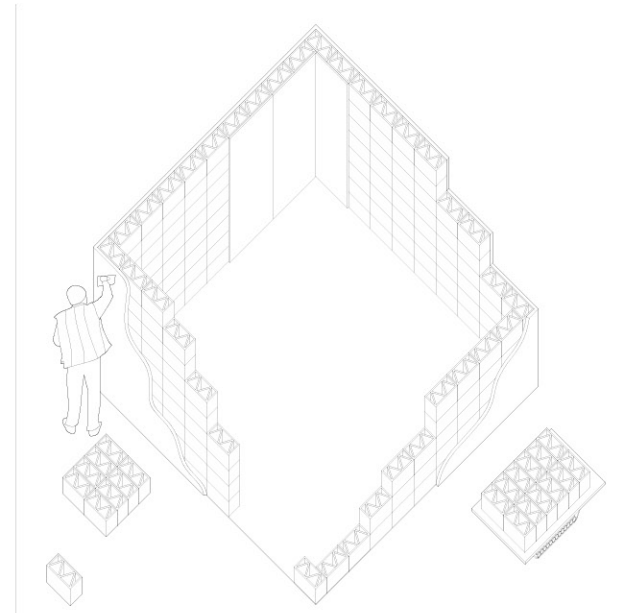




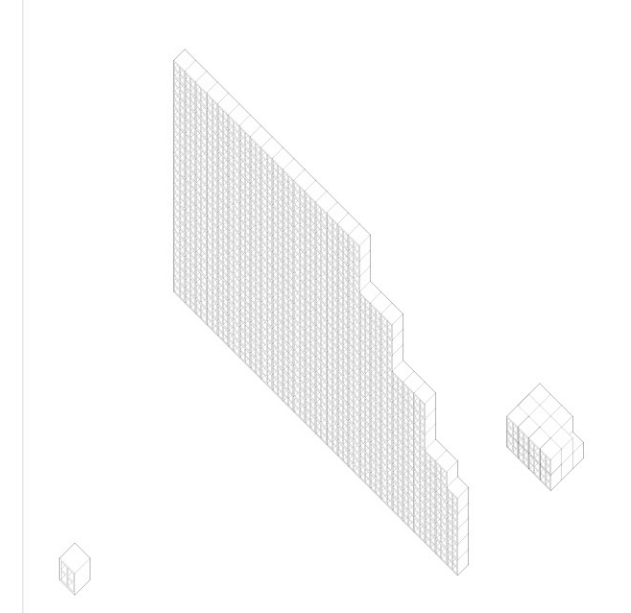
The **materials** that make up much of the border towns and cities in Mexico are originally sourced from the US, often refuse or leftover building materials from luxury homes find their way over the border and are used to construct informal settelments on the fringes on cities like Tijuana or Mexicali. Often constructed quickly, these structures house individuals whom cannot abide by Tijuana’s steep housing interest rates or who wish to free themselves from financial obligations of land ownership. Since the 1940’s the U.S. has been providing or disposing of waste building products in Mexicali, everything from rubber tiers, wood, glass, metal, masonry and even entire buildings make it across the border each year. Often newcomers to Mexicali looking for work find themselves homeless and instead of living on the street they construct dwellings of this type on often unbuildable land with no utilities or formal infrastructure.



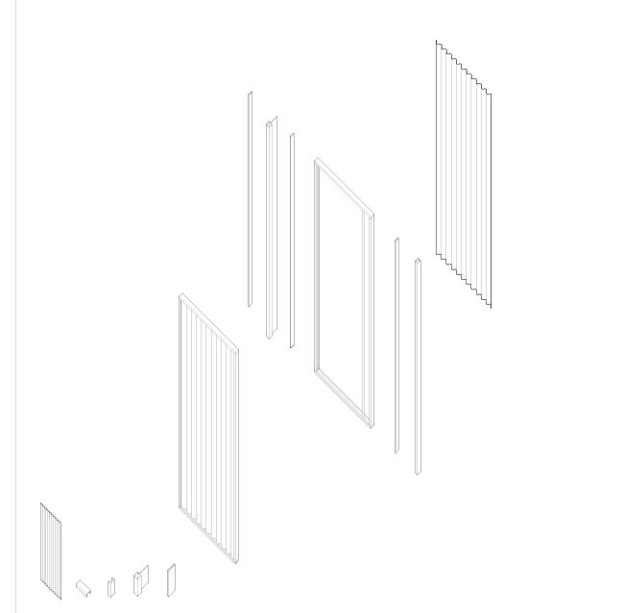
*Cooling Tower*



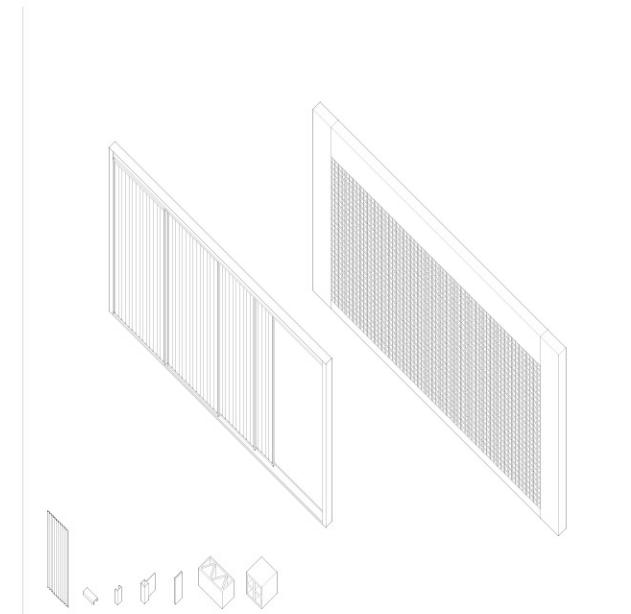
*Recycled CMU*



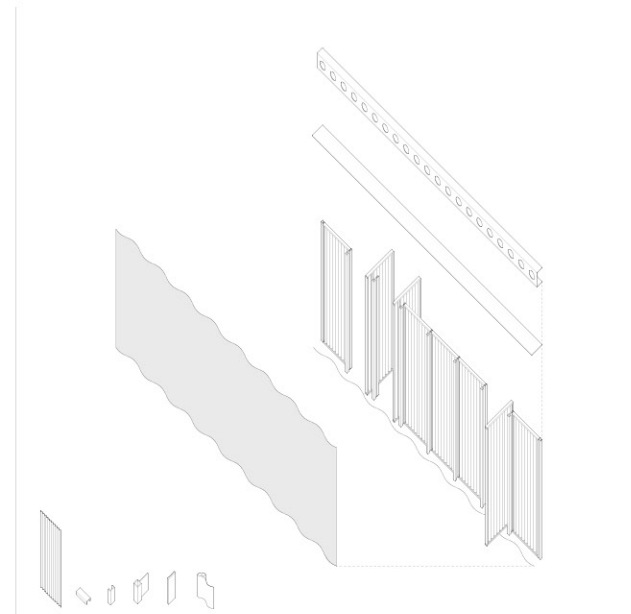
*Recycled Glass Brick*



*Fiberglass/Steel Pannel*

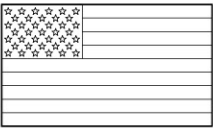


*Screen/Brick Operable Facade*

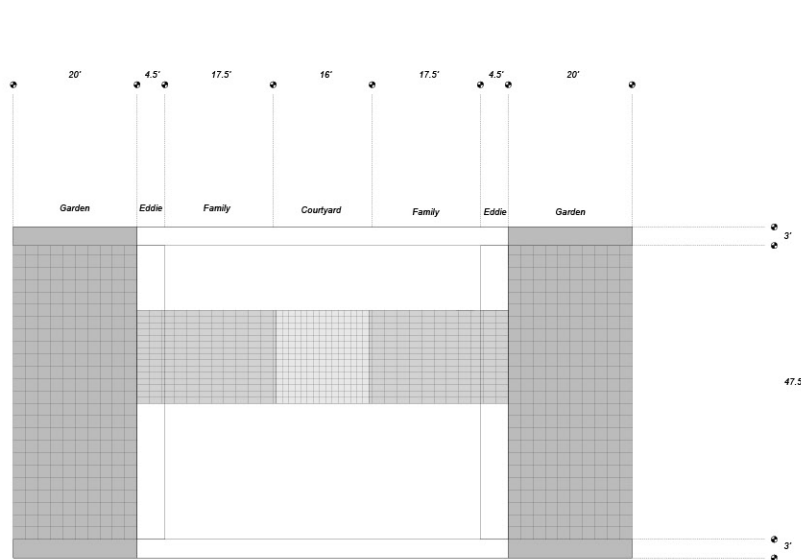
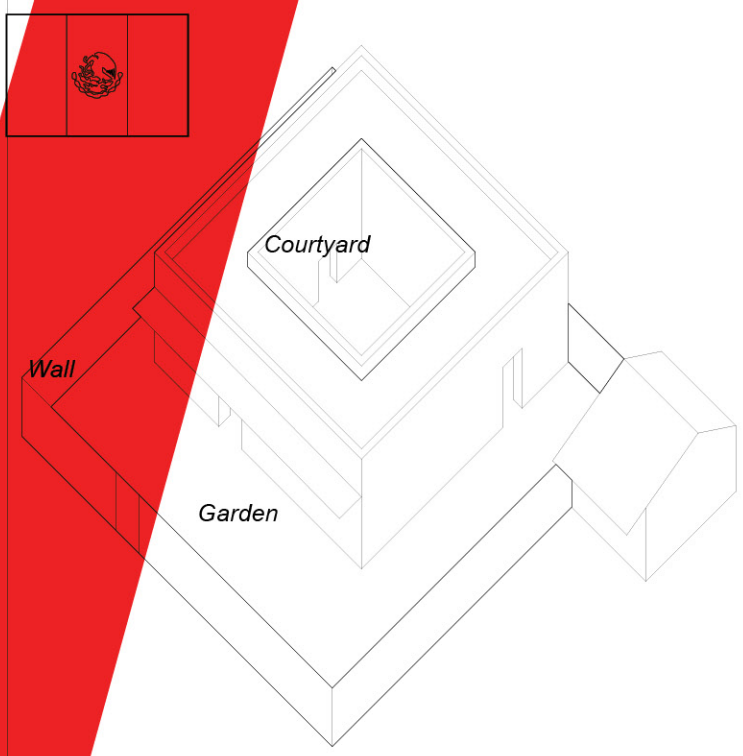
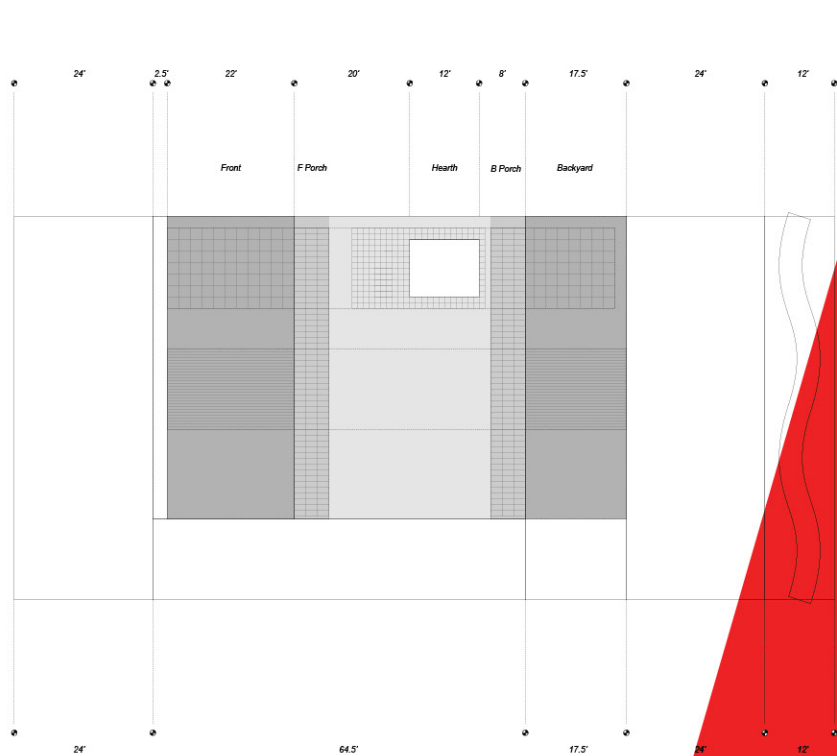
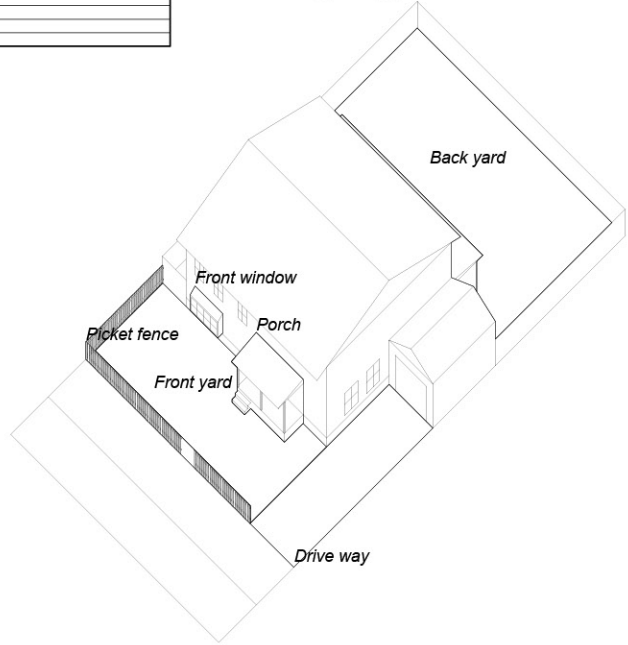


*Screen/Curtain Operable Facade*

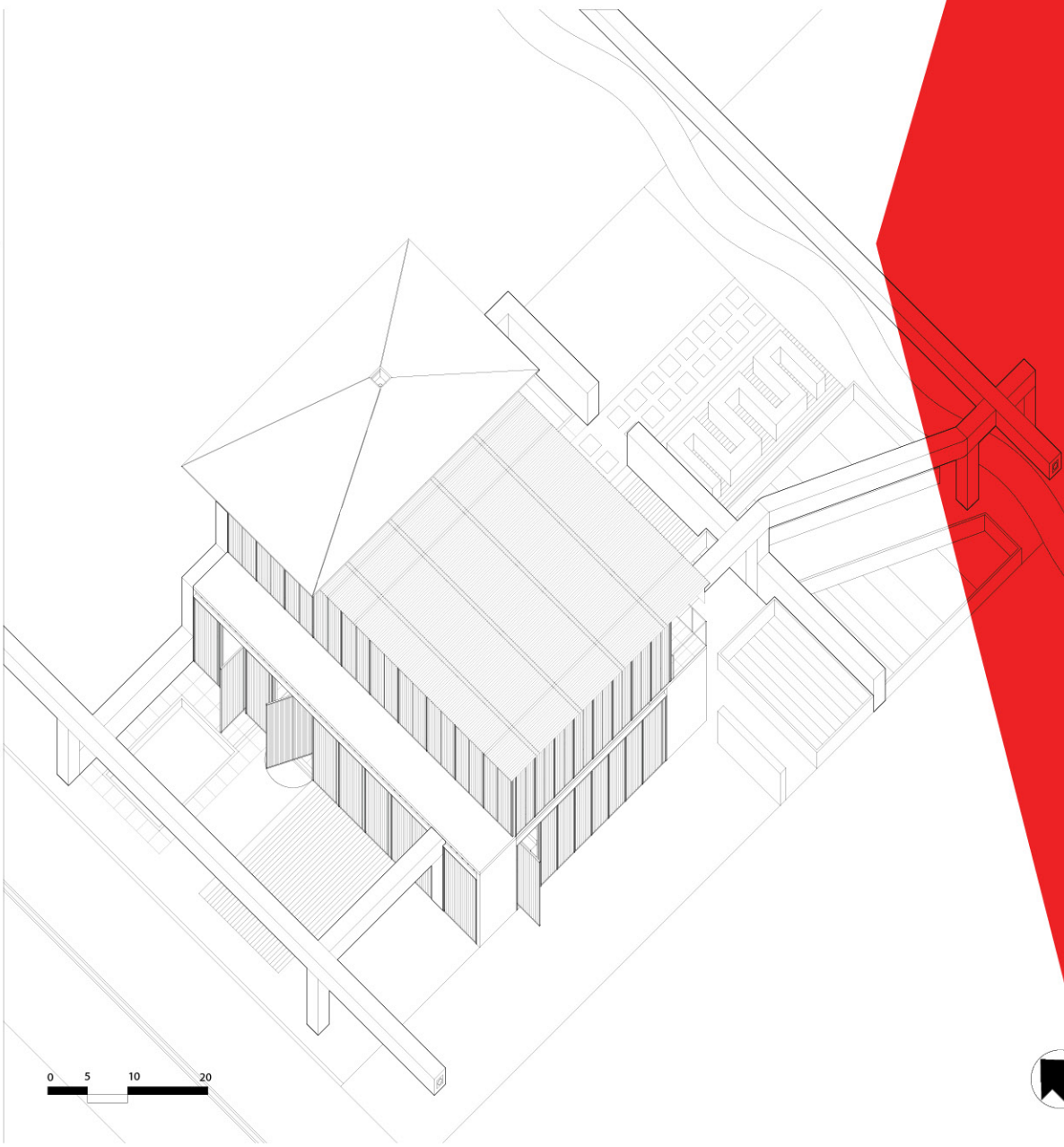




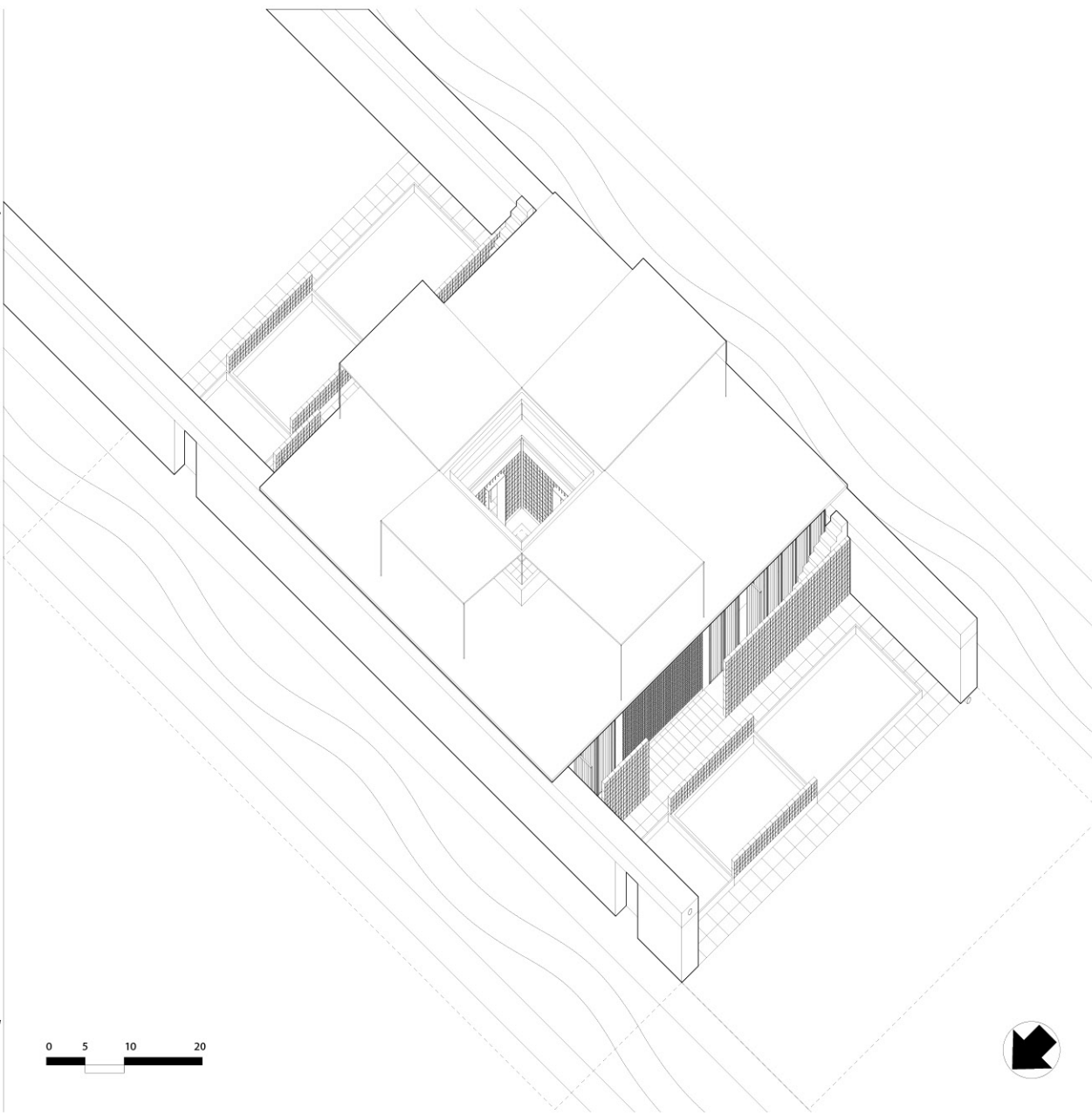
# Housing Types



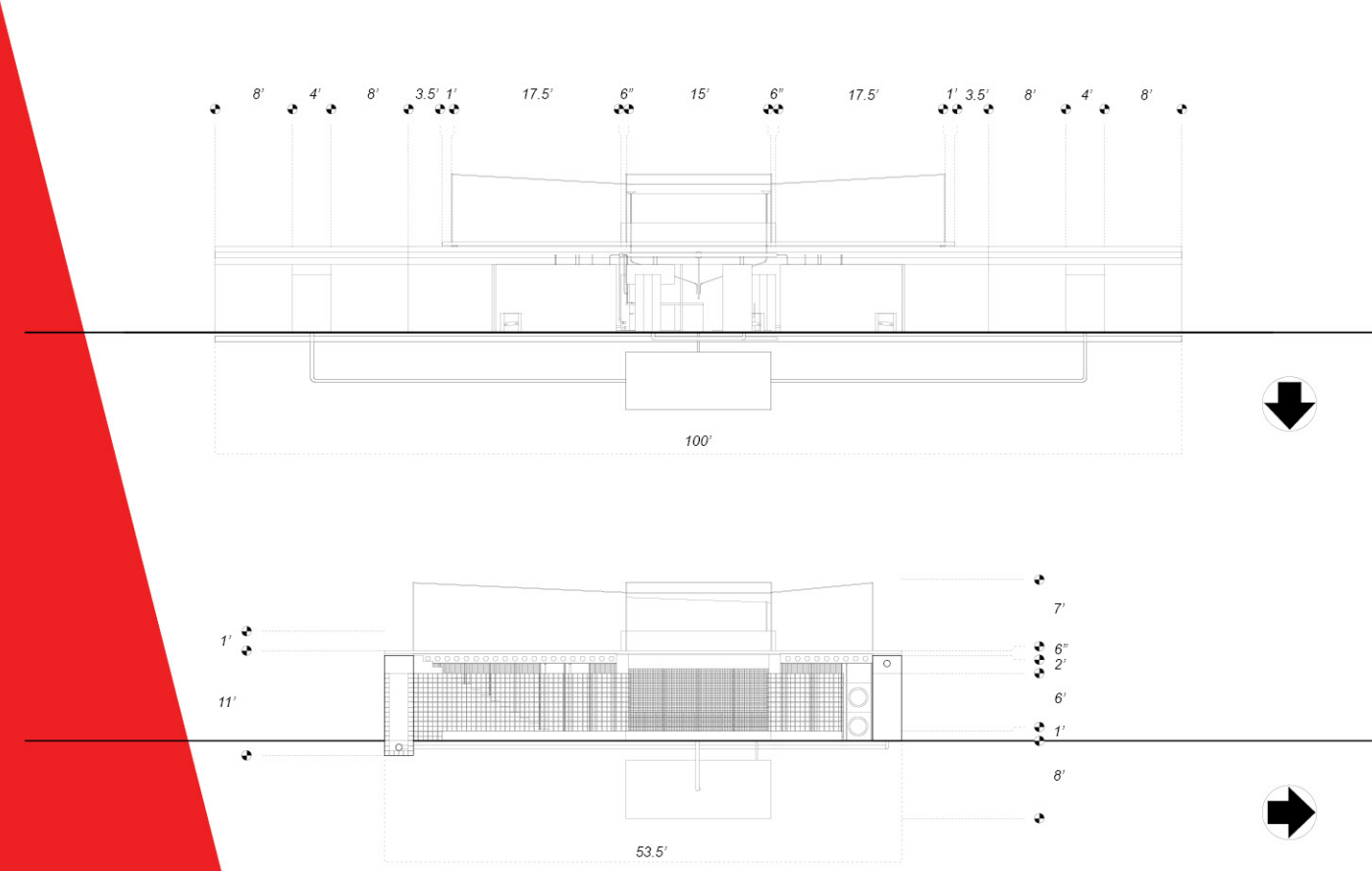
*The Calexico housing typology utilizes similar iconography to a traditional suburban home, such as public front yard, transparent lower level, porch, back yard and private upper spaces. The water is present throughout the structure of the home, from West facing evaporation pools bringing in cool air to the lower spaces, to the condensing solar chimney bringing cool air up to the second level, to a rain catchment system on the roof. Each house is serviced by a tertiary aqueduct that brings water through a thickened wall into the core and leaves as sewage to be brought to the agricultural sector and water recycling plants.*



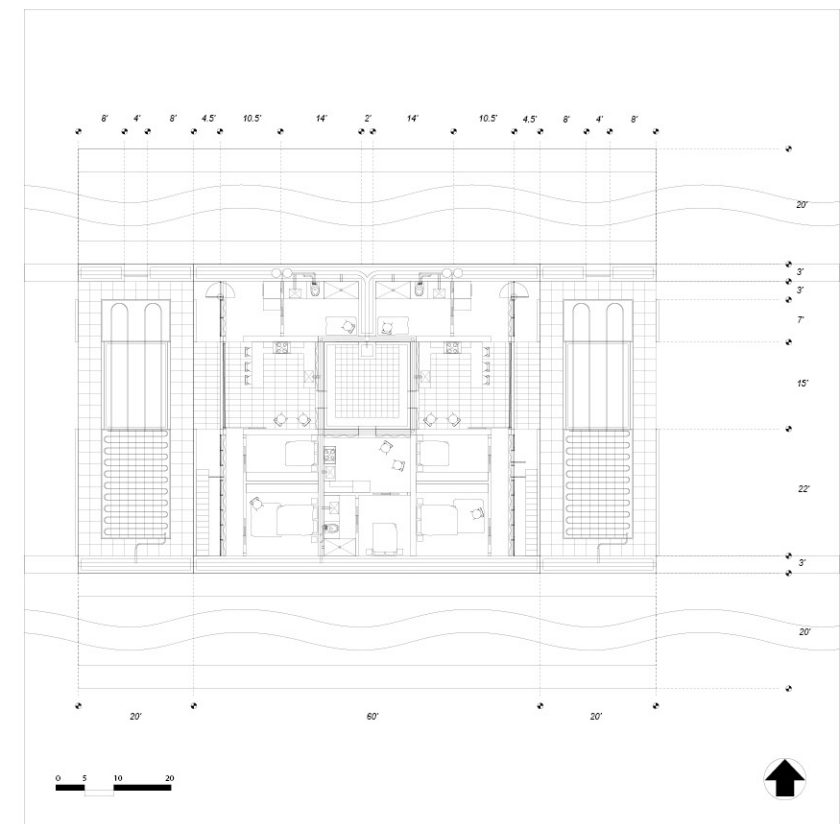
*The Mexicali housing typology utilizes masonry walls, enclosed spaces, gardens, and centralized courtyards, as well as multi-generational structure. Houses are accessed via eddies off a main corridor bringing occupants into a shared garden space. The main house terminates through a succession of semi-private spaces, ending in a central courtyard that can be shared by multiple generations. The westward façade is made up of a masonry screen; air is blown across an evaporating pool in the garden through the house out into the courtyard; operable panels allow for different air flow of these spaces. Like the US typology water is collected via screens on the roof, funneling water into the courtyard acting as an impluvium.*



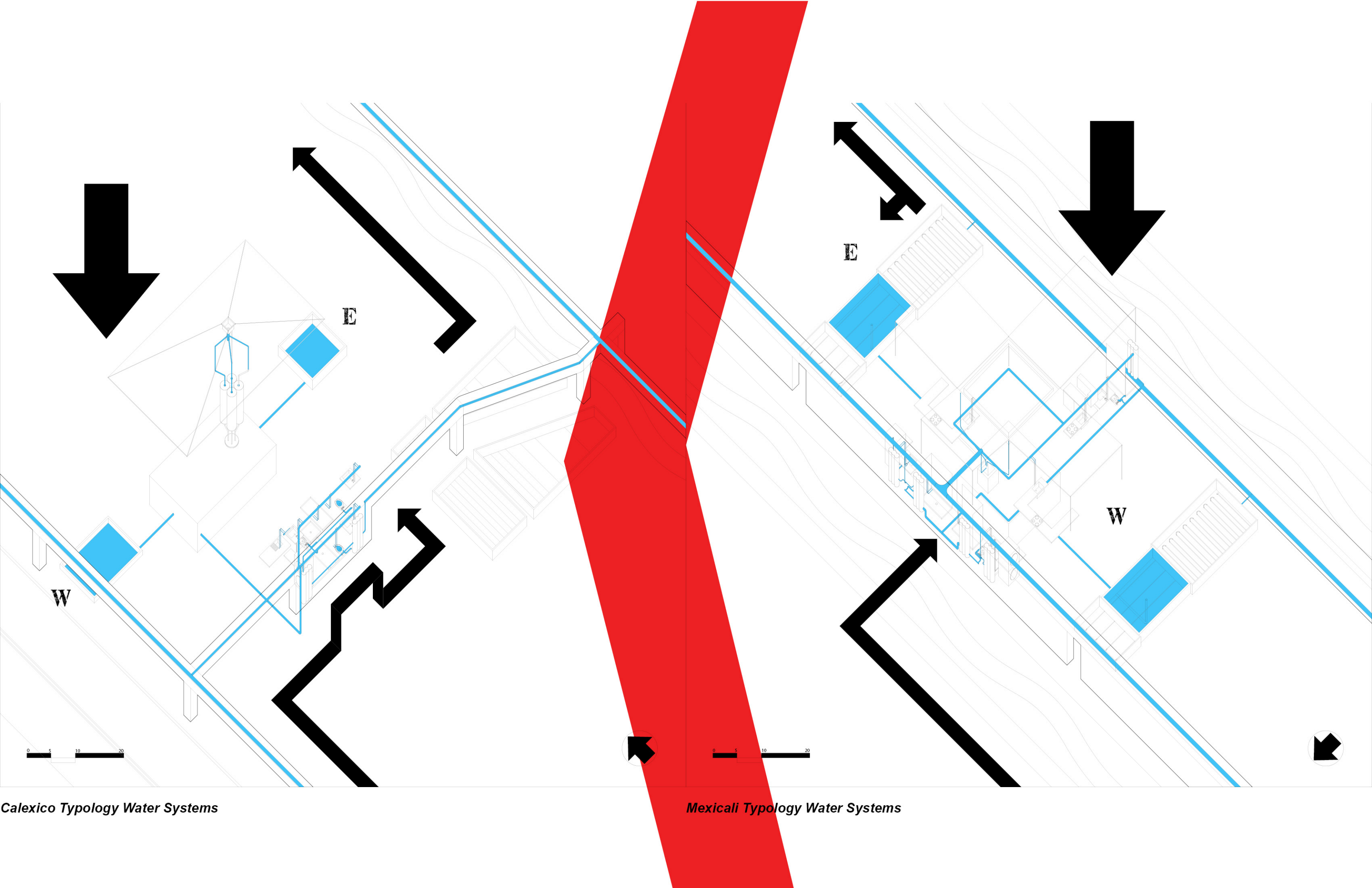




## Mexicali Typology Elevations



## Mexicali Typology Plans



*Calexico Typology Water Systems*

*Mexicali Typology Water Systems*





The ambition of this **superstructure** is to provide the people of this region **unanimity** in the struggle of an ever-changing environment and access to fair resources giving the cities the ability to cultivate itself over time. Using both water and the border wall, this system creates a unification between two cities, addressing the inequity that exists through the housing and infrastructure of the region.



END

