

- **16859 | Bordering circumstances: The Wall**

Sá, Daniel, Faculdade de Arquitectura da Universidade do Porto, Portugal

Casal Ribeiro, Helder, Faculdade de Arquitectura da Universidade do Porto, Portugal

Looking at Earth from above allows us to observe a series of events, ranging from geological to anthropogenic, which have shaped its surface. Between tectonics, expressed in landscape monuments, and geopolitics, defined by man-made limits, we can identify patterns of bordering circumstances.

The wall is an architectural object which underlines the expressed phenomena, the meeting place between elements approaching contact. Catalysed by this conceptual motif, the exploration of different natures, arts and architectures translates the diversity of scenarios which can arise along this premise, from total separation or confinement up until transcendence of the hinted borders.

The present paper intends to reflect on these questions through a comparative exercise, presenting a couple of examples which share a similar abstract perimeter as a fundamental design theme. Robert Smithson's non-site evokes a dialogue between time and space, breaking from the restraint of the exhibition box and transporting us outside, to the birthplace of raw material. Solano Benitez' project for a family tomb invites us on a walk through the realms of nature, before arriving at the clearing where his father rests, a space for meditation where one is able to travel beyond the limits of comprehension, into the depths of existence. Both convey a sense of opening, which surpasses the physical border laid by the projected boundary.

This study is part of an ongoing thesis on Master's Degree in Architecture, at FAUP, 2019/20, under the supervision of Helder Casal Ribeiro. It is paramount to contribute to the growing body of knowledge in relation to the definitive and imposing nature of design in and of itself, through research on the invisibilities which permeate the dialogue between environment, architecture and people.