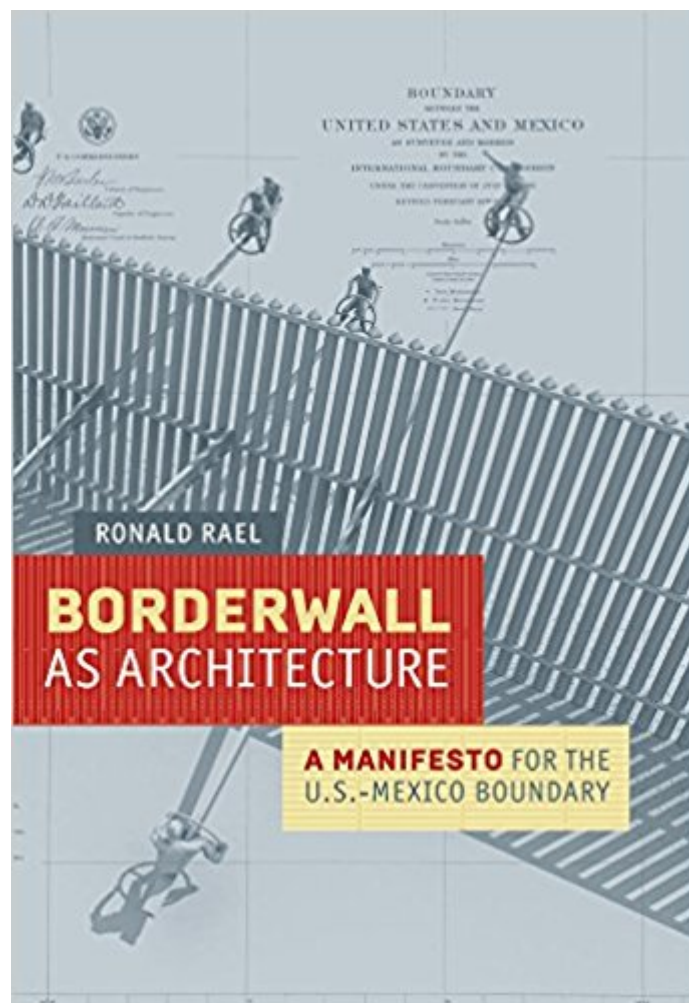




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Borderwall As Architecture: A Manifesto For The U.S.-Mexico Boundary (Ahmanson-Murphy Fine Arts Books (Hardcover))



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Synopsis

Borderwall as Architecture is an artistic and intellectual hand grenade of a book, and a timely re-examination of what the physical barrier that divides the United States of America from the United Mexican States is and could be. It is both a protest against the wall and a projection about its future. Through a series of propositions suggesting that the nearly seven hundred miles of wall is an opportunity for economic and social development along the border that encourages its conceptual and physical dismantling, the book takes readers on a journey along a wall that cuts through a "third nation" the Divided States of America. On the way the transformative effects of the wall on people, animals, and the natural and built landscape are exposed and interrogated through the story of people who, on both sides of the border, transform the wall, challenging its existence in remarkably creative ways. Coupled with these real-life accounts are counterproposals for the wall, created by Rael's studio, that reimagine, hyperbolize, or question the wall and its construction, cost, performance, and meaning. Rael proposes that despite the intended use of the wall, which is to keep people out and away, the wall is instead an attractor, engaging both sides in a common dialogue. Included is a collection of reflections on the wall and its consequences by leading experts Michael Dear, Norma Iglesias-Prieto, Marcello Di Cintio, and Teddy Cruz.

Book Information

Series: Ahmanson-Murphy Fine Arts Books (Hardcover)

Hardcover: 200 pages

Publisher: University of California Press (April 4, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0520283945

ISBN-13: 978-0520283947

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.6 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #206,842 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in Books > Arts & Photography > Other Media > Public Art #24 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Public Affairs & Policy > Immigration #48 in Books > Arts & Photography > Sculpture > Appreciation

Customer Reviews

Part historical account, part theoretical appraisal, and part design manifesto, Borderwall as

Architecture is reminiscent of Rem Koolhaas' Delirious New York in its sweeping assessment of both the sociocultural peculiarities and outlandish possibilities represented by a prominent structural element. (Blaine Brownell Architect Magazine)...in raising questions that not many others are asking about the relationship between two countries that share 2,000 miles of border, his book serves an important purpose. (The Daily Beast) Rael sees endless opportunities for creative defiance as he exposes the wall's xenophobic horror stories, absurdities and ironies by imagining design as both an undermining and reparative measure... [his proposals] force us to re-examine the feasibility of constructing a big beautiful wall around fortress America by underscoring that borders are innate zones of connectivity as much as division. (New York Journal of Books)

A fascinating book, astonishing and magical: a realm where the absurdity of a wall is transformed from obstructive and negative to an affirmation of shared humanity. "Judith Torrea, journalist and author based in Ciudad Juárez, México "Timely and provocative, Borderwall as Architecture is an eloquent appeal to reconsider the principles and prejudices of nationalism within the context of the built environment." "Jonathon Keats, experimental philosopher and author of You Belong to the Universe: Buckminster Fuller and the Future "No longer sovereign limits of exchange, borders are at once indexes of national as well as individual identities. Borderwall as Architecture interrogates how the securitization of the United States' southernmost limits radically define new landscapes of transaction that can also be visualized as a tool of violence. Among Ronald Rael's elegant ironies seen across anticipatory yet moving drawings and projects, the Mexico-US border fence/wall registers a figurative logic in which seemingly banal aspects of porosity, transparency, and locality also confront architecture's and our own roles in two nations' un-becoming. "Sean Anderson, Curator, Architecture and Design, MOMA

In hopes of ending the coupe of division, this book provided depths of the US-Mexico border from its history, strategies, and people's stories. There are proposed designs on the divider to diminish its physical solitude and to regenerate communities and natural habitats. As a student in architecture, this is a great reference for theory of how architecture can revitalize communal spaces and natural environments when there's conflict.

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