Border as Refuge: Inhabiting the Liminal

by

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To those who have perished in search of a safer life.

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Abstract

Canada is facing unprecedented rates of irregular asylum claims at the U.S. border. The majority of migrants crossing irregularly travel from New York City to Roxham Road, QC. Similar to the Underground Railroad, the thesis provides migrants safe passage in their search for freedom. The thesis implements architecture as a means of resistance by implementing location, camouflage, and escapability. It proposes clandestine interventions along the route to Border Refuge, located along the Richelieu River to help create a radically altered reality for refugees awaiting status in Canada. The design inverts the notion of borders as elements of division and transforms it as a tool for connection and inclusion. The thesis takes a theoretical approach to inhabiting borders and implements rivers and mirrors as tools of liminality, employs mimesis and crypsis as modes of camouflage, and allows for hiding, monitoring, and evacuation.

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To my Dad, who sought asylum to escape the Biafran war and inspired this thesis.

To my Mom, Bruce, and Fiona for your empathy and love over the past four years.

To Karen Mills and Sarah Yoes who were always there for advice, a cry, or most often a laugh. And to all my friends for making these four years so enjoyable.

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Chapter 1: Introduction

Home

no one leaves home unless home is the mouth of a shark.

you only run for the border when you see the whole city running as well.

your neighbours running faster than you, the boy you went to school with who kissed you dizzy behind

the old tin factory is holding a gun bigger than his body, you only leave home when home won't let you stay.

no one would leave home unless home chased you, fire under feet, hot blood in your belly.

it's not something you ever thought about doing, and so when you did - you carried the anthem under your breath, waiting until the airport toilet to tear up the passport and swallow, each mouthful of paper making it clear that you would not be going back.

you have to understand, no one puts their children in a boat unless the water is safer than the land.

who would choose to spend days and nights in the stomach of a truck unless the miles travelled meant something more than journey.

no one would choose to crawl under fences, be beaten until your shadow leaves you, raped, then drowned, forced to the bottom of the boat because you are darker, be sold, starved, shot at the border like a sick animal, be pitied, lose your name, lose your family, make a refugee camp a home for a year or two or ten, stripped and searched, find prison everywhere and if you survive and you are greeted on the other side with go home blacks, refugees dirty immigrants, asylum seekers sucking our country dry of milk, dark, with their hands out smell strange, savage - look what they've done to their own countries, what will they do to ours?

the dirty looks in the street softer than a limb torn off, the indignity of everyday life more tender than fourteen men who look like your father, between your legs, insults easier to swallow than rubble, than your child's body in pieces - for now, forget about pride your survival is more important.

i want to go home, but home is the mouth of a shark home is the barrel of the gun and no one would leave home unless home chased you to the shore unless home tells you to leave what you could not behind, even if it was human.

no one leaves home until home is a damp voice in your ear saying leave, run now, i don't know what i've become. (Shire, n.d.)

Migrant Narrative 1

To preface, research, questionnaires, and discussions were conducted to understand the conditions migrants undergo before, during, and after crossing the border irregularly into Canada. These conversations and experiences at the border provided a tactile and experiential understanding of the arduous journey migrants make to reach safety. The data collected from these conversations play an essential role in informing the architecture. At the base of numerous drawings within this document are fictional journal pages illustrating the characters story. These illustrated narratives are the voices and stories of multiple migrants, merged to create a character to test the architecture against.

She was five when the earth beneath her feet began to shake; the world collapsing around her. It was just after New Years when the magnitude 7.0 earthquake devastated Haiti. The effects were catastrophic; it displaced nearly a million people. Her family lost everything; their house damaged beyond repair. It forced them to live in overcrowded and unsafe displacement camps across the city. As she grew up, surrounded by crippled infrastructure and food insecurity, she would draw in her journal. It was the only way she could express the desperation she felt.

It took ten years, but her mother finally saved enough money to send her to Border Refuge, the secret sanctuary between the New York and Quebec border. The pilgrimage north was terrifying and dangerous, especially for a 15-year-old girl. Twelve others traveled with her from Haiti to Mexico, crossing through deep rivers and trekking through dense forest. In Mexico, Coyotes smuggled her into the U.S. in caravans, filled others looking for an escape. She journeyed

Fictional journal diary of a migrant leaving Haiti, based on conversations I had with migrants (base images from Karumba 2011; Larson 2019; Yasin 2017; Villalón, Federico, and Poole 2020).

to New York City, and then to the refuge, following the path friends had embedded into her head.

Delimit

The world is facing unprecedented rates of migration, with 60 million displaced refugees, more than at the end of the Second World War (Betts 2015). The thesis explores recent trends in rising global and national refugees, examining the relationship between rising refugees and current prohibitive migration policies. Over the past two years, Canada has seen drastic increases in irregular asylum claims (between official ports of entry) at its southern border (UNHCR 2019, 1). In 2017, roughly 20,000 irregular asylum seekers entered Canada, the majority (96 %) traveling from New York City to Roxham Road (Smith 2019; UNHCR 2019, 1). Canada and the United States implemented the Safe Third Country Agreement (STCA) to manage the movements and processing of asylum seekers (Smith 2019). The agreement requires asylum seekers to make claims in the country of their first arrival because both Canada and the United States are considered safe (Smith 2019). However, this thesis asserts that the United States is not safe for non-Western migrants. Changes in American immigration policies that occurred following the 2016 U.S. federal election have caused rises in xenophobia and are incentivizing migrants to seek asylum in Canada (Smith 2019). Prohibitory orders that Donald Trump has implemented, combined with his biased portrayal of migrants, have led to national anti-immigrant rhetoric. The Muslim Ban and the expiration of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) are two policy changes Trump has ordered that have drastically affected refugees (Smith 2019).

Irregular migrant border and RCMP at Roxham Road, NY.

Most migrants come from the Middle East, Africa, and Central America (Smith 2019). Flying into New York City from the East is the most accessible and affordable route. To travel norht, migrants take a taxi, train, or bus north to Roxham Road. Although crossing the border irregularly is not illegal, most migrants still fear detention and deportation.

After their journeys to the border, migrants hope for swift admittance into Canada. However, that is far from reality. Presently at Roxham Road, migrants get apprehended, processed, shipped to temporary shelters, and then placed into a backed-up asylum system. Due to increases in irregular crossers, there is a backlog of claims that are creating immense processing pressures on Canadian organizations (Smith 2019). The backlog has disrupted more than 28, 314 irregular migrant claims, leading to significant resettlement issues (Smith 2019; UNHCR 2019, 1). The delay in asylum requests can last years, forcing migrants to wait in temporary settlements or provincial jails. The temporary camps that migrants inhabit are uninhabitable and do not provide a sense of community or inclusion; instead, they act to isolate and hold migrants in a state of limbo.

Similar to how the Underground Railroad provided safe and hidden passage to slaves traveling to Canada, the thesis proposes a series of clandestine interventions along common migrant routes to help with their trip north. Interventions, inserted into existing urban fabric, act as lifelines for migrants. Inhabitable interventions take over existing infrastructure to remain invisible within the built environment. Converting roadside billboards into overnight shelters that provide secret places to sleep. These interventions allow refugees safe access to their future.

To counteract being held in long asylum claims, the thesis proposes a sanctuary within the liminal zone of the border. This refuge would act as a permanent solution to migrant accommodations by hypothesizing on how the border zone between Canada and the United States could provide a safe place for those who are waiting on asylum decisions.

Thesis Question

How can architecture and the liminal be used to reimagine inhabitable conditions for refugees seeking asylum?

Objective

Border as Refuge: Inhabiting the Liminal acts as a device for humanizing the irregular border crossing system. It serves two intentions: The first is to insert clandestine interventions along migrant routes between New York City and Border Refuge, this will help ensure safe passage. The second examines how the border acts as a liminal threshold that allows asylum seekers a place to inhabit. The latter helps to create a system that enables refugees/immigrants to move and safely inhabit as they await due process. The architecture takes on and amplifies the architects role to situate, site, and locate. Site = Locate; Camouflage = Shelter and Protect while enabling access to programs; Escapability = Secondary exiting network to act as a last resort.

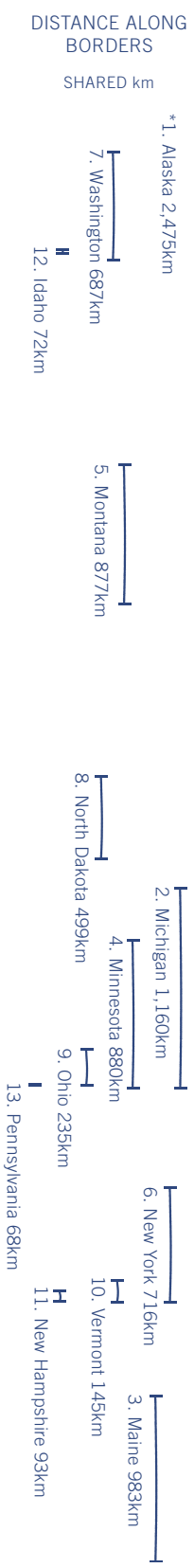
Migrant Narratives that were collected by the Author during a research trip. Illustrates the issues, journeys, and routes refugees face when seeking asylum irregularly between the Canada - United States border.

Chapter 2: Frame

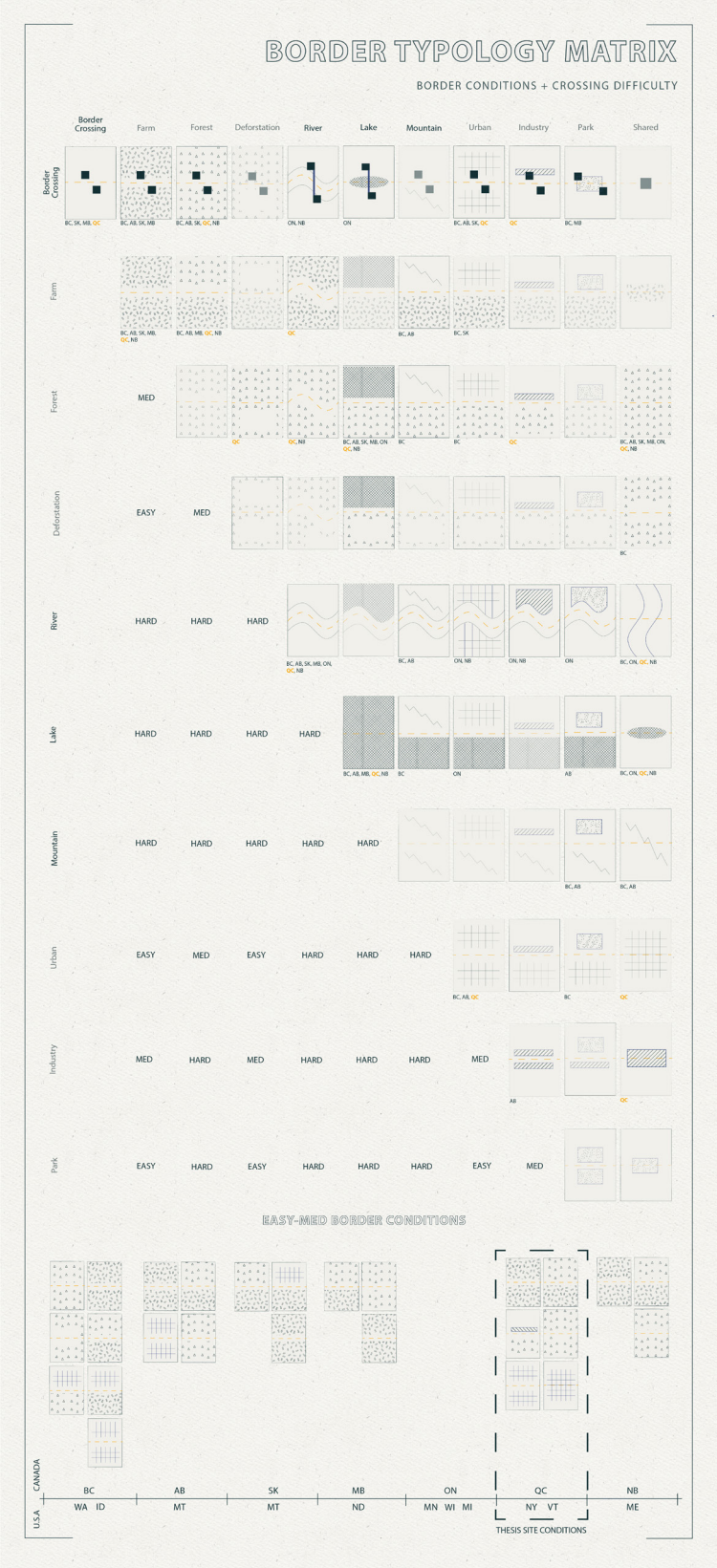
The Border

The Canada–US border is recognized as the longest undefended border in the world, stretching over 8,891 km, dividing two nations. The border lies on the 49th northern parallel, creating a straight line that divides the provinces and states, shifting with the landscape to bend around waterways. The border has a six-meter void clearance from coast to coast between the Canada and the U.S. (Andreas 2003, 6). Free from obstruction, this cleared liminal zone acts to divide. The definition of borders “a line separating two political or geographical areas, especially countries” illustrates that they divide nations physically but also politically and socially. They limit geographical, political, and legal entities (Oxford University Press 2019). Unlike the United States’ southern border, their northern border is undefended; there are no physical barriers. However, the border is highly patrolled with official ports of entry connecting the countries. Post 9/11, the border was demed vulnerable and patrolling agents tripled in number (Andreas 2003, 6). Fear garnered by isolated events and exaggerated by political rhetoric heightened anxiety and lead to fortifications “not against state-sponsored military invaders but transnational law evaders” (Andreas 2003, 14). These fears also caused rises in anti-immigration rhetoric and influenced U.S. and Canadian policies.

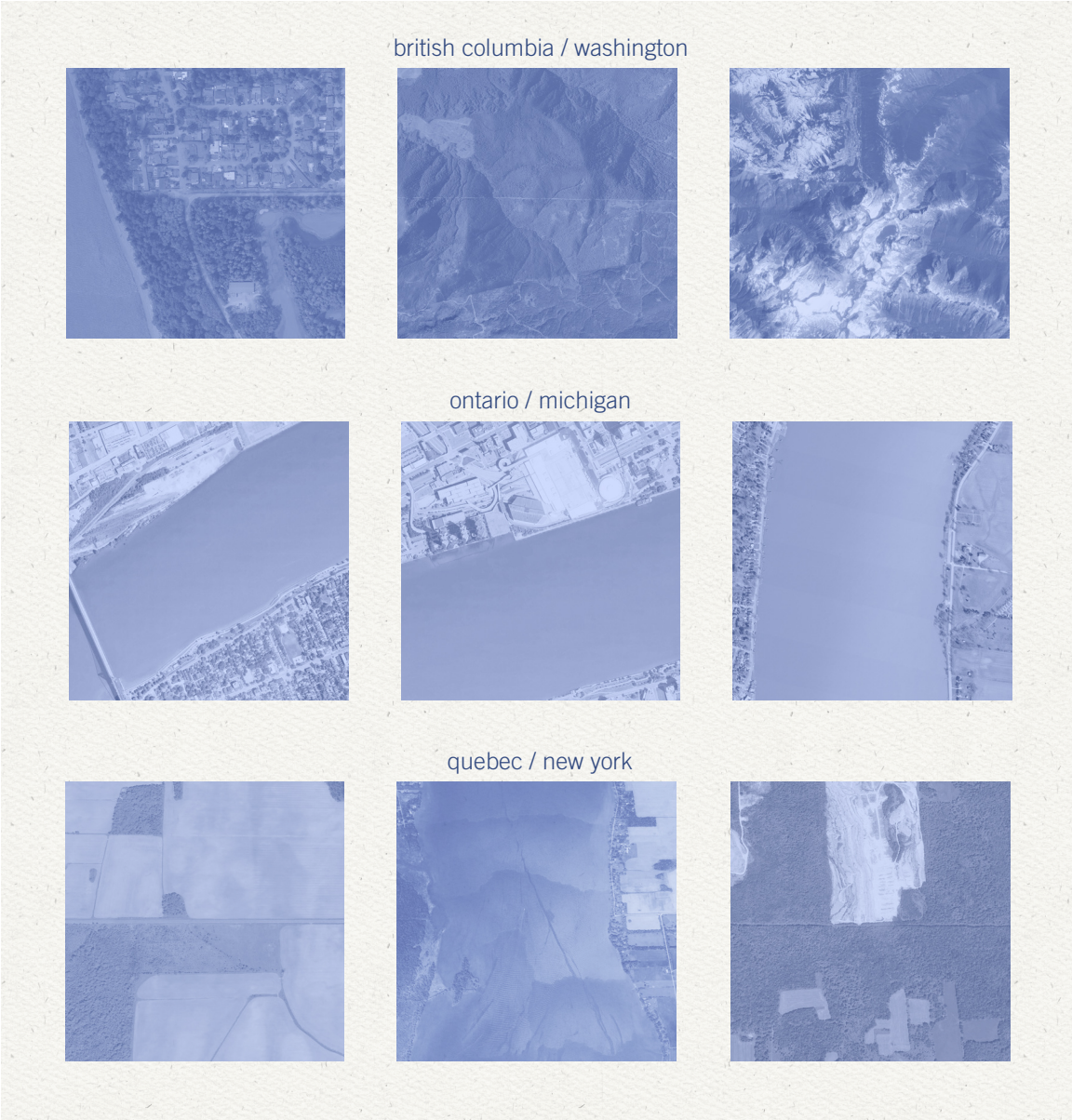
The study of borders presently situates them as formal elements that spatially separate “within transnational, political, social, ethnic and/or religious contexts” (Schoonderbeek 2015). Borders display their inward and outward identities,



Illustrates shared distances between Canadian and U.S.



Condition types and level of crossing difficulty across the Canada-U.S. border (data from Google Earth 2020)

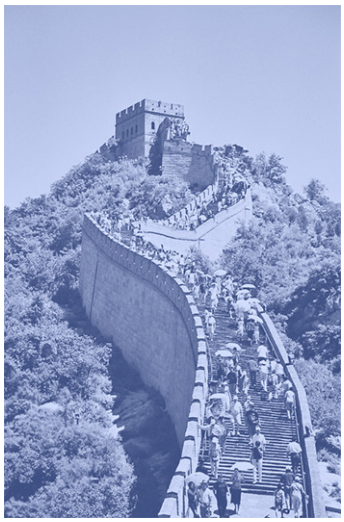


Aerial photos illustrate three locations, British Columbia/Washington, Ontario/Michigan, and Quebec/NewYork, that were researched as potential study sites. Quebec / New York border is the chosen site (data from Google Earth 2020).

acting as an enclosure while simultaneously separating (Schoonderbeek 2015). The thesis challenges the use of borders as a means of division and segregation and proposes it as a place of encounter. The border is not just a line but zone where geographical, political, and social conditions develop but it is a liminal space where these conditions come to life. The zone typically uses bodies of water or cleared landscapes to become spatial, to become a place. Historically, the border (and the wall) could be thought of as place. Ditches were carved out of the soil to demarcate boundaries later, developing into the cities inhabited perimeter walls (Rykwert 1976, 135). Similar to this thesis, the border became a threshold where groups gathered and bridged sides allowing different groups to unite.

> The border is the Heideggerian bridge, the point where a connection is established between two sides. The spatial gathering the border implies is…a literal bridging: in this space of the simultaneous, border practices establish connections that initiate temporal trajectories of the simultaneous as well as spatial divisions of differences. (Schoonderbeek 2015)

The Wall



The Great Wall of China (base image from Airunp 2004).

Establishing borders (territorial and otherwise) through the construction of walls dates back long before the Great Wall of China (Koca 2018, 186). It has become increasingly evident since 9/11 that the U.S. and Europe have begun to harden their borders (Koca 2018, 183-184). Walls are planned and erected along their edge to prevent migration, causing detrimental impacts to the rights of refugees (Koca 2018, 186). Walls are “physical and symbolic sites of inclusion and exclusion that mark the inside from the outside” (Callahan 2018, 460). Contrary to widespread opinion, walls do not efficiently keep foreigners out (Koca 2018, 186). They divert movements because the need to cross to safety is too great. However ineffective they are at excluding; they successfully

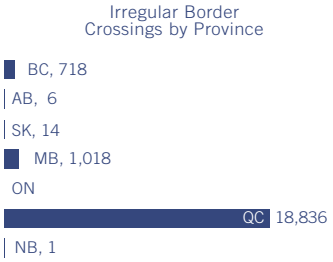
disseminate xenophobia and reaffirm the power of the state (Callahan 2018, 457; Koca 2018, 186).

Walls are historical architectural elements that divide territories, cities, dwellings, and people. Like borders, walls are used to separate and exclude.

Mexico-US border wall at Tijuana, Mexico (base image from Castelazo 2017).

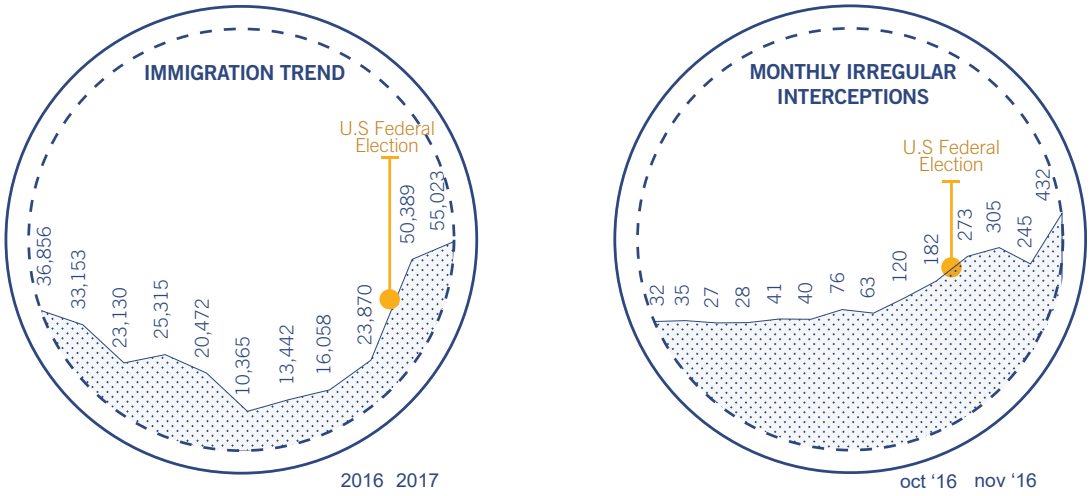
Chapter 3: Trace

The Rise of the Refugee

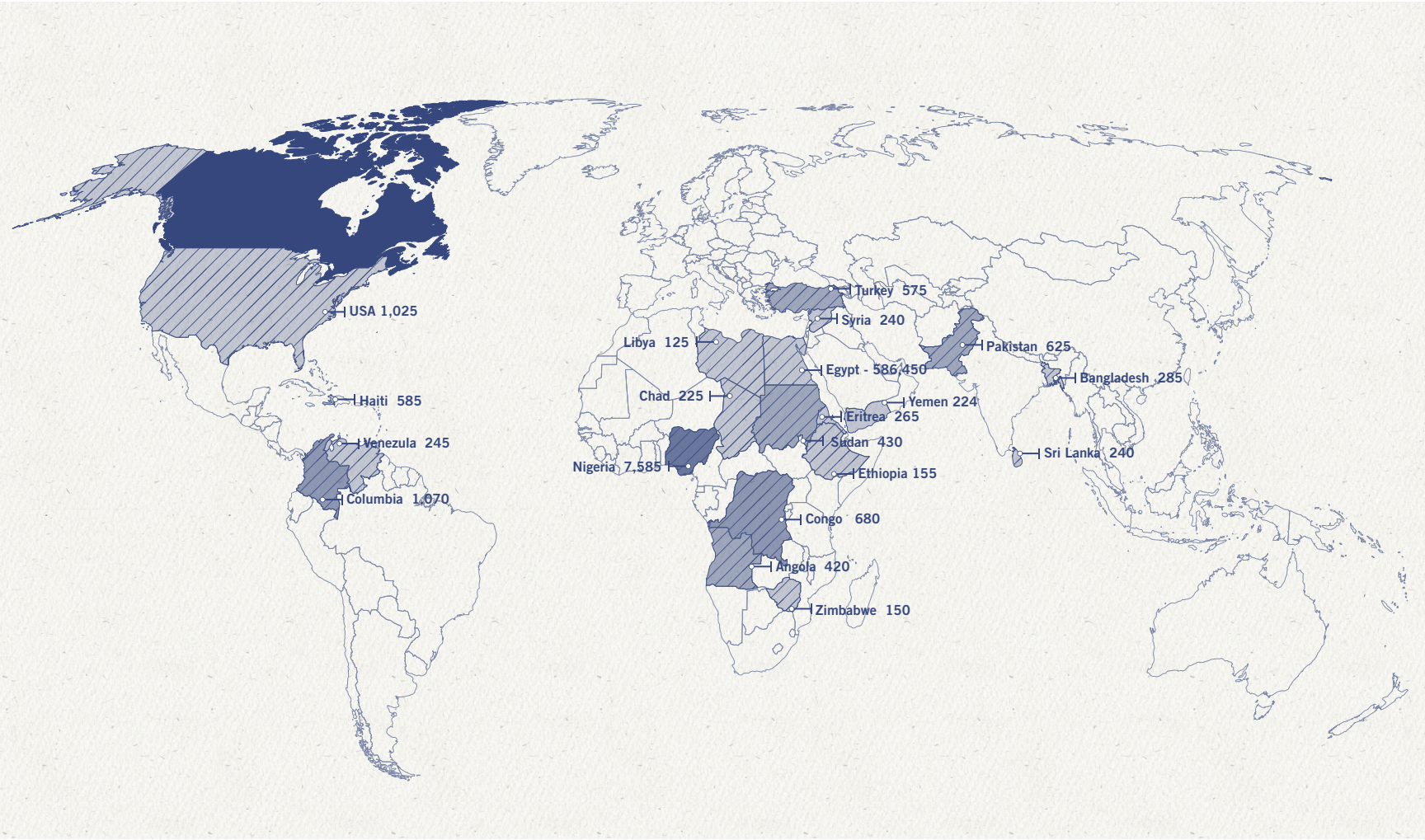


The rise in irregular refugees crossing into Canada from the U.S (data from Statistics Canada 2019).

There is an unprecedented rise in global refugees with over 60 million displaced people, a third of which have crossed international borders (Betts 2015). The rise is due to higher incidences of forced and environmental migration. Fear of deportation and incarceration exacerbate migrant's anxieties in the United States and encourage their trips north; this explains Canada's increase in refugee claims. Although asylum seekers make claims at both official (regular) and unofficial (irregular) ports of entry, this thesis focuses on irregular migration. In 2017, 50,000 migrants crossed into Canada to seek asylum (UNHCR 2019, 1). Of those seeking asylum 20,000 sought it through irregular migration, with 96 percent crossing at Roxham Road (Nair 2019; Rihouay 2018; UNHCR 2019, 1). Because of this drastic increase seen at Roxham Road, the RCMP has constructed temporary infrastructures to facilitate full-time staff presence (Smith 2019). Historically Roxham Road was



The rise in irregular refugees crossing into Canada from the United States prior to and following the 2016 U.S. federal election (data from Statistics Canada 2019).



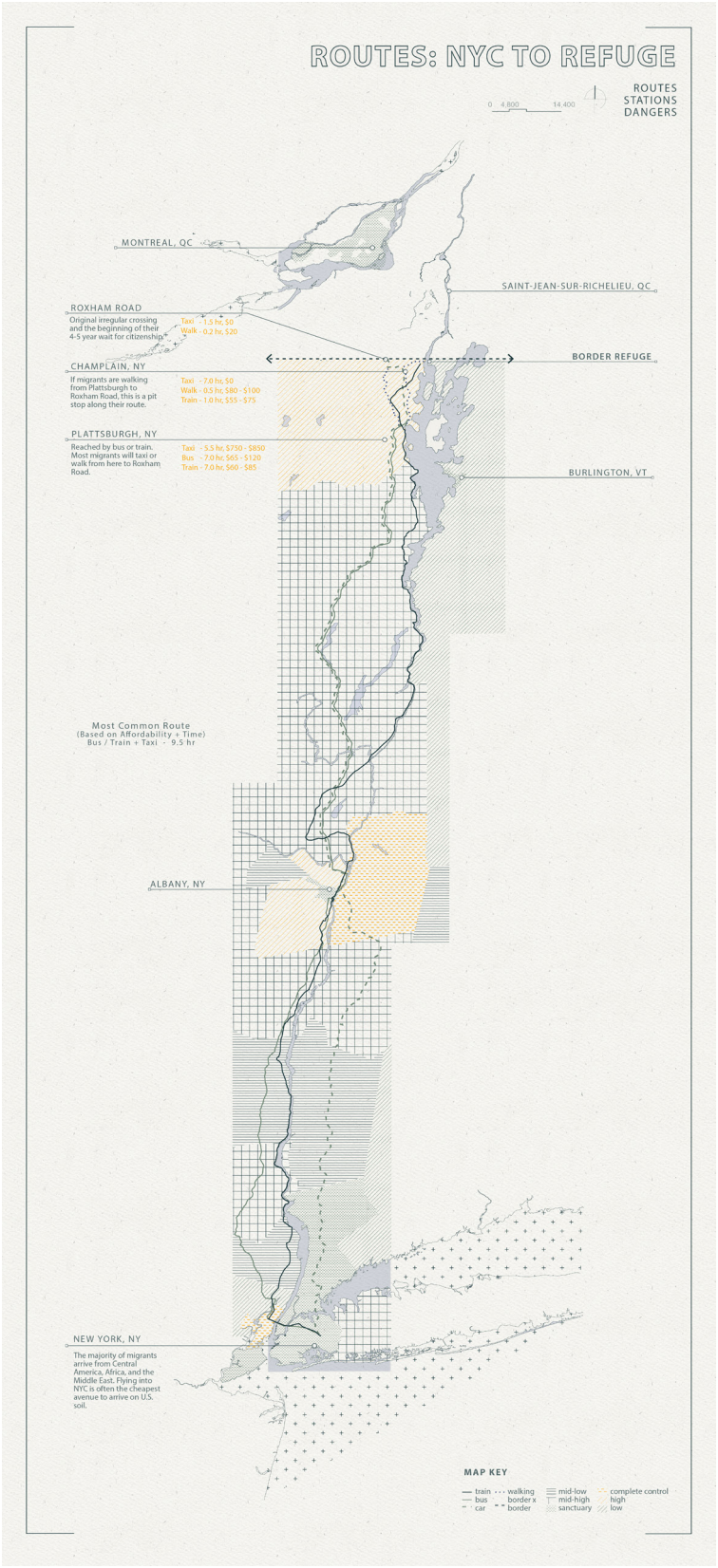
Top countries of origin crossing irregularly into Roxham Road. Gradient and figures indicate the range of incidences (data from Smith 2019).

a continuous rural road that bisected the border; however, presently, it meets at the border with two dead ends.

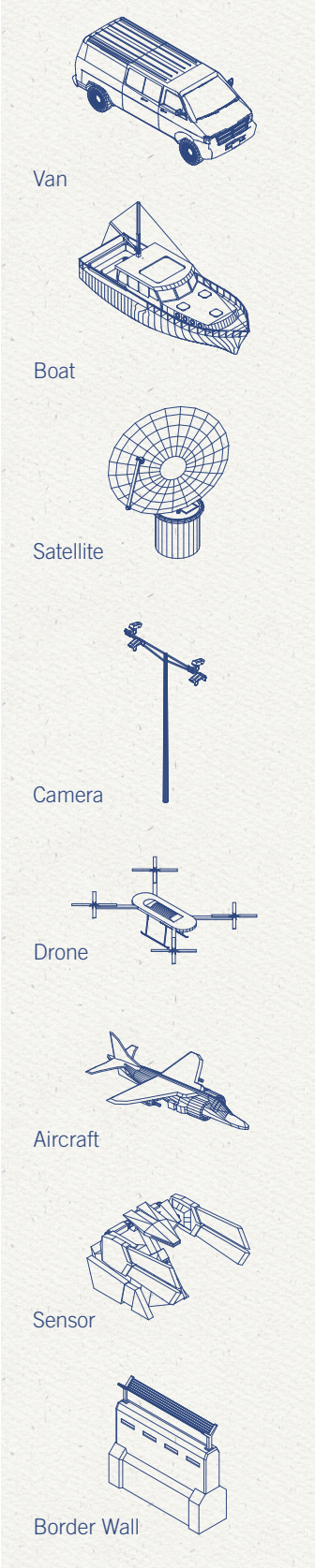
From South to North

The Underground Railroad

There are parallels with the Underground Railroad (UGRR) that helped to free 100,000 African American slaves to Canada and the routes that these 21st-century refugees take to Quebec (CBC/Radio Canada 2017). Similar to the historical UGRR, the routes migrants take to freedom act to provide the most vulnerable with safe refuge. Refugees travel from across the globe, the majority coming from the Middle East, Africa, and Central America (Smith 2019). Because migrants come from the East, flying into New York City (NYC) is the most accessible and affordable city in the United States. To make their way to Roxham Road, migrants travel North through the State of New York. Based on the cost of travel, migrants take a combination of taxis, trains, or buses to the border. The most common route is a seven-hour Amtrak or bus ride to Plattsburgh, followed by an eighty-dollar taxi ride to the border. This route is the same UGRR freedom route that helped facilitate the movement of freedom seekers to Quebec. It connected NYC, Albany, Rouses Point, and Quebec, along the Champlain river valley towards the Richelieu River (North Star Underground Railroad Museum, n.d.). Rouses Point, NY was the most northern stop before slaves sought freedom in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, QC (North Star Underground Railroad Museum, n.d.).



Cost, location, duration, and safety of migrant routes from New York City to Roxham Road (data from MapCruzin, n.d.).

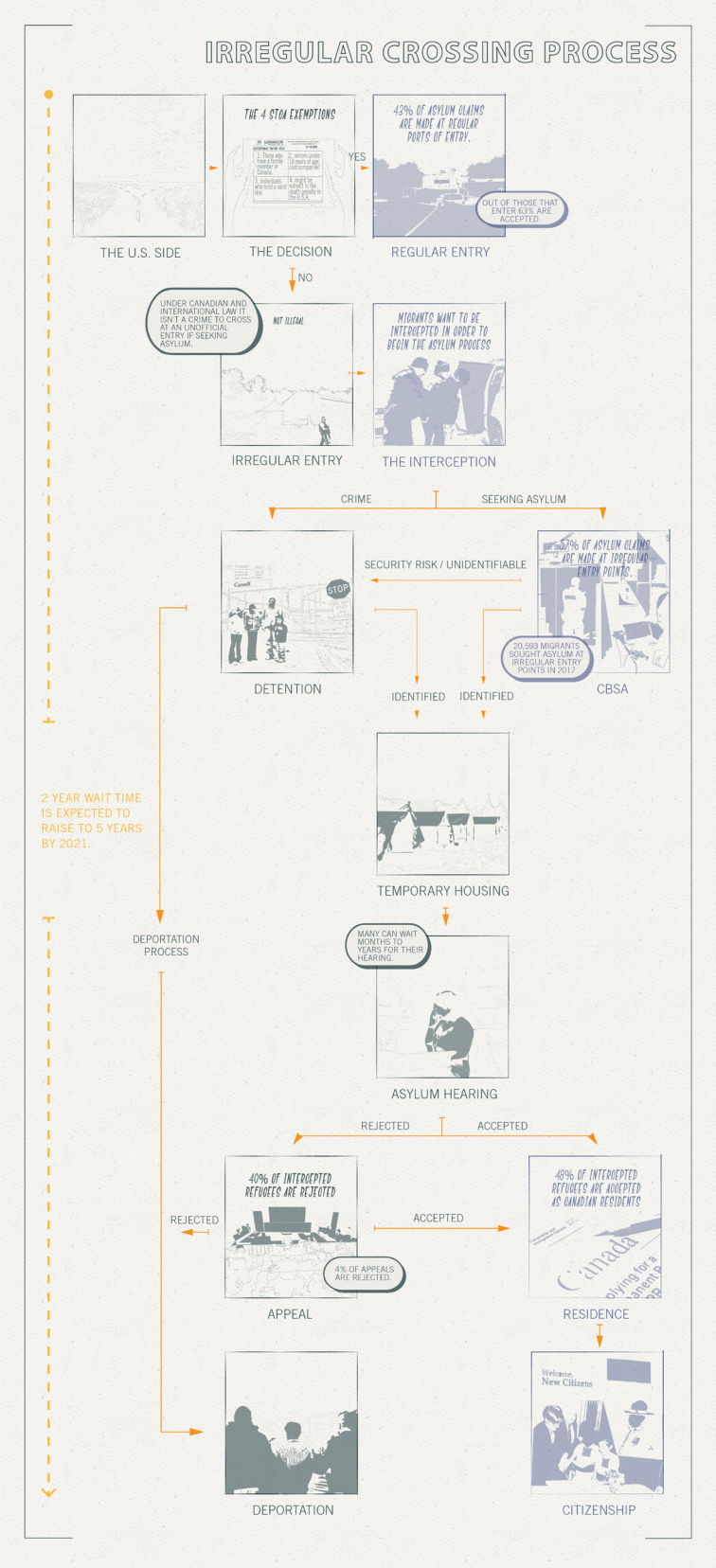


Border surveillance

Interception

Under international and Canadian law, it is not illegal to seek asylum irregularly (UNHCR 2019, 1). Displaced people face insurmountable danger at home and flee to protect themselves and their families. They are one of the most vulnerable groups in society and have no place to call home. With no choice but to seek refuge in Canada, they drag their suitcases through the mud and gravel, down a ditch, and cross quickly into Canada. Migrants are quickly apprehended and directed to a temporary processing station. After their arduous journey to the border, migrants hope for swift admittance into Canada. However, they enter a backlogged system where they wait in limbo for years. Due to increases in irregular crossers, there is immense processing pressure on the Canadian asylum system (Smith 2019). The backlog has interrupted more than 28, 314 irregular migrant claims, leading to significant resettlement issues (Smith 2019). The delay forces migrants to wait in detention centers, temporary camps, or provincial jails.

Canada perceives the refugee crisis as a short-term issue, attempting to assist with temporary methods. During the first wave of migration in 2017, the government set up 450 cots in Montreal's Olympic stadium, all filling instantly (McKenna 2017). The excessive need for shelter forced the construction of a temporary camp in Saint-Bernard-de-Lacolle that housed 500 refugees (BBC News 2017). The military deployed these temporary tents in hopes of expediting the asylum process. Appropriate and permanent shelter for migrants must be implemented because forced migration is increasing (Schoonderbeek and Shoshan 2016, 4).



Interception steps within the Canada - U.S. irregular border crossing system. Diagrams in blue illustrate conditions that migrants hope will occur (text enlarged).

quebec - roxham road

new york - roxham road

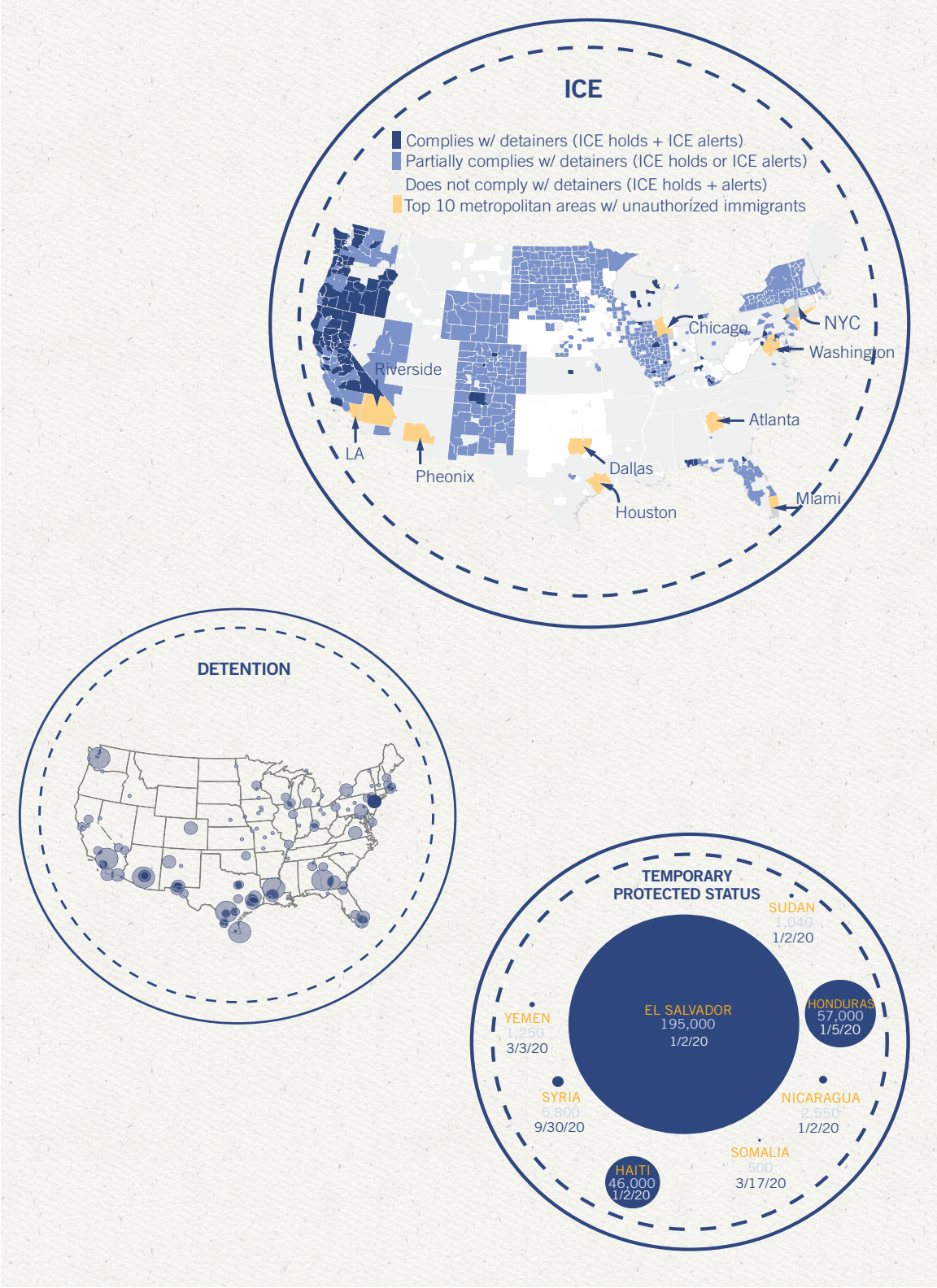
Views of existing conditions at Roxham Road on the Canadian and American side.

Detention is for refugees that are a flight risk, danger to the public, or have an unclear identity (Global Detention Project 2018, 11). Canada has three detention centers, one in British Columbia, Ontario, and Quebec. Housing 24, 145, and 109 refugees, respectively. Canada requires roughly 7,000 beds a year; their current capacity does not meet these needs (Global Detention Project 2018, 11). The lack of shelter forces migrants into minimum and maximum provincial prisons. Placing refugees in facilities with criminalized populations can traumatize individuals being held solely for processing. Canada is the only country to mix refugees and convicted felons and "…continues to violate binding international law, such as the rights to equality, liberty, and security of the person…" (Global Detention Project 2018, 17). Canada's asylum system should mitigate indefinite detention but instead facilitates it. The thesis rejects the systemic issues Canada employs and proposes the creation of a new migrant refuge, allowing migrants complete autonomy of their lives during the asylum process.

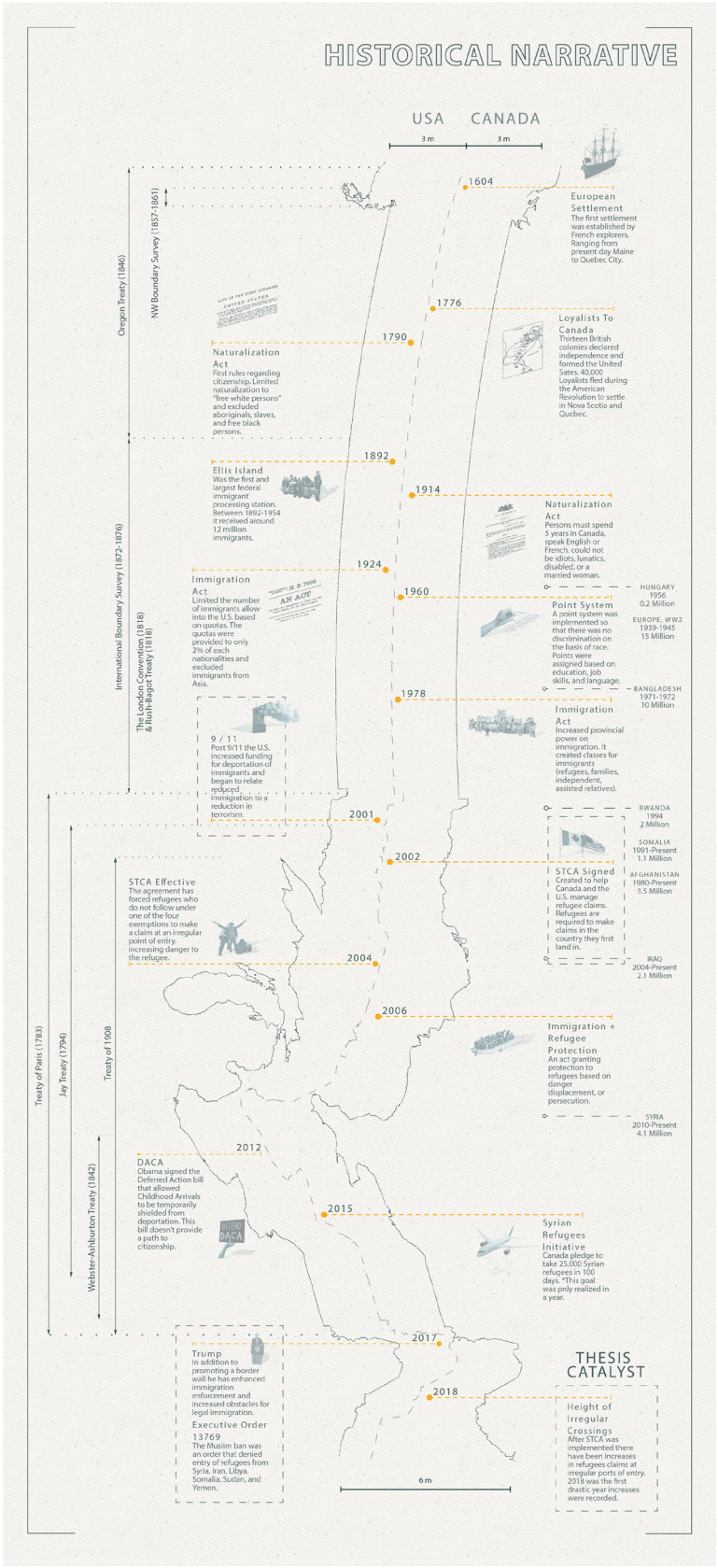
Politics and Discrimination

Safe Third Country Agreement

The Migration Policy Institute confirmed that the "link between migration and development policies has become increasingly prominent in global policy debates" (Migration Policy Institute, n.d.). In 2004, Canada and the U.S. implemented the Safe Third Country Agreement (STCA) to manage the movement and processing of asylum seekers (Smith 2019). See Appendix A for higher resolution images of this drawing series. Refugee claimants are required to seek status in the country they first arrive in, unless they meet one of four exemptions (Government of Canada 2016).

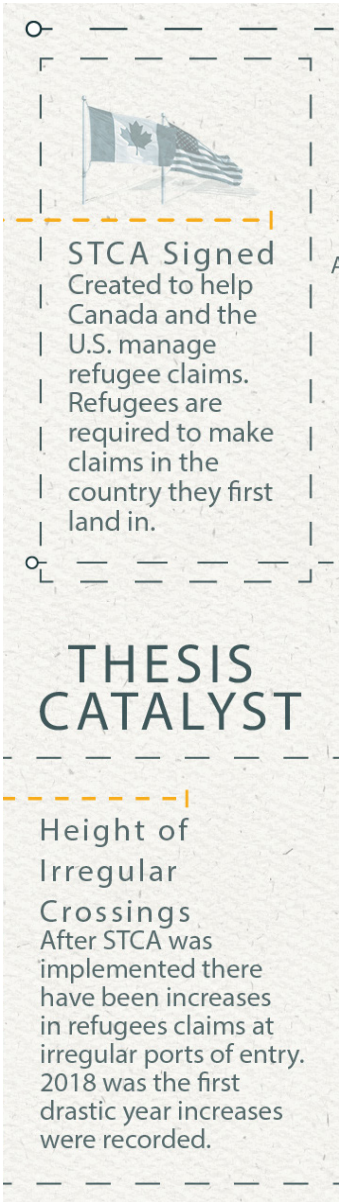


1: The states that adhere to ICE deportations and their proximity to migrant hubs. 2: Illustrates the detention centers in the U.S. and their relatives capacities. 3: Countries, expiry dates, and amount of Temporary Protected Status individuals in the U.S. (data from Chan, Weber and Foo 2017; Cohn, Passel and Bialik 2019)



Illustrates the sequencing of events, policies, and diaspora through Canadian and American History.

The exemptions require a migrant to have a valid visa, a family member in Canada, be under the age of eighteen, or face the death penalty in the United States. Migrants can only seek asylum in Canada once, so because these exemptions are stringent, they feel crossing irregularly is their safest option. In correlation with the implementation of the STCA, rising intolerance of refugees in the United States has motivated asylum seekers to move to Canada. With rises in discrimination, the U.S. is no longer safe for non-Western migrants.



Excerpts of the timeline.

Despite North America's ability to help protect such a vulnerable group, refugees are viewed with distrust and intolerance (Esses, Hamilton, and Gaucher 2017, 80). These negative and misguided ideologies work to reinforce the refugee crisis and provide a rationale to limit the entry of migrants (Esses, Hamilton, and Gaucher 2017, 80). Following the inauguration of Donald Trump, there has been mounting hostility towards refugees. Although temporarily blocked by U.S. courts, the Trump administration has decided against extending the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) of hundreds of thousands of refugees residing in the U.S. (Smith 2019). Over 300,000 people are at risk of losing their TPS in early 2020 (Smith 2019). If the courts cannot reject the Republican's strategies, Canada will be overwhelmed with refugees attempting to migrate north to safety. In 2017, Trump successfully terminated the TPS for over 46,000 Haitians; this was the catalyst for the drastic rise in irregular Canadian asylum claims. Before the end of the TPS policy, 140 Haitians crossed in April. Afterwords, more than 3,505 Haitians had crossed in June (Smith 2019). Smith calculates that after the TPS announcement, 7.5 percent of all Haitians

residing in the U.S. irregularly migrated to Canada instead of waiting for deportation (2019).

Sanctuary Churches

Areas of worship have been urban sanctuaries since the 80's when churches in the U.S. and Canada began to resist federal law (Lasch et al. 2018, 1709; Rehaag 2009, 44). Churches have provided refugees who are fleeing violence and persecution with shelter, food, transportation, and legal assistance (Rehaag 2009, 44). Church sanctuary is when a migrant dwells in a church or faith institution to avoid imminent deportation. There are two strategies churches employ to help migrants obtain safety, exposure or concealment (Rehaag 2009, 44). Exposure occurs when the institution publicizes the migrant's narrative to increase awareness, helping to ensure maximum difficulty for officials. The concealment strategy prevents officials from detecting the migrant, preventing their deportation (Rehaag 2009, 44). Depending on provincial or state laws, immigration officials either do not have jurisdiction or are reluctant to enter churches to apprehend migrants (Rehaag 2009, 43). This allows migrants to "benefit from a de facto suspension of deportation while they remain within churches" (Rehaag 2009, 43). By protecting vulnerable migrants seeking refuge in Canada and the United States, churches may be helping to prevent the unlawful deportation of refugees.

Sanctuary Cities

After churches began to provide refugees with temporary sanctuary, the trend evolved into communities taking on that role on a larger scale (Lasch et al. 2018, 1709). Sanctuary refers to local jurisdictions refusing to cooperate with the deportation efforts of the federal government (Lasch et al.

2018, 1705). Differing terminology is used across the U.S., such as a sanctuary city, inclusive city, human rights city, and welcoming city (Lasch et al. 2018, 1710). Sanctuary cities are cities in the United States that do not use municipal funds or resources to enforce federal immigration laws (Chan, Weber, and Foo 2017).

Before Ronald Regan's "war on drugs," immigration enforcement was only concerned with issues surrounding the border and border infrastructure (Lasch et al. 2018, 1719). The focus at the border allowed federal officials to operate their own efforts exclusively. The "war on drugs" lead to a clash with "immigration enforcement and criminal justice goals" based on myths pitting migrants as dangerous felons (Lasch et al. 2018, 1720). This false narrative motivated some local law enforcement to begin partnerships with the federal government to expand the deportation and detention of migrants (Lasch et al. 2018, 1721).

These local and federal partnerships were a dangerous step forward in 1996 (Lasch et al. 2018, 1721). They formalized potential mergers between willing local criminal enforcement and federal immigration enforcement through the creation of the 287(g) program (Lasch et al. 2018, 1721). The 287(g) program enables local officers to perform various immigration enforcement functions under federal supervision, expanding their scope (Lasch et al. 2018, 1721-1722). The program, criticized for its encouragement of civil rights violations, is "linked to racial profiling and distrust in local law enforcement (Lasch et al. 2018, 1726-1727).

Chapter 4: Reality to Imaginary

Heterotopia and Liminality

Border as Refuge: Inhabiting the Liminal is a paradox, a site positioned on 'the inside of the outside, or vice versa' (Johnson 2006, 81). Liminality in architecture is the "ephemeral relationship between people and spatial environments," it is "neither one place nor another, but a third space in between" (Maric 2011, 2). Heterotopia derived from Greek heteros 'another' and topos 'place' (Johnson 2006, 77), and the root word limen derived from threshold, together mean "being on a threshold" (Alexander 1991, 31). This study positions heterotopia within the 6-meter cleared liminal space. Heterotopias are physical spaces that act like counter-sites, a physical manifestation of utopia, where ideas are represented, contested, and inverted (Maric 2011, 2). The thesis imbodies Foucault's concept that crisis heterotopias are places reserved for those (the refugee) in a state of crisis (Foucault 1984, 4).

Foucault described the mirror as a metaphor for heterotopia; it simultaneously reflects and disrupts (Hung 2013). In *Of Other Spaces: Heterotopia and Utopia*, the mirror was,

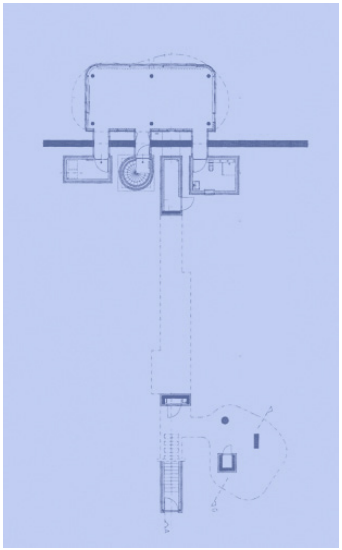
> … a utopia, since it is a placeless place. In the mirror, I see myself there where I am not, in an unreal, virtual space that opens up behind the surface. The mirror functions as a heterotopia in this respect: it makes this place that I occupy at the moment when I look at myself in the glass at once absolutely real, connected with all the space that surrounds it, and absolutely unreal, since in order to be perceived it has to pass through this virtual point which is over there. (Foucault 1984, 2)

Kowloon Walled City functioned as a mirror, reflecting British and Chinese narratives while protecting refugees escaping China (Hung 2013). It occupied the void space between

the two nations, the political no man's land a "diplomatic black hole" (Hung 2013). Hung explains that the Walled City was a haven "…for refugees, because there the illegal immigrants were free of legal interference and prosecution. Using architecture as a means of migration and freedom…" (2013).

van Gennep and Hejduk

The main driver of architectural form is the synthesis of van Gennep's three phases of *Rites of Passage* and John Hejduk's *Wall House*. Arnold van Gennep was seminal to the study of cultural rites of passage. He established three phases within the passage: separation, transition (liminality), and incorporation (Schouten 1991, 49). Separation is the first phase; it requires withdrawal from society to allow the reconstruction of identity (Schouten 1991, 49). An external event triggers separation; for refugees, this would be the cause of their migration. Transition or liminality is the second phase. The refugee adapts and changes while in limbo, the state between the past and future (Schouten 1991, 49). Incorporation is the third and final phase in the rite of passage. Incorporation positions refugees out of the transition (liminal) phase and integrates them into a new complete state (Johnson 2006, 76; Schouten 1991, 49).



The positioning of the past, present, and future in John Hedjuk's *Wall House 2* (Sveiven 2012)

In Wall House 2, Hedjuk focused on transition rather than space, by positioning past opposite to future with the present acting as the linear central wall (Gersten 2017). The thesis aims to implement his notion of relationships between the past, present, and future to imply temporality and to help position the programming and procession on the site (Gersten 2017).

Chapter 5: Modes of Resistance

There are two sites of resistance within the thesis the Billboard Station and the Border Refuge. Three modes of resistance (location, camouflage, and escapeability) are tested on these sites.

Within the Billboard Station

Location

The first site of resistance is a zone between Plattsburgh and the border. The route migrants take when they travel from NYC to the border travels through diverse degrees of safety because jurisdictions implement varying levels of cooperation with ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement). The 287(g) program allows state and local law enforcement to collaborate with the federal government to interrogate alleged noncitizens and to execute ICE administrative warrants leading to migrant arrests (American Immigration Council 2020). The most significant issue for migrants during their journey is that they exit the bus and train in Plattsburgh, part of the Clinton County danger zone. Exiting into a jurisdiction that cooperates with ICE leaves migrants at a higher risk for capture. Due to the heightened risk in this location, there will be increased billboard stations to help migrants reach safety.

Camouflage

The use of existing billboards to create overnight stations helps with deception and camouflage, allowing for a safe and undetectable spaces to sleep. There are two methods of camouflage developed within this thesis: crypsis and mimesis. The thesis engages both as techniques to conceal

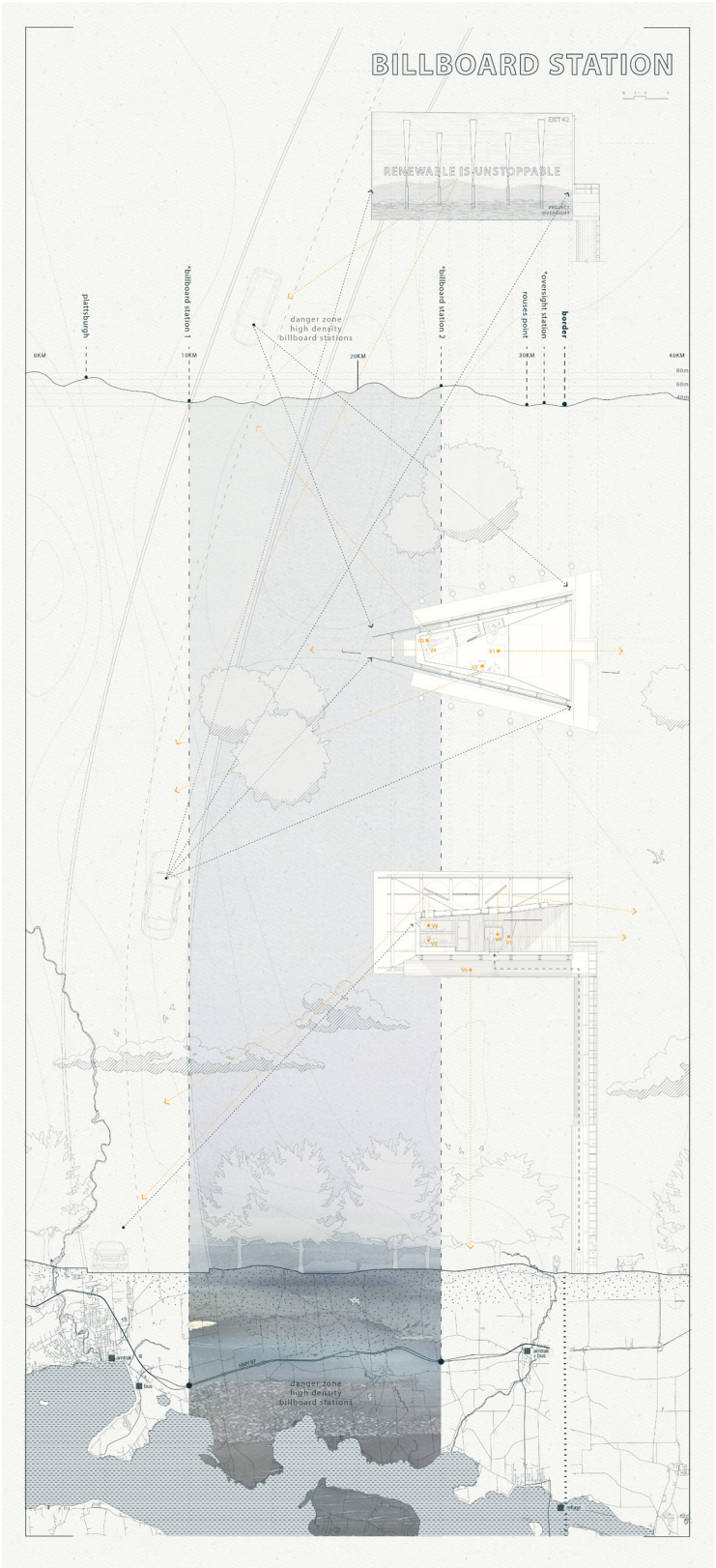
An example of a Billboard Station that would be placed along the North - South route between NYC and the border. These overnight stations provide migrants with a safe place to spend the night.

where migrants dwell. Crypsis is a method that employs architecture to distort and obscure while mimesis (to mimic) is a method of deception that disguises the architecture as something else. The Billboard Station utilizes mimesis, using the exterior panels of the billboard as a tool for hiding its true intentions. From those unsuspecting, the billboard appears as a mundane piece of marketing; however, to those in need, it provides a safe and covert place to sleep.

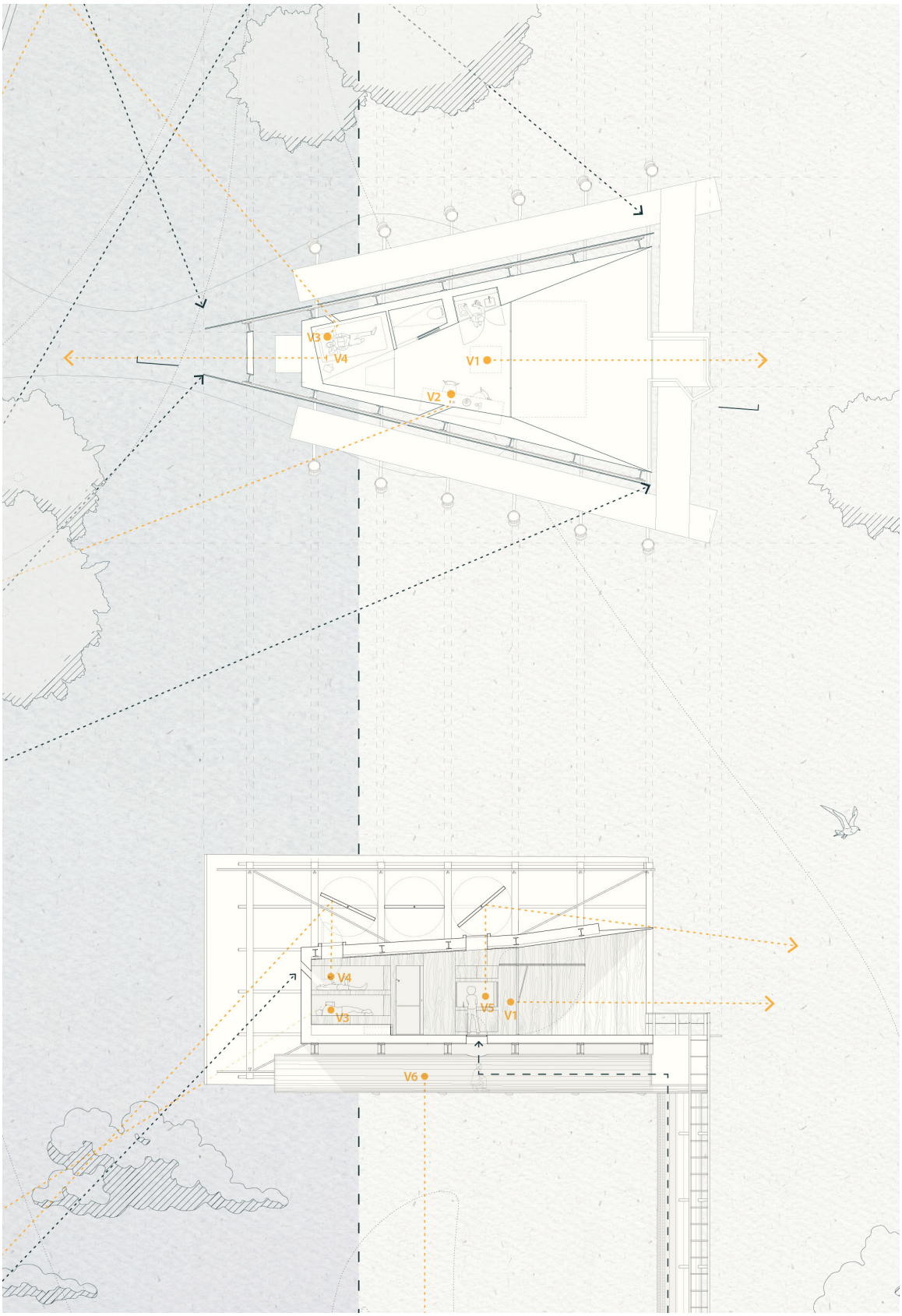
The Billboard Station provides migrants food, water, and safety from the external environment. These fundamental human requirements hide within the walls of the billboard allowing for events to take place within the liminal. The use of inhabited walls evokes the notion of the in-between; implemented to unite pertinent polarities: inside-outside, seen-hidden, and fear-freedom. Inhabited walls and interstitial spaces connect both sides of these divisions and provide a zone for exchange, surveillance, dwelling, and methods of escape.

Escapability

There are three stages of escape: hiding, monitoring, and evacuating; hiding occurs within the billboard, and openings in the façade allow monitoring of the exterior. Inside the Billboard Station, migrants can monitor their surroundings to ensure their safety. The cylindrical beam, which also acts as a service conduit, provides surveillance directly below the billboard. The windows within are angled to prevent views of the interior while maximizing surveillance to the exterior. They cut through the inhabited walls and the billboard signage, helping to deceive the outside world. The bottom bunk has views across to the northern fields, and the dining table has views of the southern fields. There are two

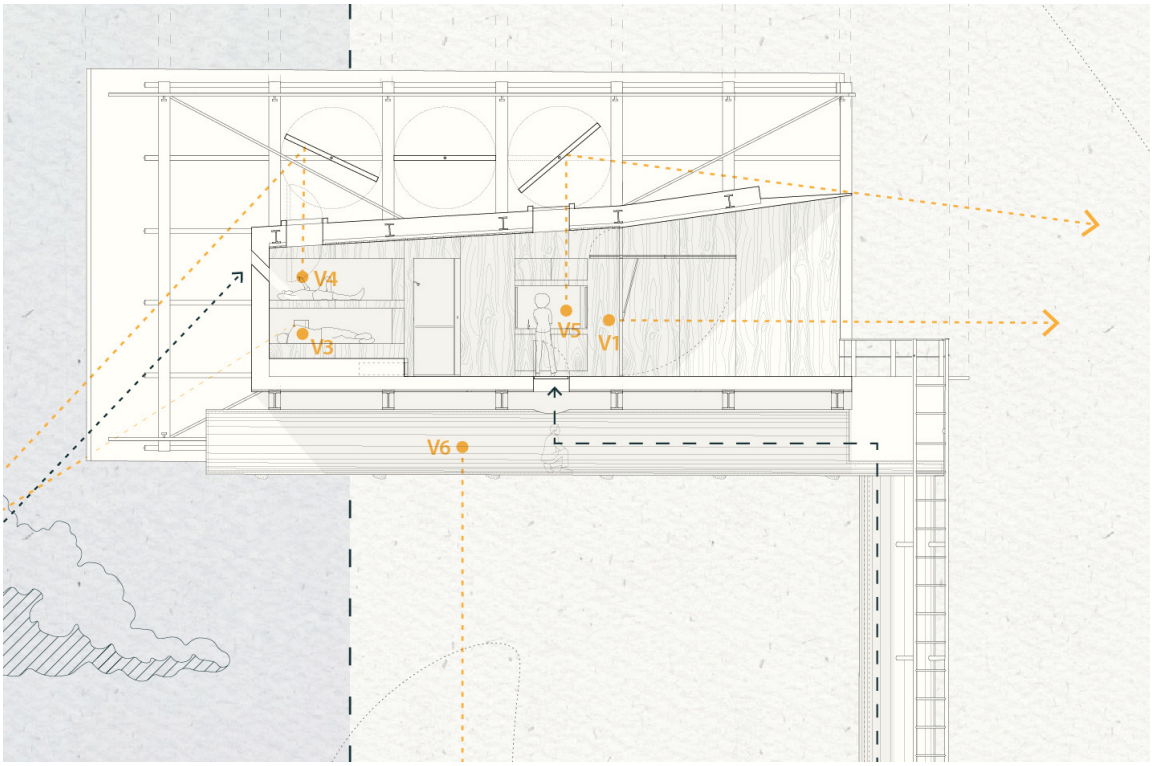


Billboard Station hybrid illustrates the zone that requires a high density of stations and the section, plan, and elevation of one station. The orthographic drawings are overlaid onto a site plan that indicates the stations relation to cars on the highway. Sightlines are highlighted in orange.

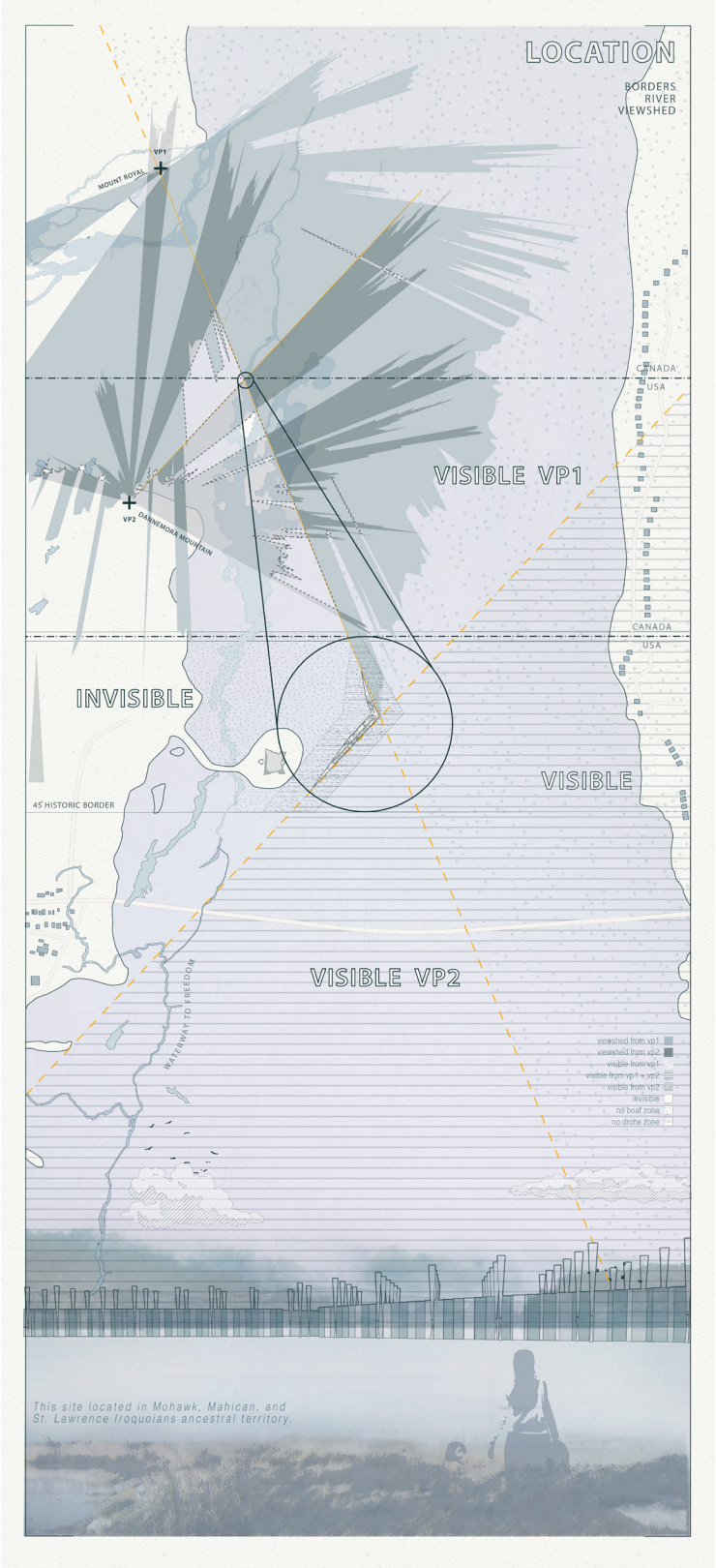


Part 1: Billboard Station hybrid orthographic drawings. Sightlines are highlighted in orange.

angled mirrors above the enclosure that migrants can use to monitor the outside. While cooking, they can look above to the mirror that reflects views from the landscape behind or migrants on the top bunk can stare above and monitor the roads reflected from the second angled mirror. The sunlight washes the plywood with warm light, helping relax the migrants. Light also enters into the top bunk and the folding table, hitting the pages of their books. If unwanted people approach the billboard migrants can shut down the thickened walls, hiding all programming from sight. There are two entrances to the station, one within and one outside of the column. This interstitial zone allows for covert methods of entry or exit. If escape is necessary and evacuation is imminent, migrants can evacuate through the column. The temporary nature of their design enables them to be created, removed, and adapted depending on the context.



Part 2: Billboard Station hybrid zoomed into the section. Section demonstrates how dwelling corresponds to the sightlines that are highlighted in orange.



Layered mapping to indicate the viewshed from Mount Royal and Dannemora Mountain, the site's context, and its history. The bottom perspective illustrates a migrant waiting beside the fort for a repair boat to take her and her child to Border Refuge.

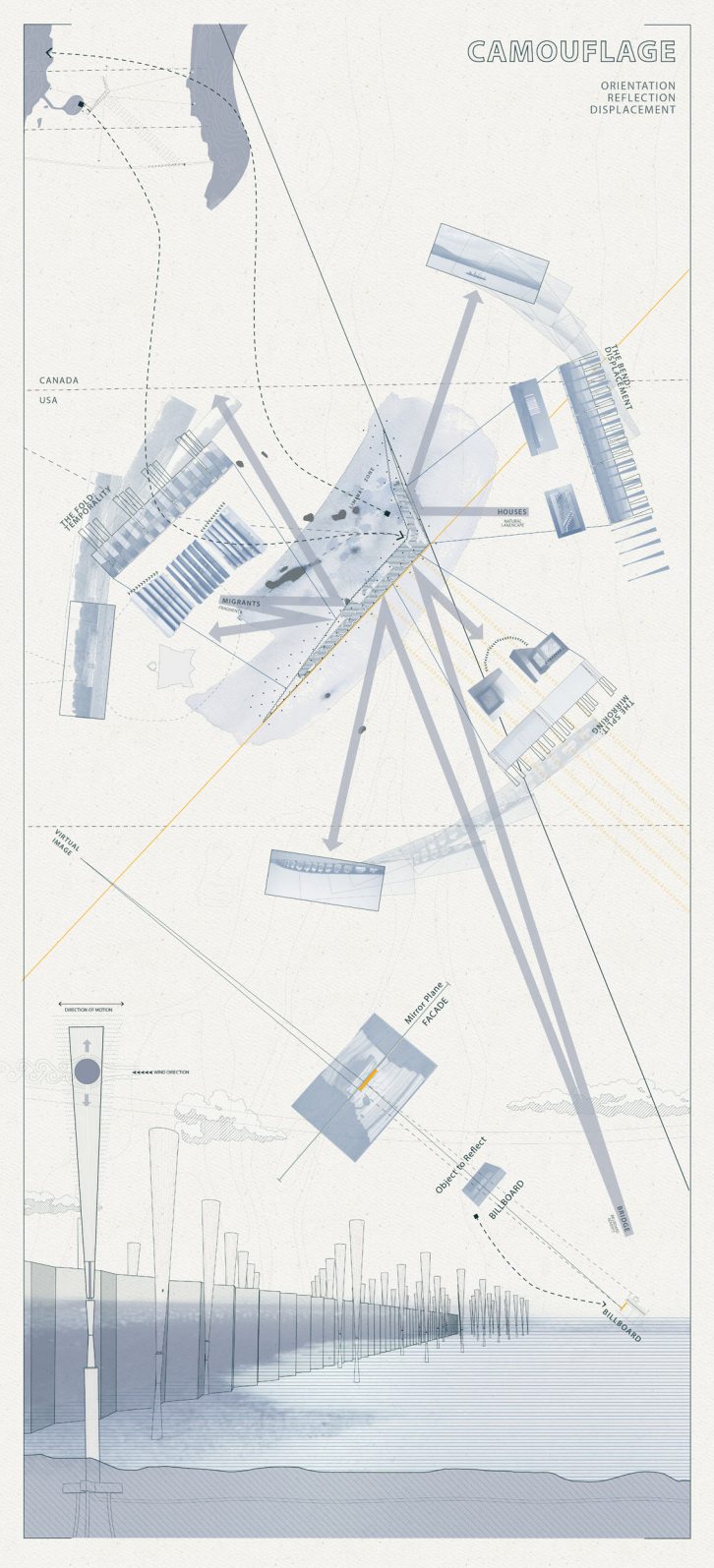
Within the Border Refuge

Location

The border is an imaginary mark created by drawing lines on paper that cut through forest, water, and land, carrying the weight of "…political and cultural battles, legislation's, treaties, and promises…" (Tyrrell 2016, 13). It is these intersections with the landscape that turns it from line to threshold. The thesis proposes the river as a framework to situate migrants, highlighting their suspension in space and time. Tyrrell explains that "while the border line is…divisive, it is also a meeting place…connect[ing] the two worlds… create[ing] an entirely new meaning. Borderline implies a third state: not quite one or the other, it is the almost" (Tyrrell 2016, 15).

Rivers have always played important roles in connecting and defending communities and land. The proposed site for the refuge is at the convergence point between Canada and the U.S. It positions itself where Lake Champlain converges with the Richelieu River. The water blurs the site's liminality; boats can travel across the invisible boundary as long as they do not touch ground.

Historic blunders further strengthen the site's liminality. Richelieu River was a strategic waterway, used from the colonial period until the Civil War (Dziuban 1968, 46). The U.S. built Fort Montgomery (dubbed Fort Blunder), a fortification with optimal views north to Canada and south to the United States, along the west bank of the river. Constructed by Americans after the War of 1812, Fort Montgomery has a contentious past (Millard 2009). After its construction, the U.S. realized it was built on Canadian soil, the wrong of the 45th parallel (Dziuban 1968, 46). For a short



Camouflage diagram to illustrate the sightlines the fort, the rural housing across the river, and the cars on the bridge have when looking at the two-way mirror facade. The mechanisms that the Fold, the Bend, and the Split undergo are each illustrated through model images below their respective elevations.

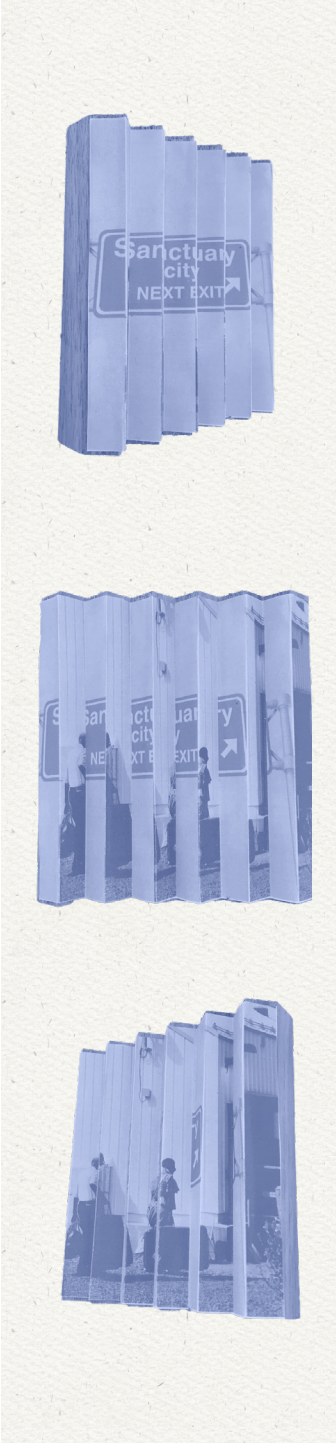
time, the United States ceded its control to the Canadians, and locals called it Fort Blunder (Millard 2009). However, in 1842 both countries ratified the Webster– Ashburton Treaty and returned the Fort to the U.S. (Dziuban 1968, 46; Millard 2009).

Historically, the high points of Mount Royal and Dannemora Mountain helped protect their respective colonies during battle. Mapping both of their historic sightlines illustrated their convergence within the middle of the Richelieu River, creating four distinct zones. The north zone is visible from the Canadian vantage point, the south zone is visible from the U.S. vantage point, the east is visible by both points, and the west is the invisible zone. Border Refuge uses these zones and sightlines from land and water as tools for placement, alignment, and programming.

Camouflage

The creation of an oscillating offshore wind farm uses mimesis and crypsis for deception. To the outside world, the site appears as a functional wind farm that is solely generating clean energy for the neighboring communities. However, this is a guise that allows migrants access to the site by way of repair boats. The site, prime for wind energy, not only uses the wind power as a source of energy but as a method of deception. The contrast between the gridded bladeless turbines and the tapered façades begins to deploy crypsis by distorting viewers' perception of form. The distortion makes it challenging to discern the width and form of the refuge.

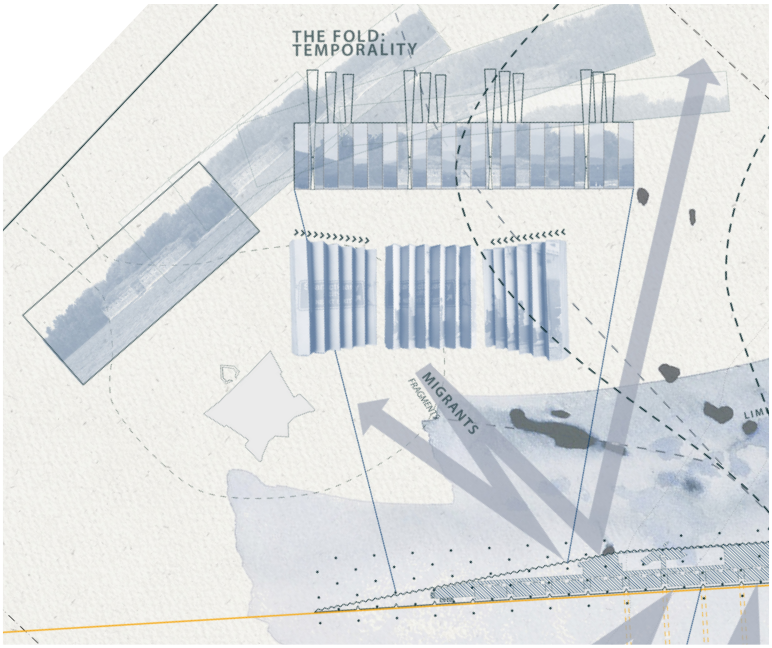
The convergence of the four zones and its relation to the site required three different treatments to the mirrored façades. The Fold, the Bend, and the Split each help



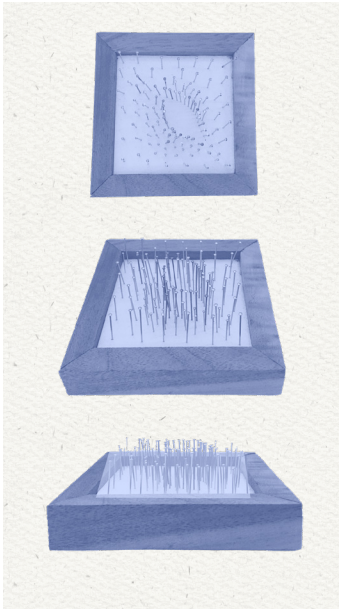
A concept model of the Folded Facade. Model illustrates how different pieces of the landscape and context (location, history, people) can be collapsed onto one surface.

conceal Border Refuge in different ways. All of the facades are two-way mirrors that reflect its surroundings and blurs itself into the landscape. Foucault described the mirror as a metaphor for heterotopia. “It is a placeless place… [you] see yourself where [you] are not” (Foucault 1984, 2). The facade simultaneously reflects and places migrants into their future.

The folded façade faces the dense forest to the west and houses both the entry and the departure. The fold was implemented as a device to facilitate a dialogue between place and time. Due to the fragmented nature of folding, the reflection it creates is not uniform. Rather, patched fragments of the migrants, their past, and their context collapses into one façade, illustrating their journey as they prepare to enter Border Refuge.

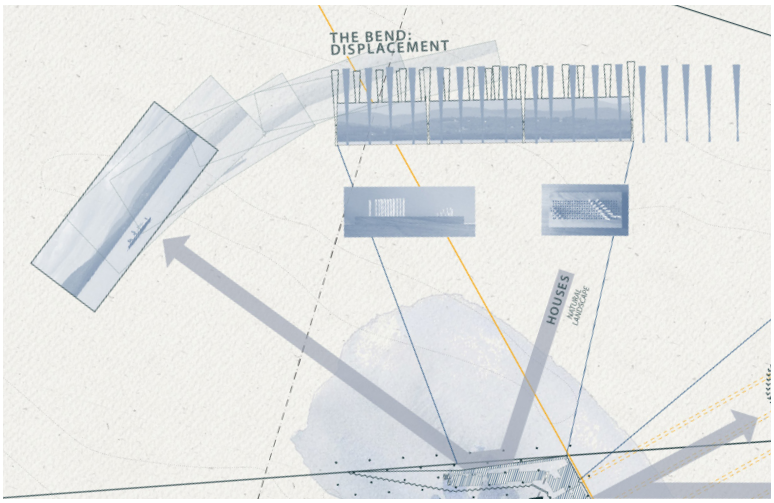


Part 1: Camouflage diagram zoomed in to illustrate the sightlines reflecting on the two-way mirror facade of the Fold, and the concept model and elevation.

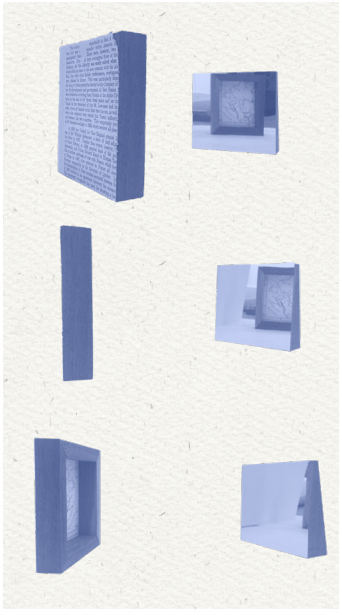


A concept model of the Bend. Model illustrates how the wind turbines act as a field and helps with deception.

The Bend gathers the reflected landscape onto large uniform planes. The Bend is two angled large planes that face rural housing on the east bank of the Richelieu River. It was essential to ensure that the reflection provided views of the landscape upriver while preventing views of the houses themselves. The angle of the façade allowed for this while also creating a secondary illusion. Having two converging planes visually duplicates the turbines creating a field condition, further helping with deception.

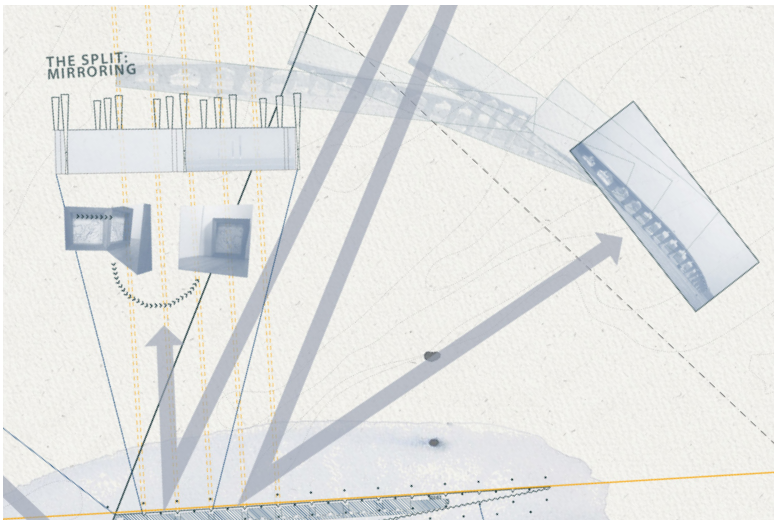


Part 2: Camouflage diagram zoomed in to illustrate the sightlines reflecting on the two-way mirror facade of the Bend, and the concept model and elevation.



A concept model of the Split. Model illustrates how an image can be reflected from a distance onto a plane.

The Split was applied to the south façade to create the illusion of separate billboard panels. Its mirrored panels act as billboards reflecting the signage hung below the adjacent bridge. The billboards are only visible to cars crossing from Vermont to New York. The cars would see the reflected signs appear and disappear as they traveled across the bridge, unaware that migrants were occupying their interior.

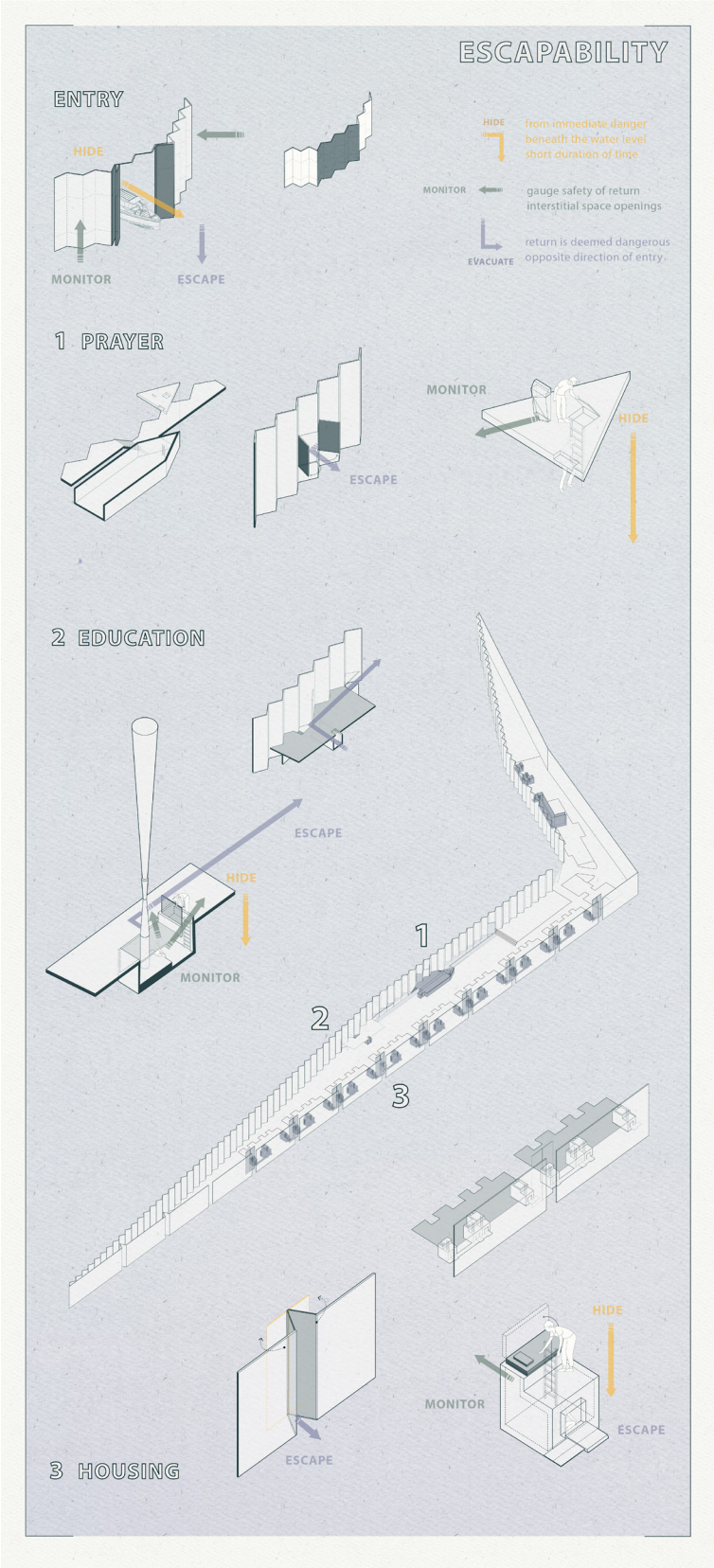


Part 3: Camouflage diagram zoomed in to illustrate the sightlines reflecting on the two-way mirror facade of the Split, and the concept model and elevation.

Escapability

The ability to escape if hostilities arise is an important consideration. Evacuation is crucial to providing a safe and adaptable environment. Interstitial spaces are embedded within public and private programming. They create a secondary network that is indistinguishable from the interior and the exterior of the refuge.

Similar to the Billboard Stations, escape encompasses three modes: hiding, monitoring, and evacuating. Each of these three modes is present within each program space. Hiding allows immediate removal from potential danger for a short duration of time. There are two approaches to hiding either between the program and façade (Arrival, Market, Education) or under the program (Spiritual and Housing). Evacuation occurs when a return is deemed too dangerous. Evacuating occurs in the opposite direction of entry and utilizes boats prepped medical exit packages. People escape through secret openings along the façade. There

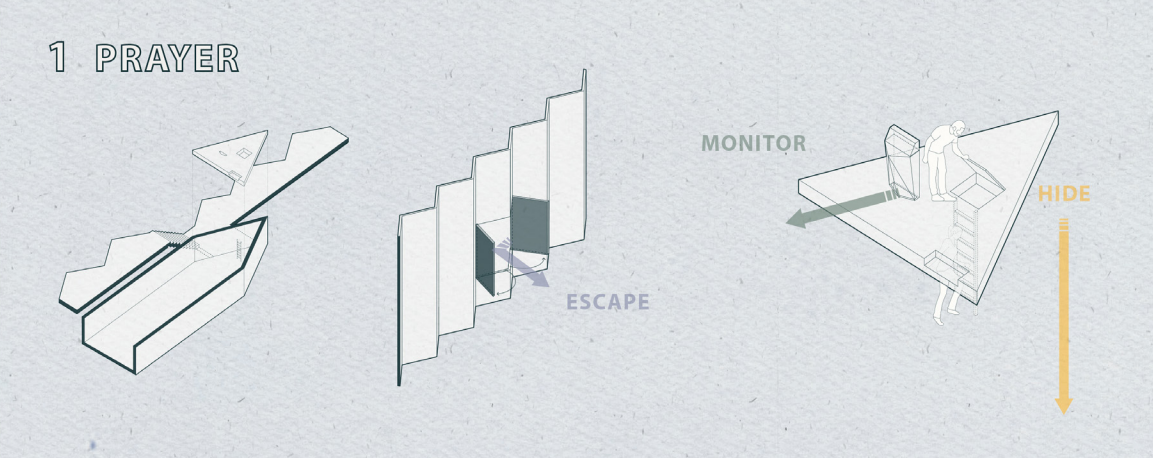


Possible escape routes migrants can take. The main entrance and departure is diagrammed above, with the Chapel and Prayer room below, followed by the Education and Housing Units.

are two critical exits, the evacuation area adjacent to the Chapel and the water corridor adjacent to the Housing units.

Public Program

Strategically placed escape-monitoring areas adjacent to the Arrival, Market, and Education buildings, provides safety. Hidden doors allow entry into these areas to ensure that unwanted individuals do not infiltrate them. There are openings in interstitial spaces to allow sightlines into the room. For example, in the Education building, openings through the bench are at floor level to allow visibility of intruder's feet. In the Market and Education there are covert routes that connect to the Chapel. These routes change elevation and travel under water to disorient intruders. Along this path, angled mirrors protrude from the façade to provide sightlines to the pedestrian street.

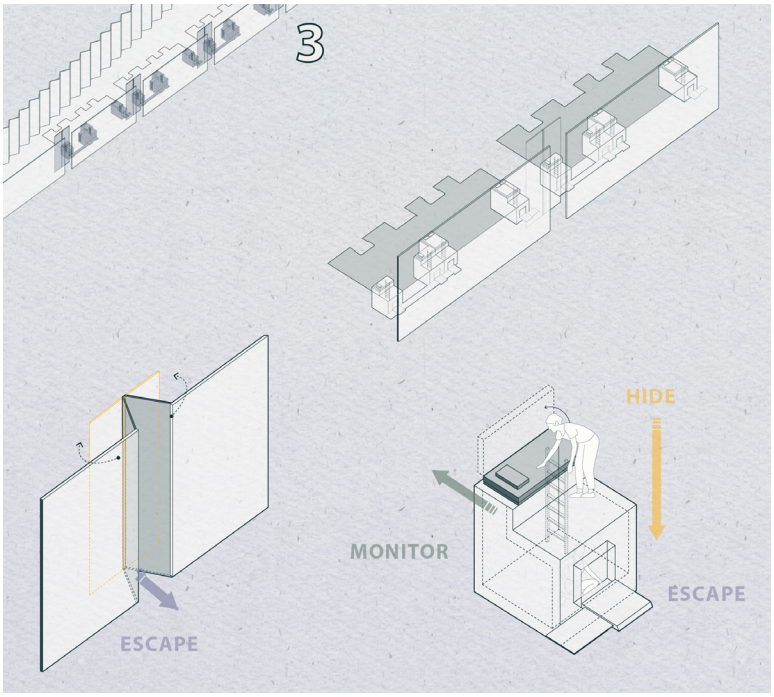


Part 1: Escape routes, hiding, and monitoring points in the Prayer room and Chapel.

Chapel and Prayer

In the Chapel and Prayer room, hidden ladders lead migrants to a holding space below; this removes migrants from immediate danger. Openings in the pulpit allow

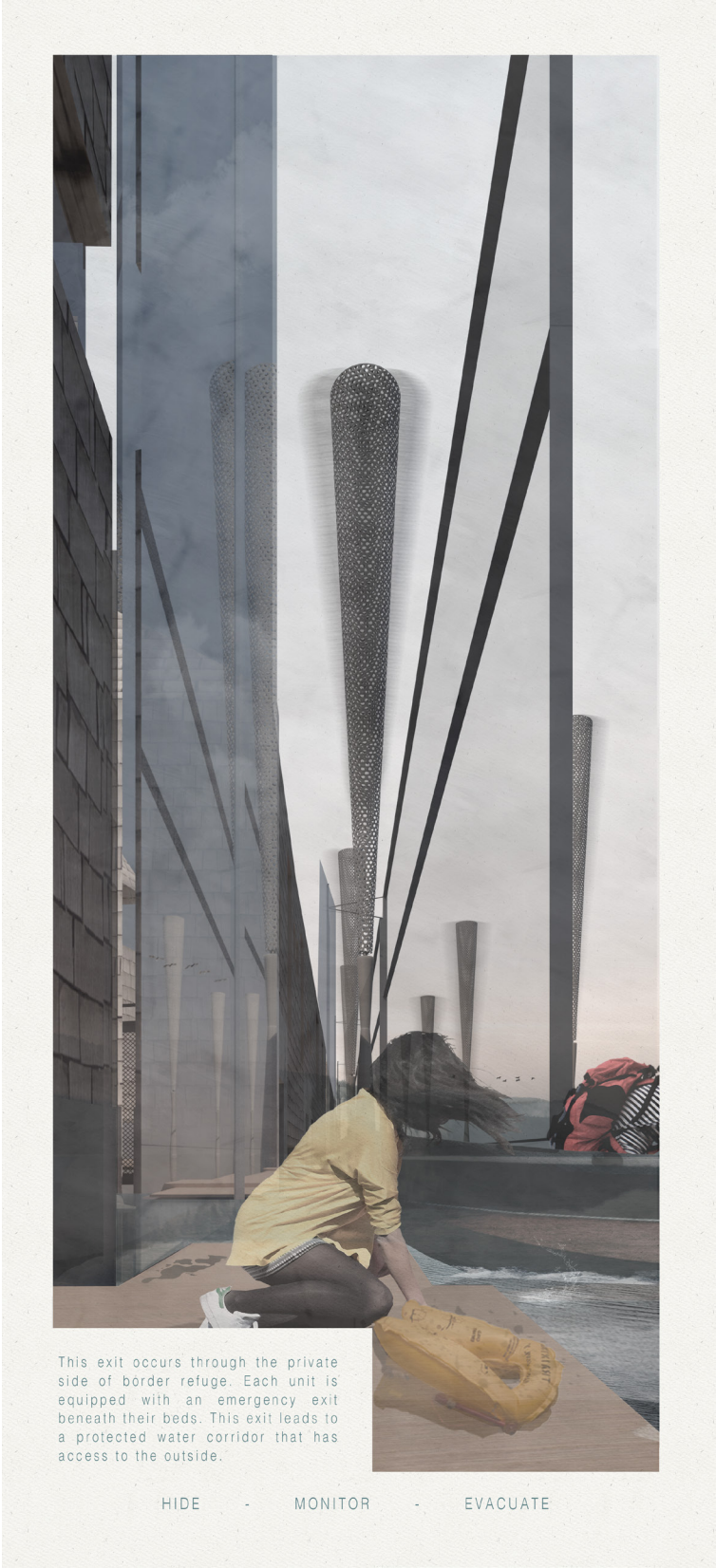
migrants to monitor activity in the Chapel, allowing them to gauge their safety. If escape is necessary, migrants leave this area, climb the stairs adjacent to the building, and exit Border Refuge.



Part 2: Escape routes, hiding, and monitoring points in the Housing Units.

Housing

Each unit has a fold-up bed that leads to the interstitial monitoring space. Openings through the wall and into the shelf allow migrants to view into their unit secretly. Again, if returning is deemed dangerous, migrants escape through an opening that leads to a water corridor. The water corridor is protected from intruders due to the openings of the exterior façade. As the angled portion of the facades open to facilitate the approach of rescue boats, they act as visual barricades to prevent views of migrants escape.



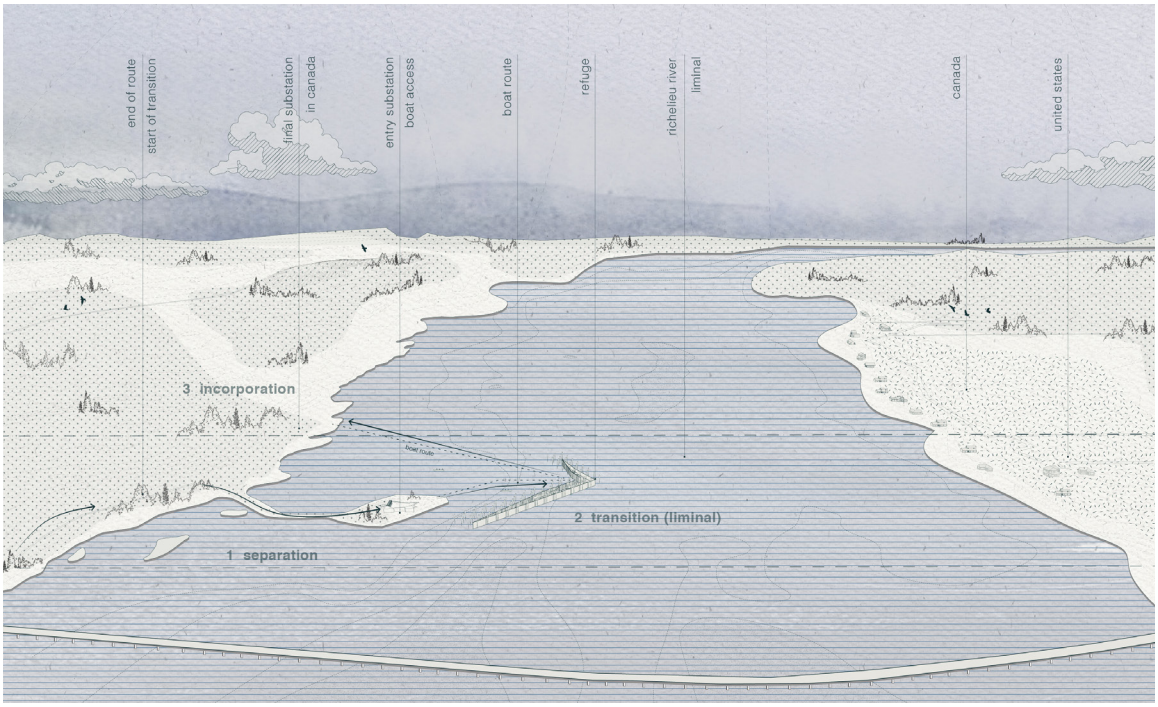
A woman who has just escaped her housing unit, climbed down the ladder, exited onto a floating platform, and is now waiting to get into the escape repair boats that have medical exit packages.

Chapter 6: Dwelling in the Liminal

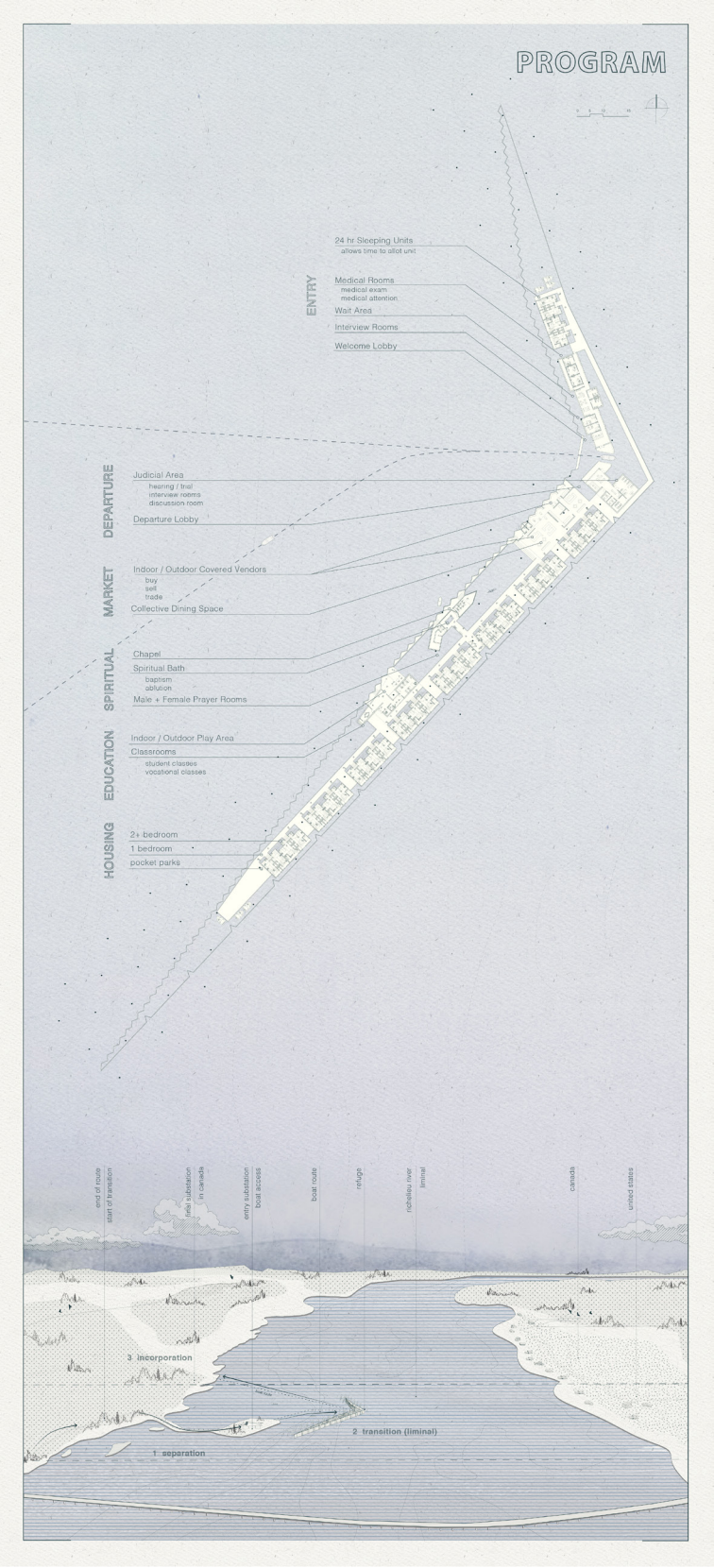
Procession

At the end of the route (which has led migrants from NYC, Plattsburgh, to Rouses Point), migrants await a wind farm repair boat that travels from the ruinous Fort Montgomery to the Arrival point of Border Refuge. Once inside, migrants dwell in the hidden refuge until they have secured Canadian citizenship. The interior of the two-way mirrored façade houses all the programming migrants need while they are awaiting status. After they are legally able to enter Canada, migrants depart on another repair boat that brings them safely into Canada.

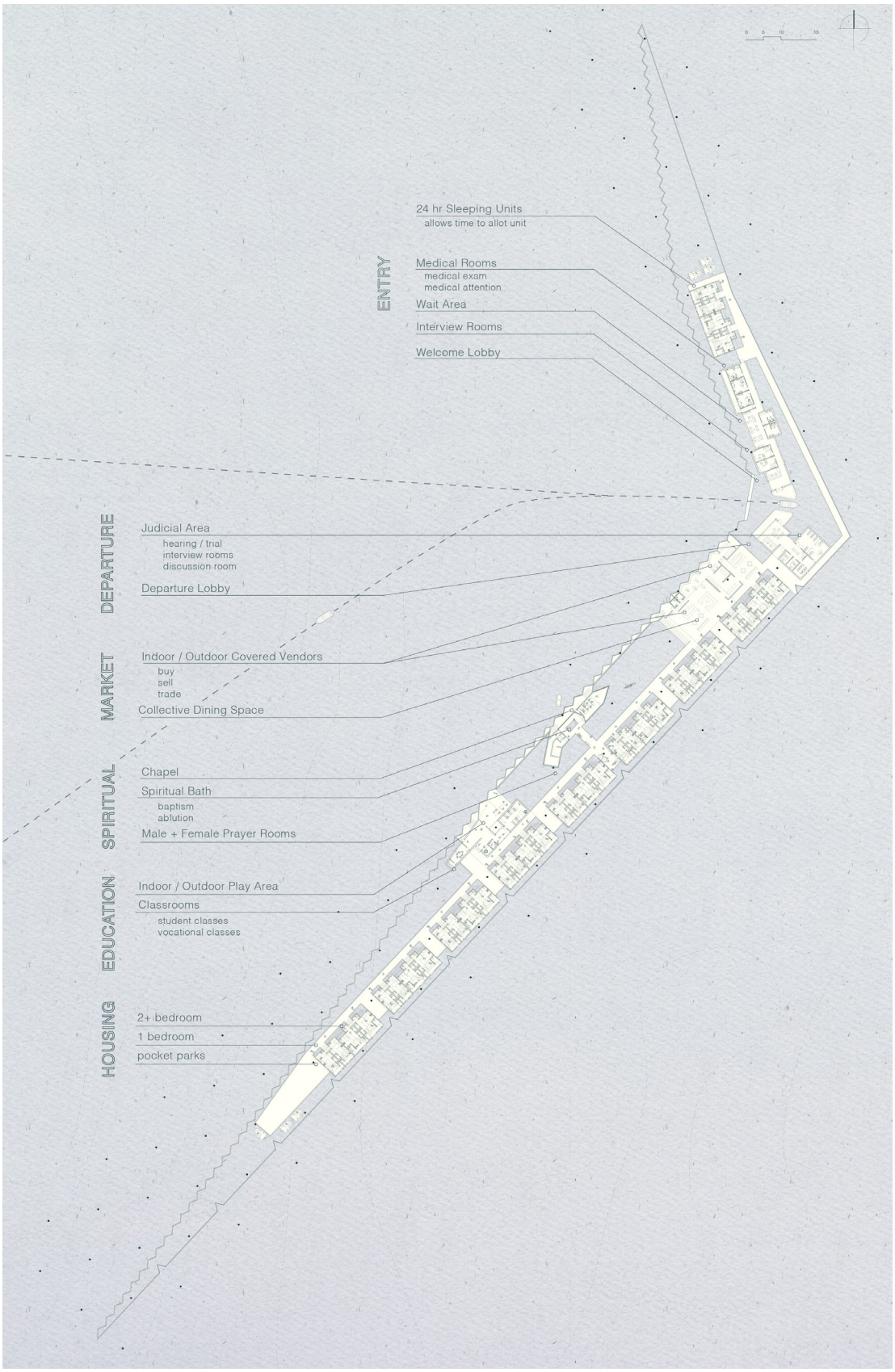
The procession, traveling from the U.S. to Border Refuge and then to Canada, implements van Genneps cultural rites of passage (Schouten 1991, 49). In the thesis, separation occurs as migrants leave their past, the transition



Part 1: A perspective of Border Refuge with the procession highlighted (separation, transition/ liminal, incorporation).



Above is a diagram illustrating the majora and granular programming, their locations, and the entire plan layout. Below is a perspective of Border Refuge with the procession highlighted.



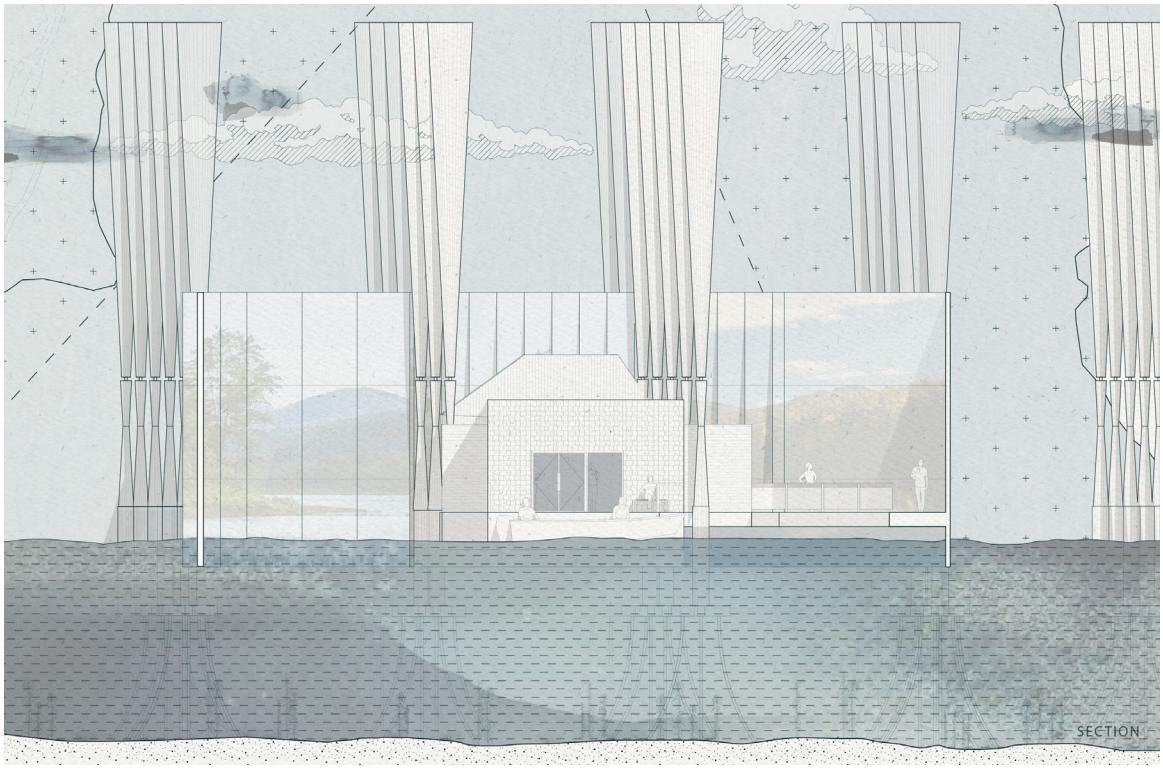
Part 2: Program diagram illustrating the granular program, their locations, and the entire plan.

phase is life at Border Refuge, and incorporation occurs once they become a Canadian citizen. The thesis attempts to implement these rites of passage through dwelling both physically and spiritually.

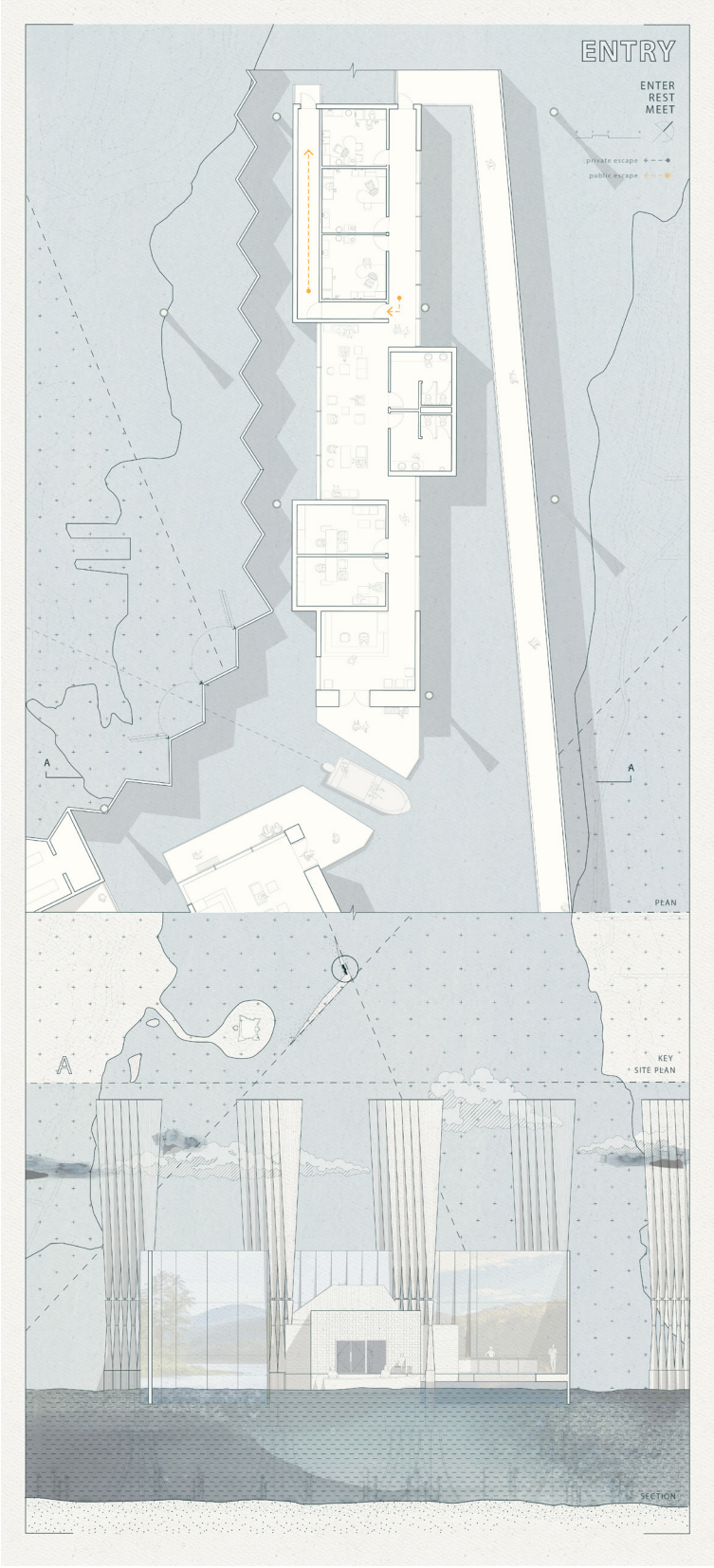
Programming

Arrival

The entry and departure are at the knuckle of the refuge, sheltered by the arrow-like form. The folded façade houses the entry and departure, ensuring the fenestration is imperceptible from the exterior. As the folding doors to the entry open, migrants see a framed view across the river to the U.S., with views to the lobby and departure flanking either side. The Arrival houses the lobby, waiting area, interview rooms, medical examination rooms, and overnight housing units. Migrants use this programming during the first twenty-four hours of their stay in Border Refuge.



Part 1: Arrival hybrid (elevation).



Arrival hybrid. The drawing sits within a key plan and uses its layers to illustrate context, plan, and elevation. Escape and sightlines in public and private are marked.

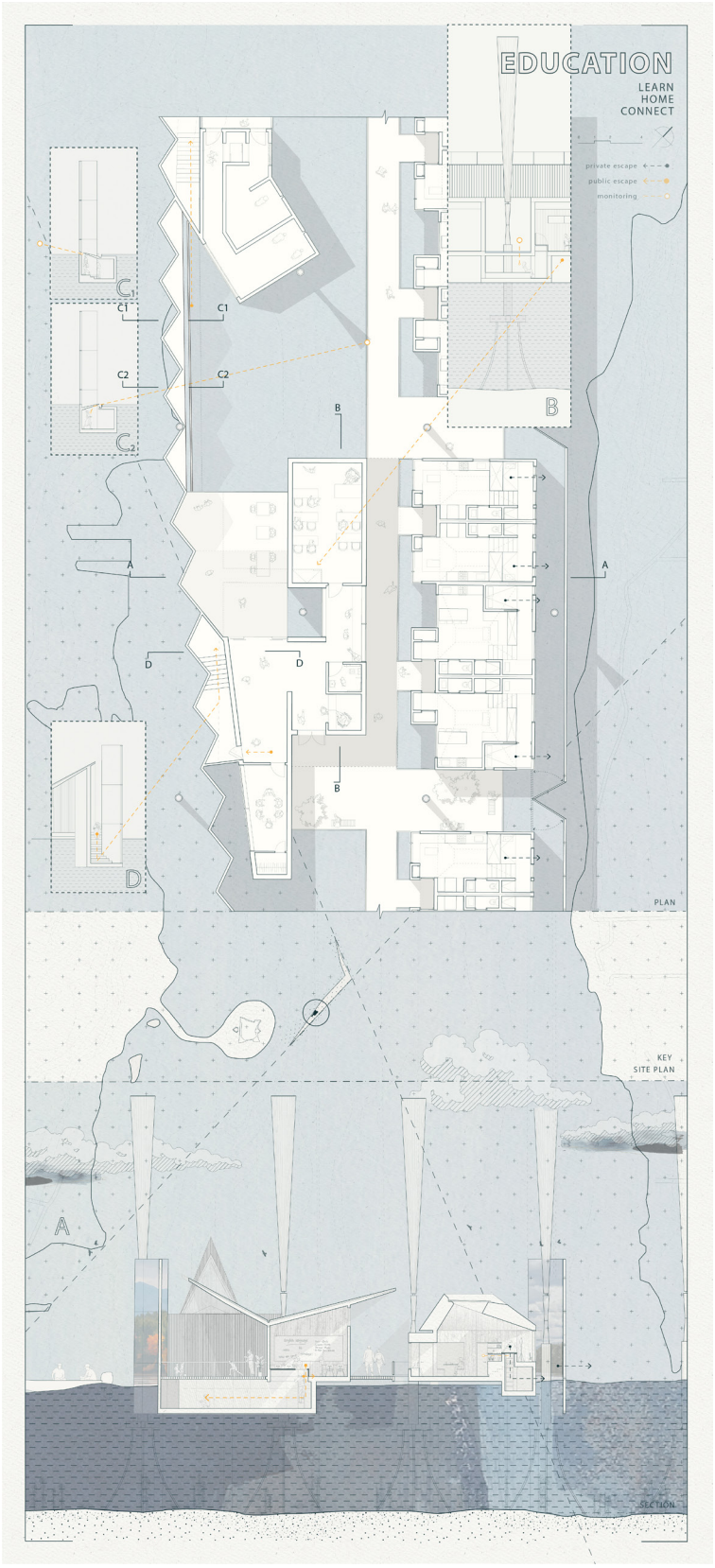
View to entry of Border Refuge and the folded facade. The landscape blends into the two-way mirrored glass and creates the mirage. Migrants are heading to the Border Refuge in a repair boat (base images for sketches from Nimani 2016).

The interview and medical rooms ensure migrants are receiving the help they need as soon as they arrive, and the twenty-four-hour units allow migrants a safe and relaxing place to sleep while their more permanent units are setup. The Arrival programs are sensitive and require privacy is there are numerous views to the exterior with very few to the interior. The warmth from the wood and light soothe migrants during this intense process. Cedar horizontal longboards wrap around the extruded volumes, flowing from the exterior to the interior, bringing in the material's warmth. The extruded volumes have higher ceilings that allows light to seep deeper into the rooms during the entire day. Cedar shakes clad the linear volume creating a contrast between program and circulation space.

Market and Education

The Market is a place of exchange, providing indoor and outdoor spaces for the trade of food, products, and information. It is also a place for social gathering and communal dining, allowing migrants the ability to share and experience a wide range of cultures. The market hall is an open-air structure and covered by a butterfly roof. The butterfly roof is held by columns that mimic the masts of the bladeless turbines. The enclosed rooms house pop-up shops that align with the façade, allowing a fluid interior threshold and a strong connection with the pedestrian street.

The Market and the Education building allow activities to permeate through their interior with program spilling into the public fabric, blurring the boundary between Market, Education, and street. The Education building provides migrants and their children indoor and outdoor spaces for play and learning. This enables parents the freedom to

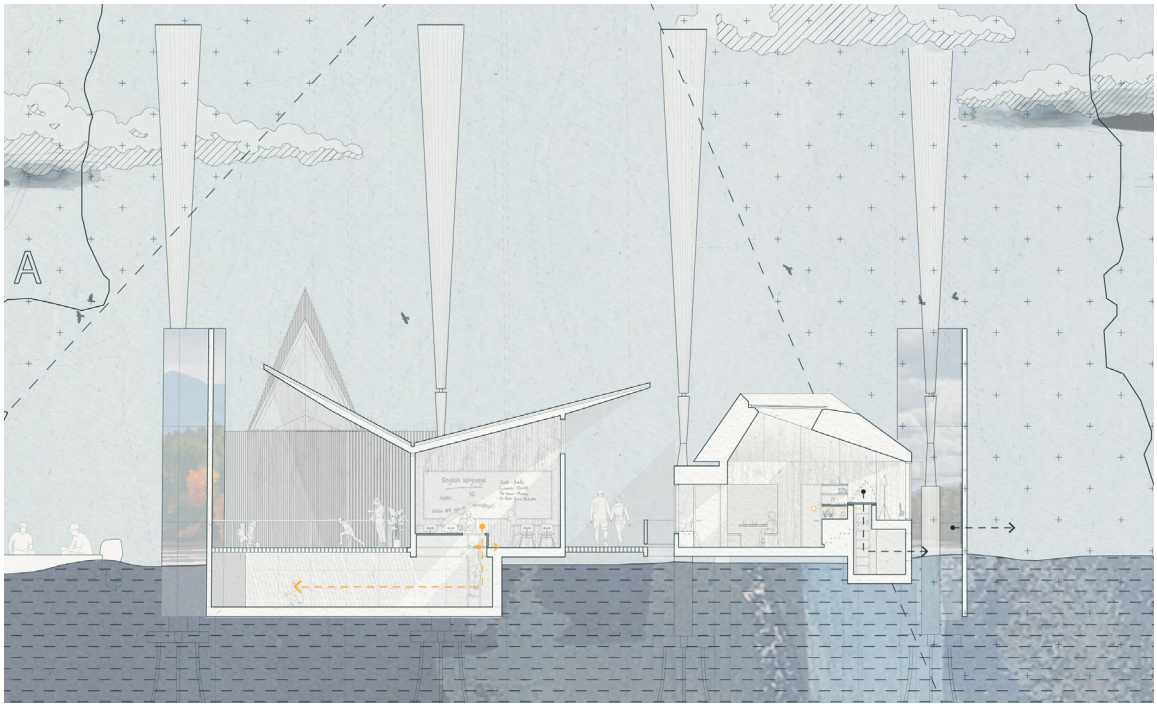


Education and Housing hybrid. The drawing sits within a key plan and uses its layers to illustrate context, plan, and section. Escape and sightlines in public and private are marked.

prepare for their hearings while their children are cared for by other community members. Similar to the Arrival programming, the Education building's wooden exterior seeps inside, wrapping both linear volumes. Its footprint spanning from the exterior façade to the public street, joining both spheres.

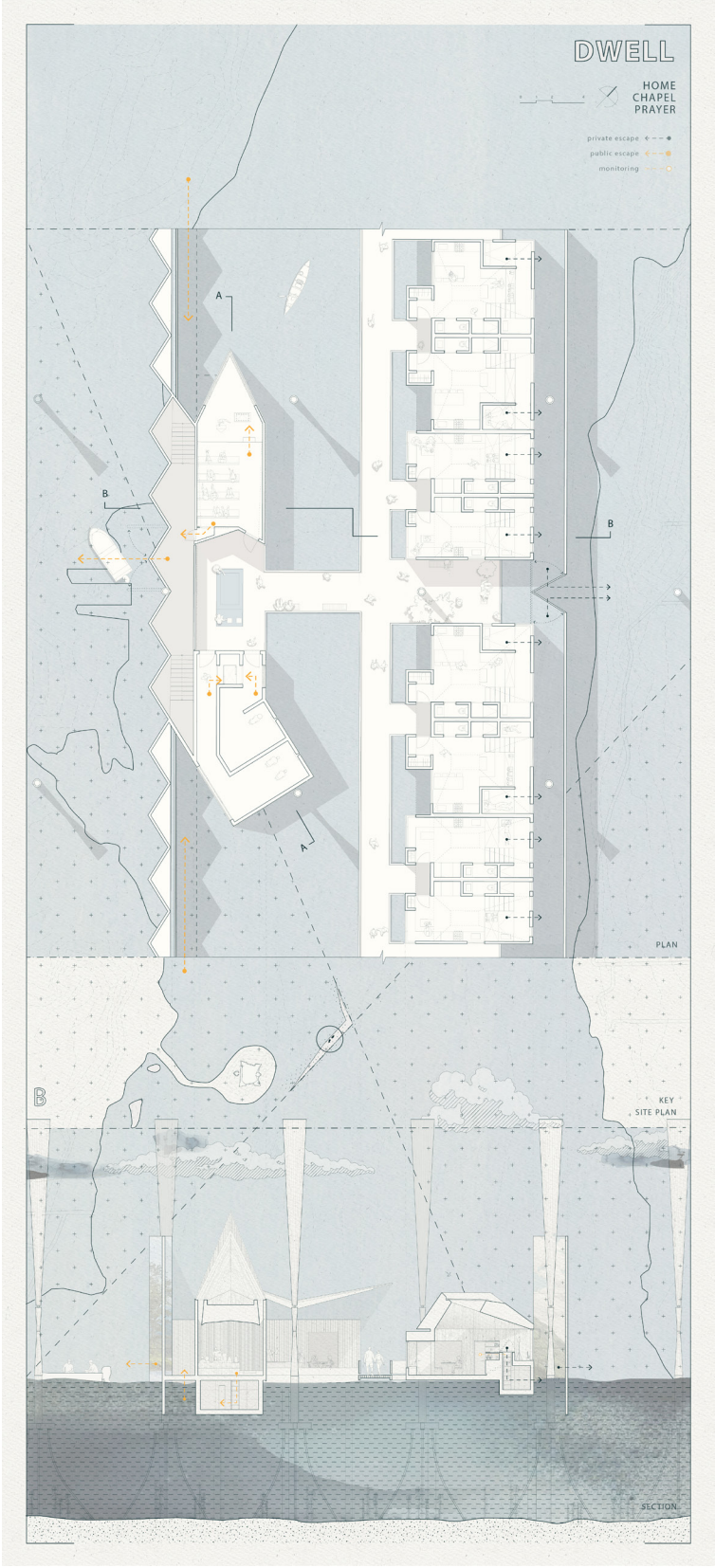
Housing

The housing units line the public street and the south-east façade of the refuge. One and two-bedroom "city" blocks are separated by pocket parks to facilitate the need for exterior space and communal gathering. Units adjacent to these parks have views of these green amenity spaces. The entries are pulled off of the pedestrian street and into a covered alcove where two units converge. This provides sheltered access to each unit and encourages neighborly interaction.



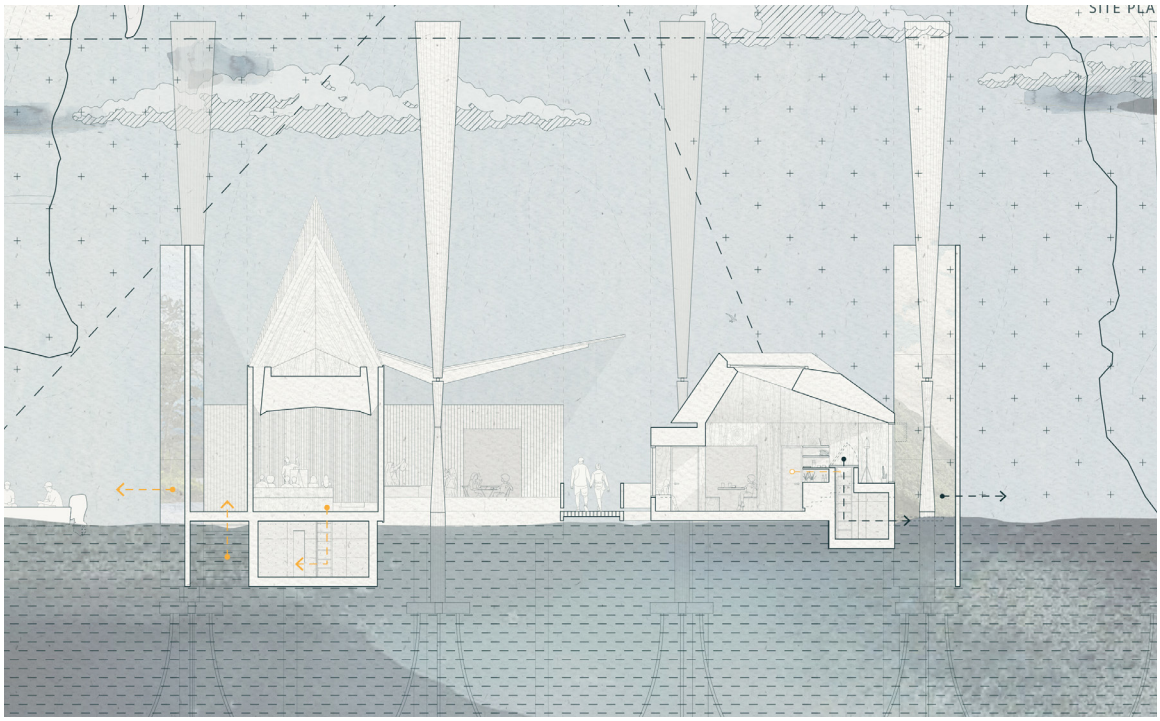
Part 1: Education and Housing hybrid (sections). Showing relationship between to programs separated by the public street. Escape and sightlines in public and private are marked.

Interior perspective of the one bedroom unit, illustrates how light, the inhabited wall and a subtle material palette were key considerations (base image for sketch from Bonisteel, Gougenheim and Dalsime 2019).



Chapel and Prayer room and Housing hybrid. The drawing sits within a key plan and uses its layers to illustrate context, plan, and section. Escape and sightlines in public and private are marked.

Like the Billboard Stations, the units have thick, inhabited walls, highlighted through changes in materiality. The inhabited walls have horizontally striped wood, to contrast the remainder of the unit which is clad in light-colored plywood—the thickened walls house the dining table, washroom, and shower in each unit. The central living space is vaulted to help contrast the flat ceilings of the inhabited walls, reinforcing their depth. Large skylights are embedded within the vaulted form to maximize daylighting and wash the plywood interiors with warm light. An open shelf spatially separates the living area from the sleeping while also allowing light to seep deep into the unit. The raised sleeping area further reinforces the spatial separation, helping to create privacy while also facilitating a means of escape beneath the bed.



Part 1: Chapel and Housing hybrid (section). Escape and sightlines in public and private are marked.

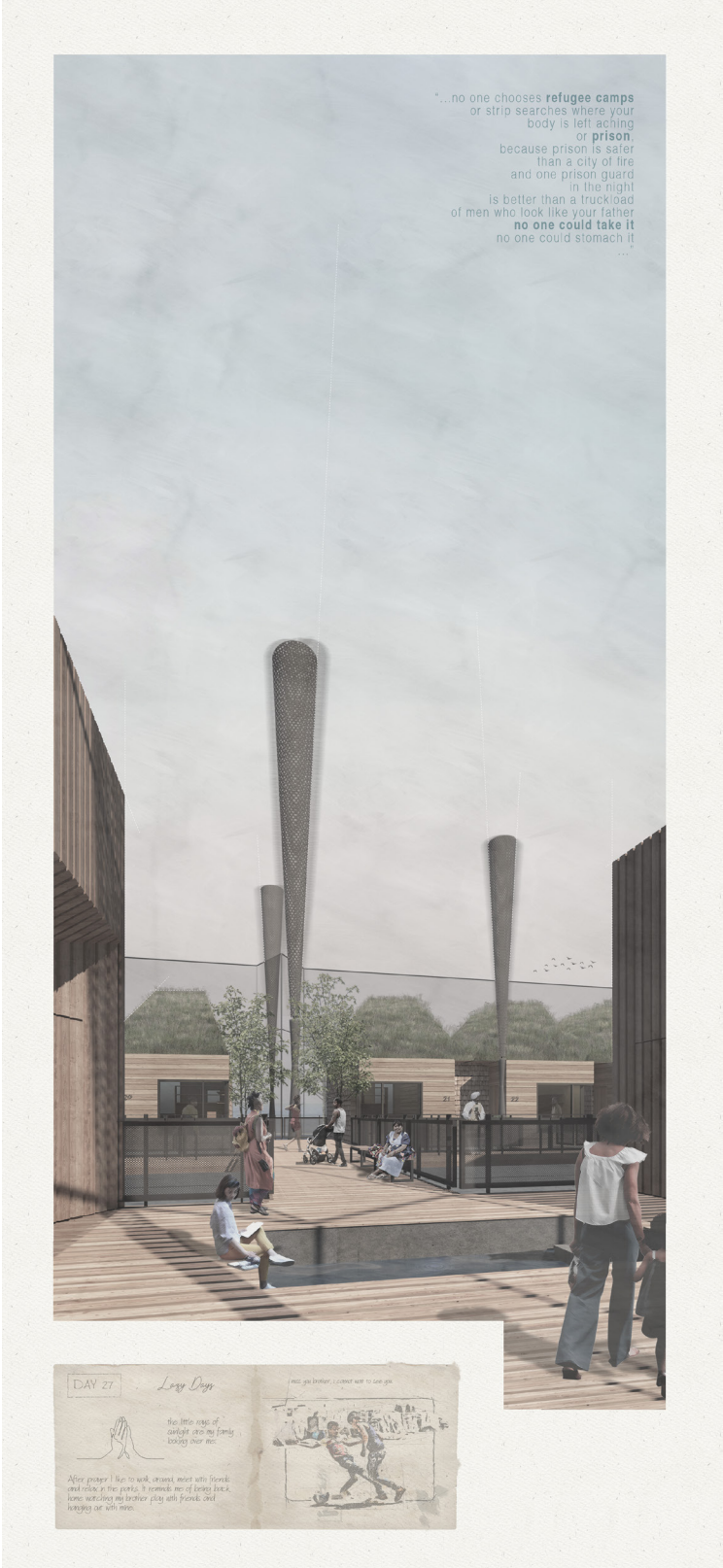
Chapel and Prayer

The spiritual programming is central in Border Refuge. It is separated by water from the public realm and aligns with the folded facade. Since the ‘80s, areas of worship have acted as urban sanctuaries; churches in the U.S. began to resist federal laws and provide refugees who were fleeing violence with shelter and transportation. Within Border Refuge, the Chapel and Prayer rooms provide spiritual respite and protection for those in need. They are designed to accommodate numerous types of worship and do not privilege specific religions.

The Chapel and Prayer rooms sit atop a concrete base, inset from the exterior cladding giving the appearance that they hover above the water. Both volumes are dressed in solid and gapped vertical cedar boards, emphasizing their verticality on the interior and exterior. Worship allows migrants to separate from their past and enter into the future. This is manifested architecturally through the thickened entrance in the angled chapel wall. It creates a threshold, allowing an passage into the liminal. Along the walls of the Chapel and Prayer room, the solid cladding begins to perforate- with light entering and evoking a sense of the sublime. The apse glows due to the perforated cladding and the orientation of the Chapel towards the sun. In the Chapel, light enters through tapered openings in the roof, providing filtered and indirect rays that wash the interior walls. The angle of the taper allows the concealment of structure from the interior.

The small water pool located between the Chapel and Prayer rooms connects all religions and acts as a place for both sacrament and communal gathering. The tiers and stools placed in the pool are used for baptisms and ablutions.

Sectional perspective and elevation of the Chapel and Prayer room, illustrating materiality, light, and program in relation to the facade and the River (base image for sketch from Chery 2013).



View looking across the gathering and contemplation pool between the Chapel and Prayer room. The units in elevation across the pedestrian street separated by a pocket park (base image for sketch from Albertalli 2016).

The narrow footprint of the prayer rooms provides an intimate place of worship. As the migrants enter their attention is directed to the vertical slits that fill with light, created by the removal of one vertical piece of cladding. These lit slits mark the qibla in each prayer room; the openings are wide enough to amplify the sunlight but narrow enough to prevent views into the room from the pedestrian street. There is a small skylight above each of the qiblas that evoke the temporal senses. The light dappled on the interior wall changes shape with the angle of the sun during the days' many worships.

Departure and Judicial

The Departure marks the end of the inhabitation of the liminal. Migrants enter an inset link that joins the Departure and Judicial programs. Both programs are clad similarly to the Arrival, with cedar horizontal longboards wrapping the exterior of the volumes and seeping into the interior. Cedar shakes clad the link to create a contrast between the two programs and to highlight it as circulation space. After their goodbyes, migrants depart on a wind turbine repair boat that brings them safely to Canada.

The journey comes to an end, she says goodbye to her friends and departs. She has been granted Canadian citizenship and is departing for her new home (base image for sketch from Oye 2019).

Chapter 7: Conclusion

In/Visible

The thesis attempted to merge the liminal, that which is both elusive or imaginary, with the pragmatic and very real needs of migrants. It uses theory and design to link the basic human prerequisite of dwelling with concepts of utopia to create a heterotopian space. How does society, architecture, and policy protect refugees and asylum seekers from the violence they are fleeing? From the inhumane frameworks countries exert on them? While attempting to answer these questions, it became clear that policy has the ability to resolve so many of these issues. Yet, governments have made little progress to help create change, even with over 60 million displaced refugees (Betts 2015). Inaction and slow progress has generated immense processing pressure in Canada and globally, leading to significant resettlement issues (Smith 2019). As indicated in Chapters 1 through 4, our past and present infrastructures have created enormous barriers for migrants to receive asylum. The thesis uses the current poorly implemented policies to develop an architecture that amplifies the liminality of the border and takes a stance on the undignified treatment both Canada and the United States place on migrants.

The project lies between an image/person/place and is as much a reflection as it is a manifestation of reality. Similar to how context and temporality collapsed into one image on the folded façade, the objective was to create a utopia that is both in dialogue and juxtaposition with reality. Migrants transition from their past (fear) to their future (hope) within this liminal space.

> I believe that between utopias and these quite other sites,

> these heterotopias, there might be a sort of mixed, joint experience, which would be the mirror. The mirror is, after all, a utopia, since it is a placeless place. In the mirror, I see myself there where I am not, in an unreal, virtual space that opens up behind the surface; I am over there, there where I am not, a sort of shadow that gives my own visibility to myself, that enables me to see myself there where I am absent: such is the utopia of the mirror. But it is also a heterotopia in so far as the mirror does exist in reality, where it exerts a sort of counteraction on the position that I occupy. (Foucault 1984, 4)

To act as both utopia and heterotopia, the project, *Border as Refuge: Inhabiting the Liminal* seeks to provide a sanctuary, for those neglected, by humanizing the irregular border crossing system. The island refuge (the utopia) is a place without a place. Those who need protection have a sanctuary, a home. Those in opposition of asylum seekers do not see anything but river and landscape. The inside of the refuge is not visible from the exterior, therefore, it is unreal or imaginary. This imaginary space reflects and parallels the in-between state of the refuge, a placeless place where migrants do not yet have citizenship. It is also a heterotopia because the mirrored facades exists, and those engaging with it (the migrants) use its form and ability to reflect to inhabit space and to dwell in this in-between.

The connection between fantasy and reality occurs in the mirror. The exterior puts on a facade, a disguise and allowed for experimentation and the implementation of the three modes of resistance, while the interior was designed with careful thought to migrant needs, material comfort, and light. The thesis was not able to reach a conclusion. These two worlds (fantasy and reality) were not fully sewn together.

Threads are still being woven to see how the exterior and interior can be joined through the notion of threshold or thickened space. The border and the facade were not treated as a dividing line, but as a thickened ambiguous space, a fantasy.

Using thickened spaces of movement, the clandestine Billboard Stations along the migratory route between New York City and Border Refuge, help to ensure migrants have safe areas to rest and hide during their journey north. The wind farm, situated within the thickened border of the Richelieu River, and historical precedents were frameworks to create a liminal threshold. This established a zone where asylum seekers can inhabit and live freely as they await due process.

By implementing the three modes of resistance (Site = Locate; Camouflage = Shelter and Protect; Escapability = Secondary exit network) migrants could dwell in this imaginary island. The land is unceasing, and the rivers continuously flow, blurring the nation's boundaries.

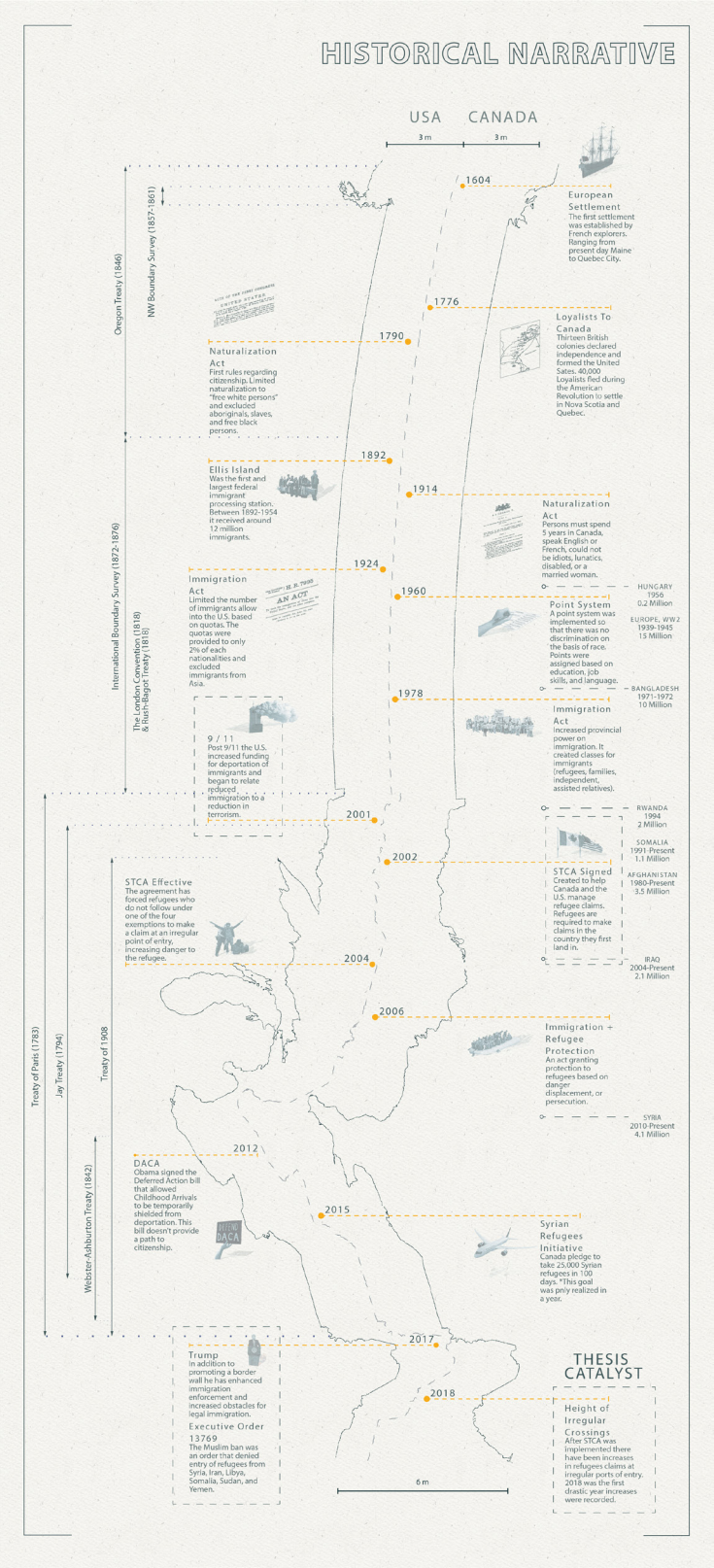
Migrant Narrative 2

It is the last day of the migrant's journey; her stay in Border Refuge has come to an end. Bag in hand, she says goodbye to all the friends she has made there. The Canadian government just granted her residency; allowing her to begin the final step in receiving Canadian citizenship. Soon, she will be able to sponsor her mother and brother so they can join her in Canada. A boat takes her from the refuge and docks in on the Quebec shoreline, she steps out and touches the earth. She has made it.

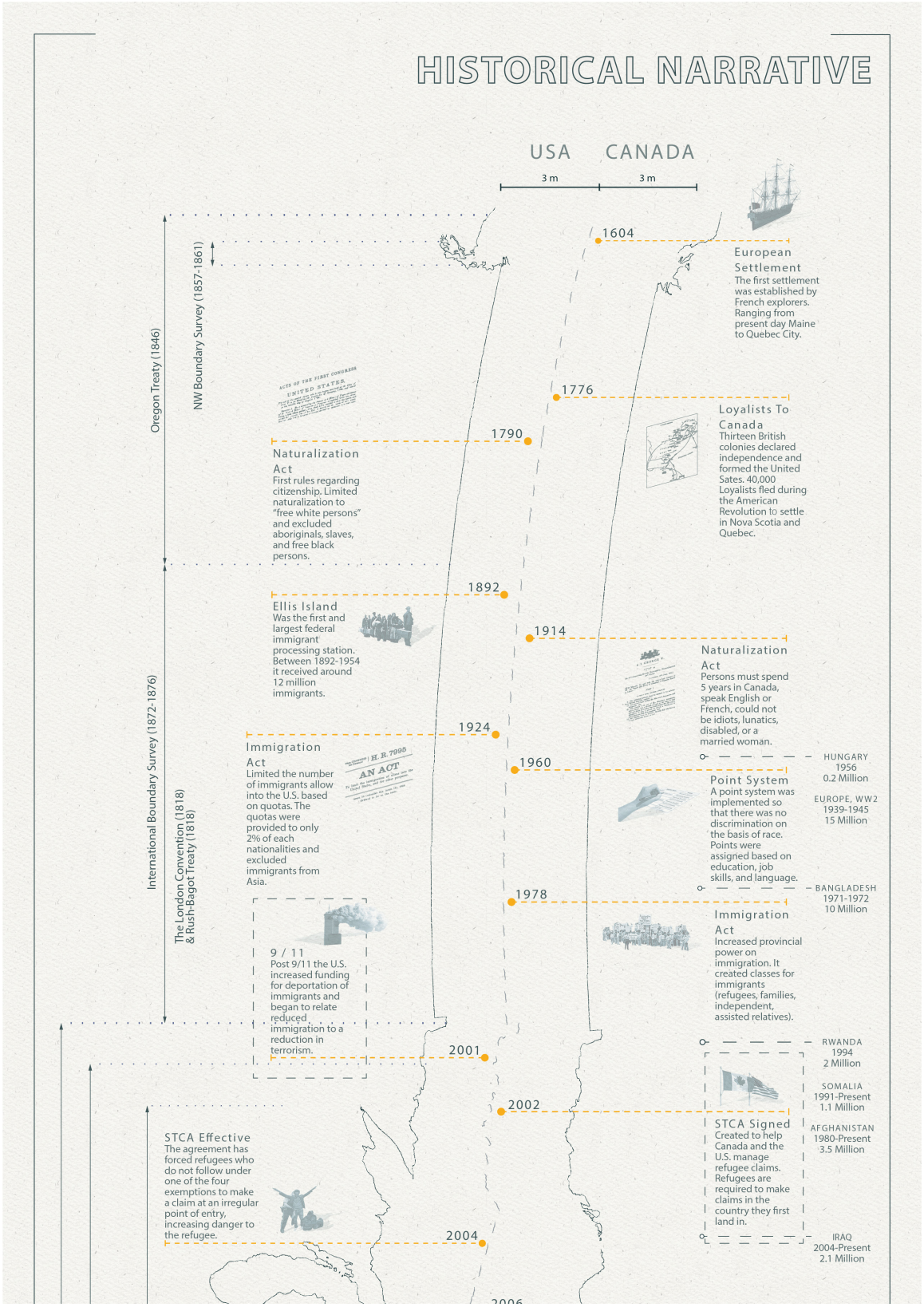
Welcome to Canada.

The repair boat slides into the dock, migrants touch Canadian soil for the first time, entering a new world and leaving their past behind them (base image for sketch from Blinch 2015).

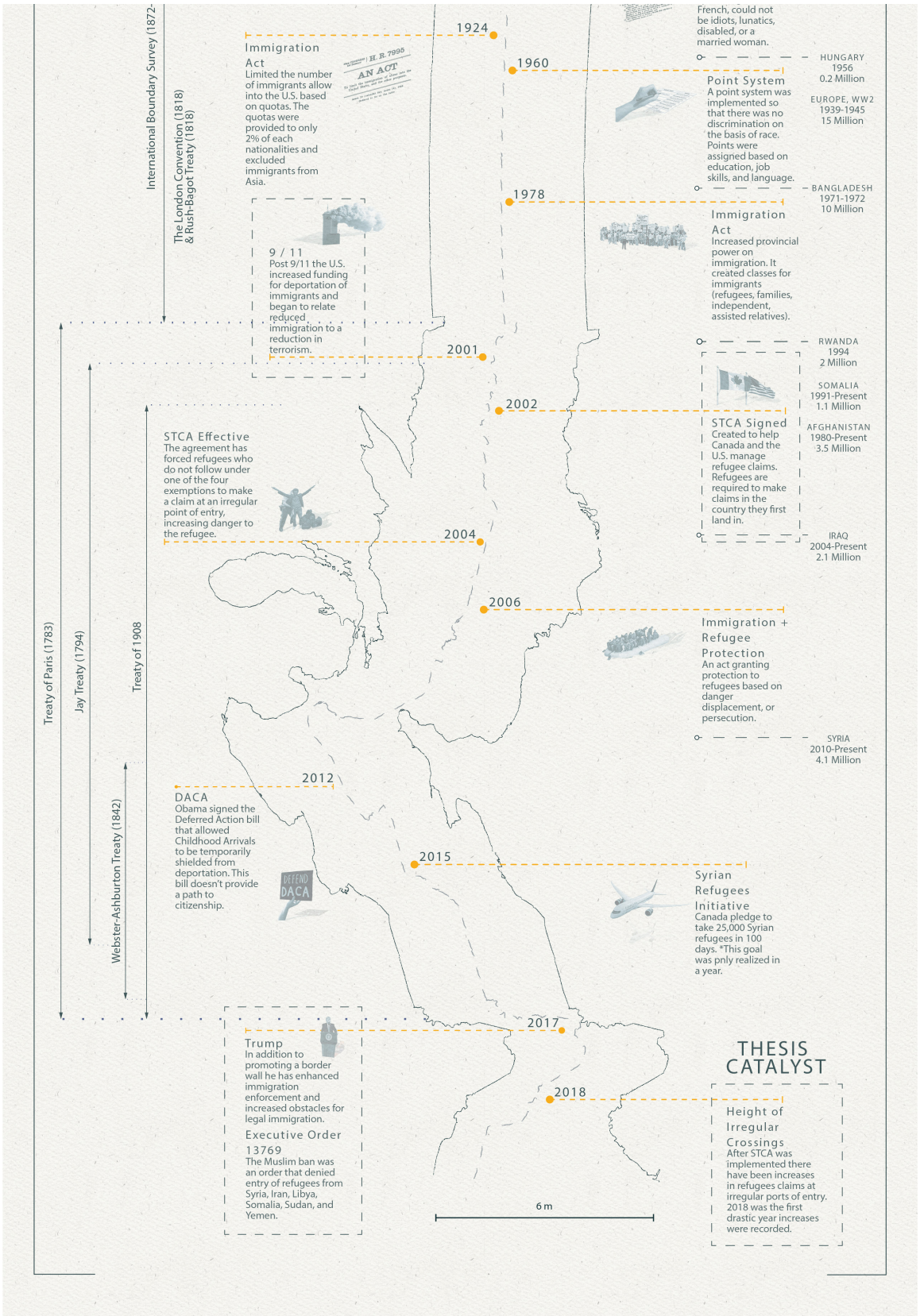
Appendix A: Drawing Set Series



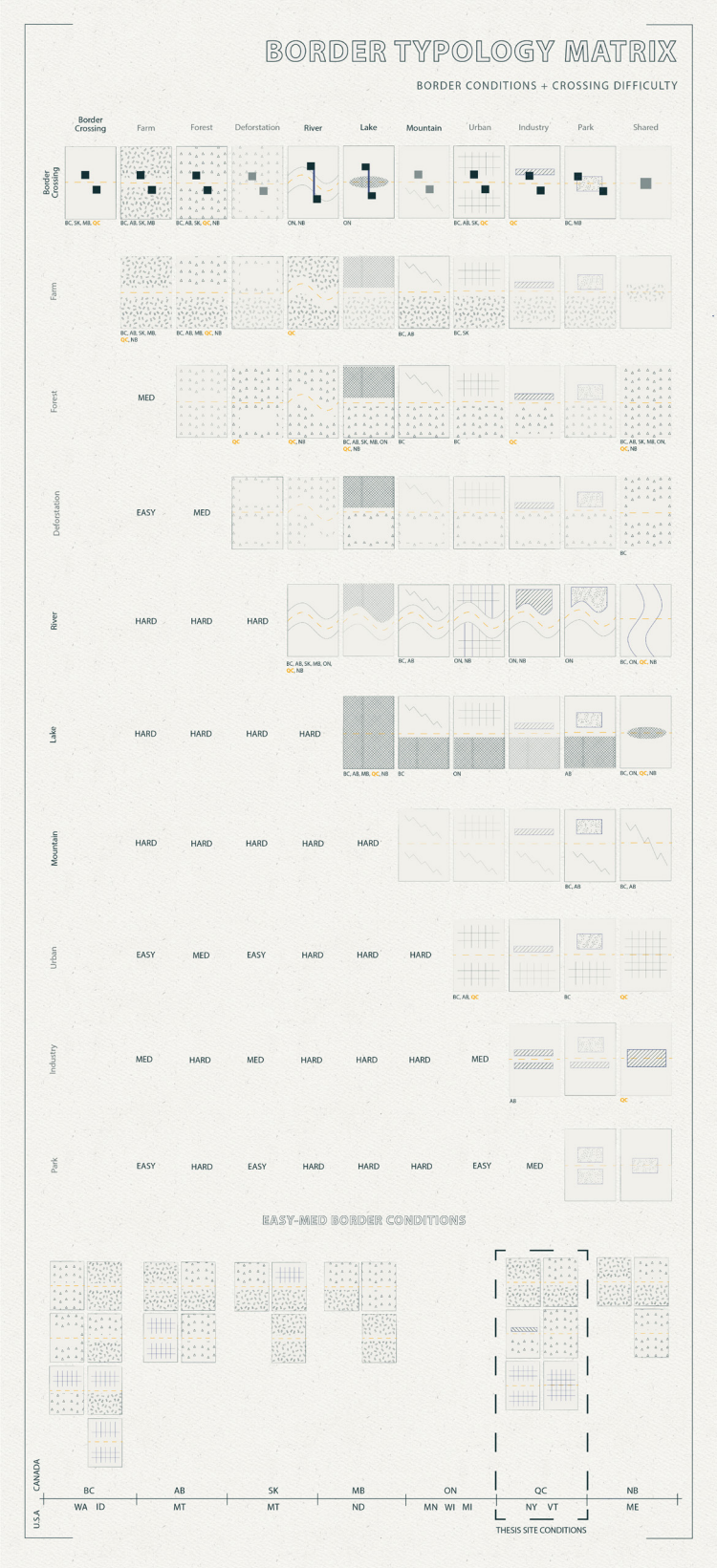
Illustrates the sequencing of events, policies, and diaspora through Canadian and American History.

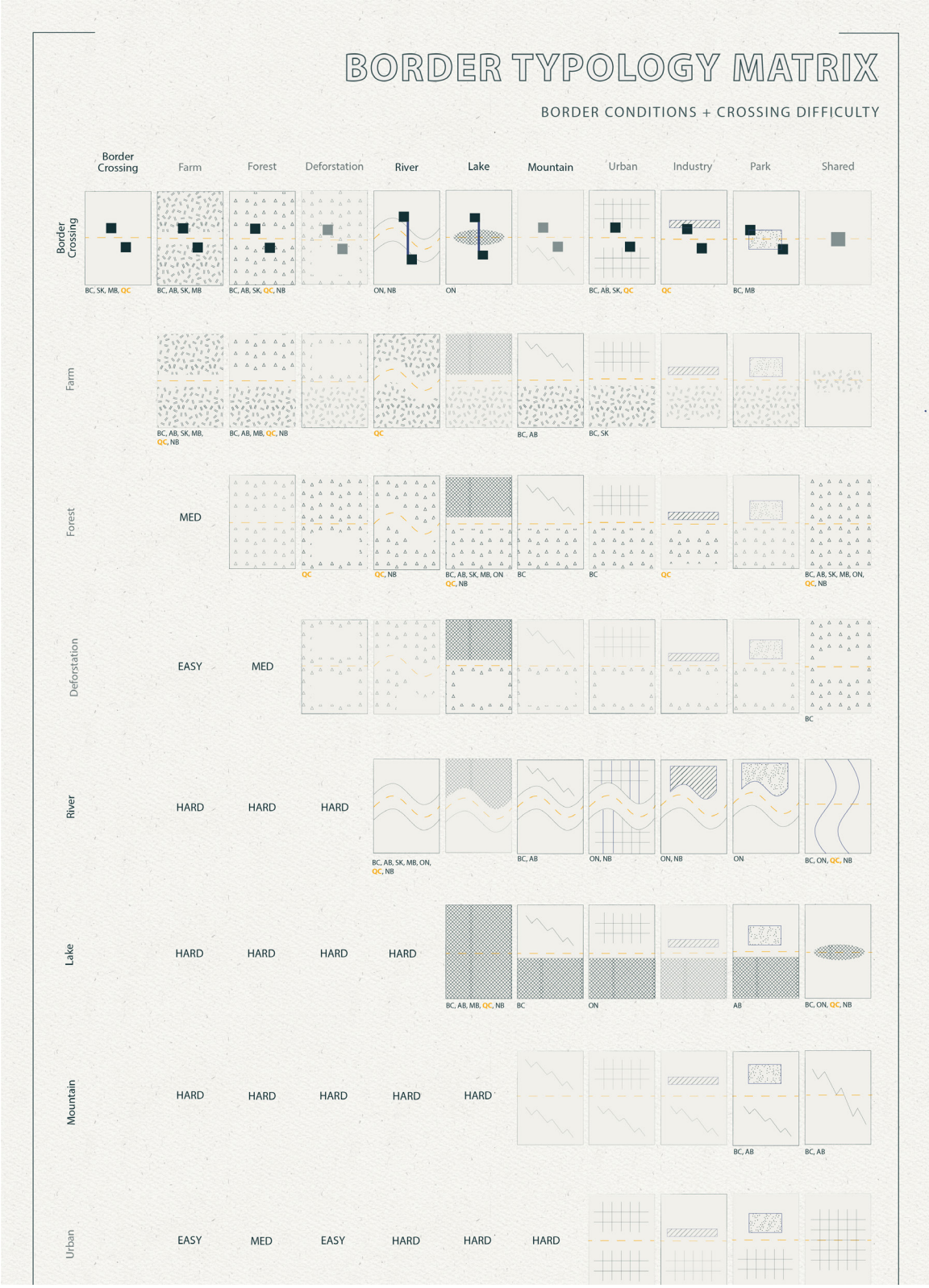


Part 1: Illustrates the sequencing of events, policies, and diaspora through Canadian and American History.

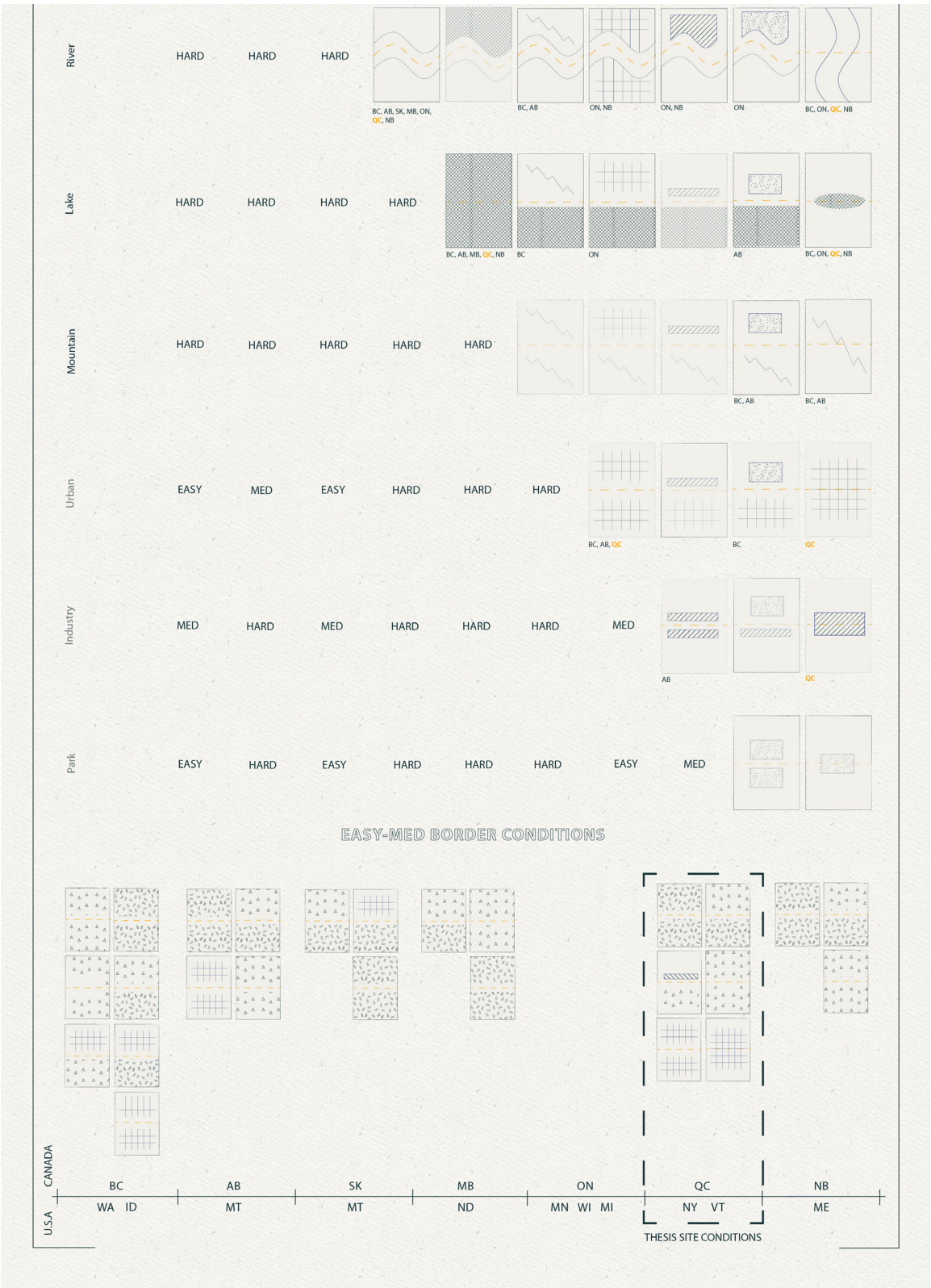


Part 2: Illustrates the sequencing of events, policies, and diaspora through Canadian and American History.


BORDER TYPOLOGY MATRIX
BORDER CONDITIONS + CROSSING DIFFICULTY
Border Crossing
Farm
Forest
Deforstation
River
Lake
Mountain
Urban
Industry
Park
Shared
MED
EASY
MED
HARD
HARD
HARD



Part 1: Common cost, locations, and durations of routes migrants take from New York City to Roxham Road. Based on these distances programmatic requirements were developed (data from Google Earth 2020).



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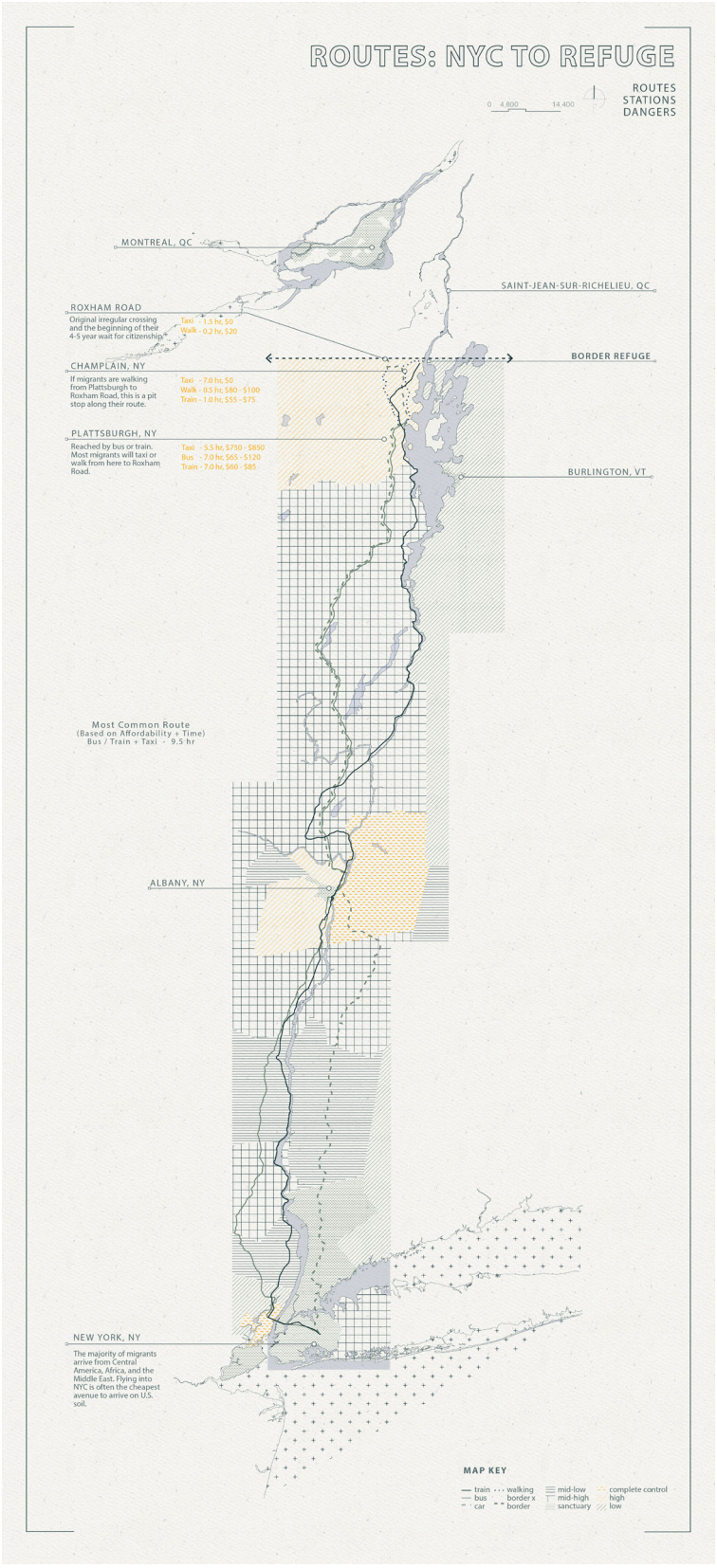
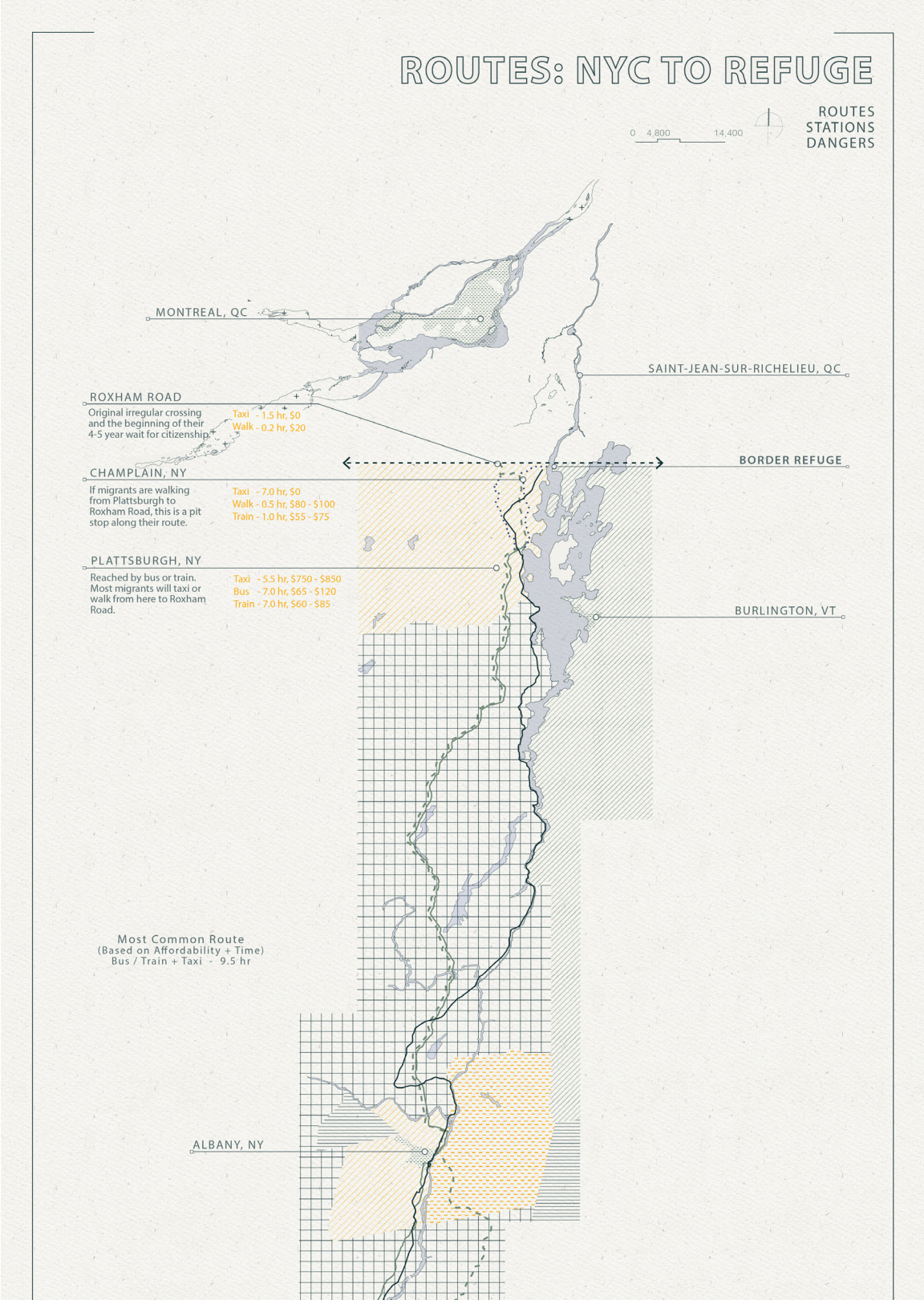


Cost, location, duration, and safety of migrant routes from New York City to Roxham Road (data from MapCruzin, n.d.).



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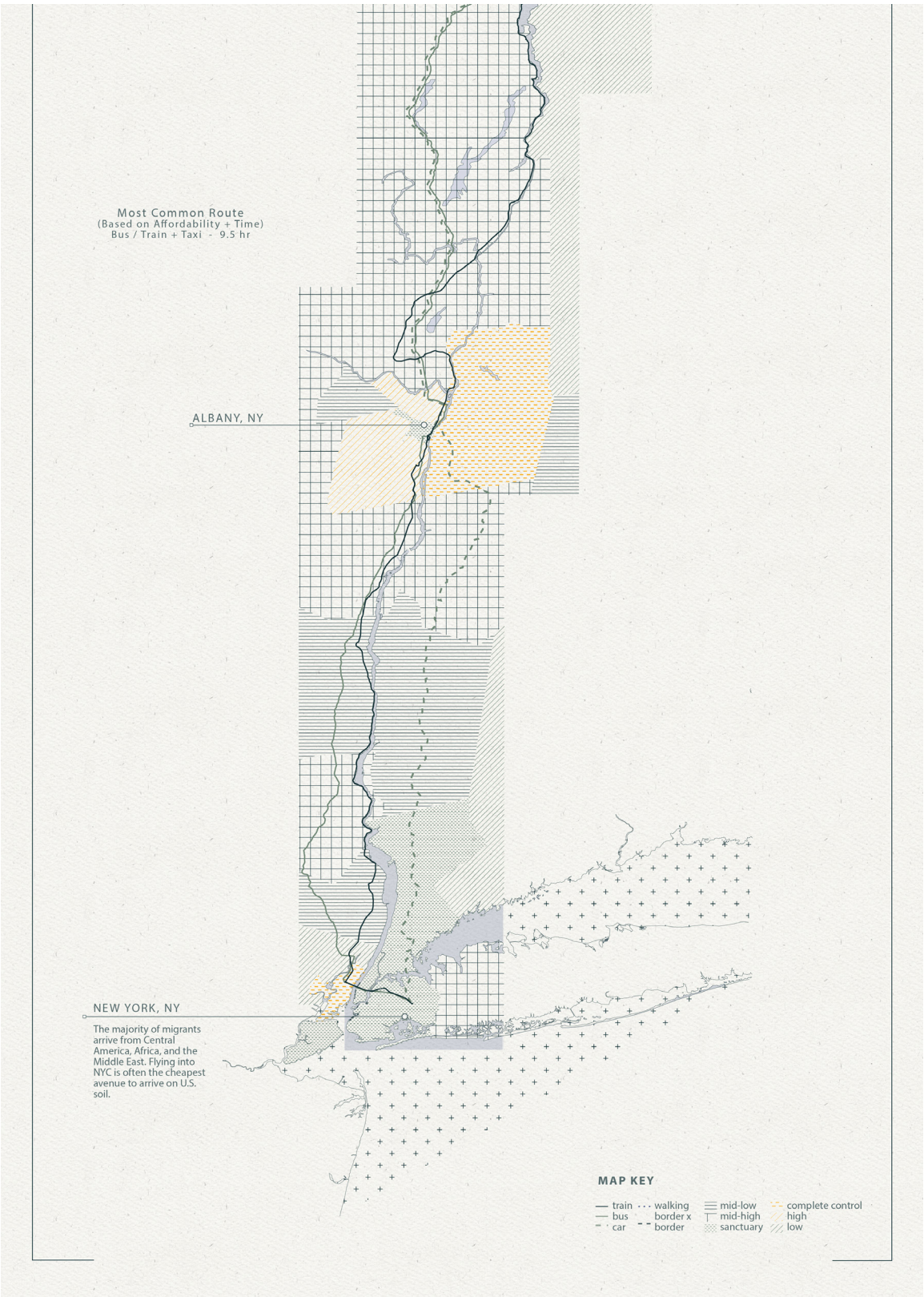

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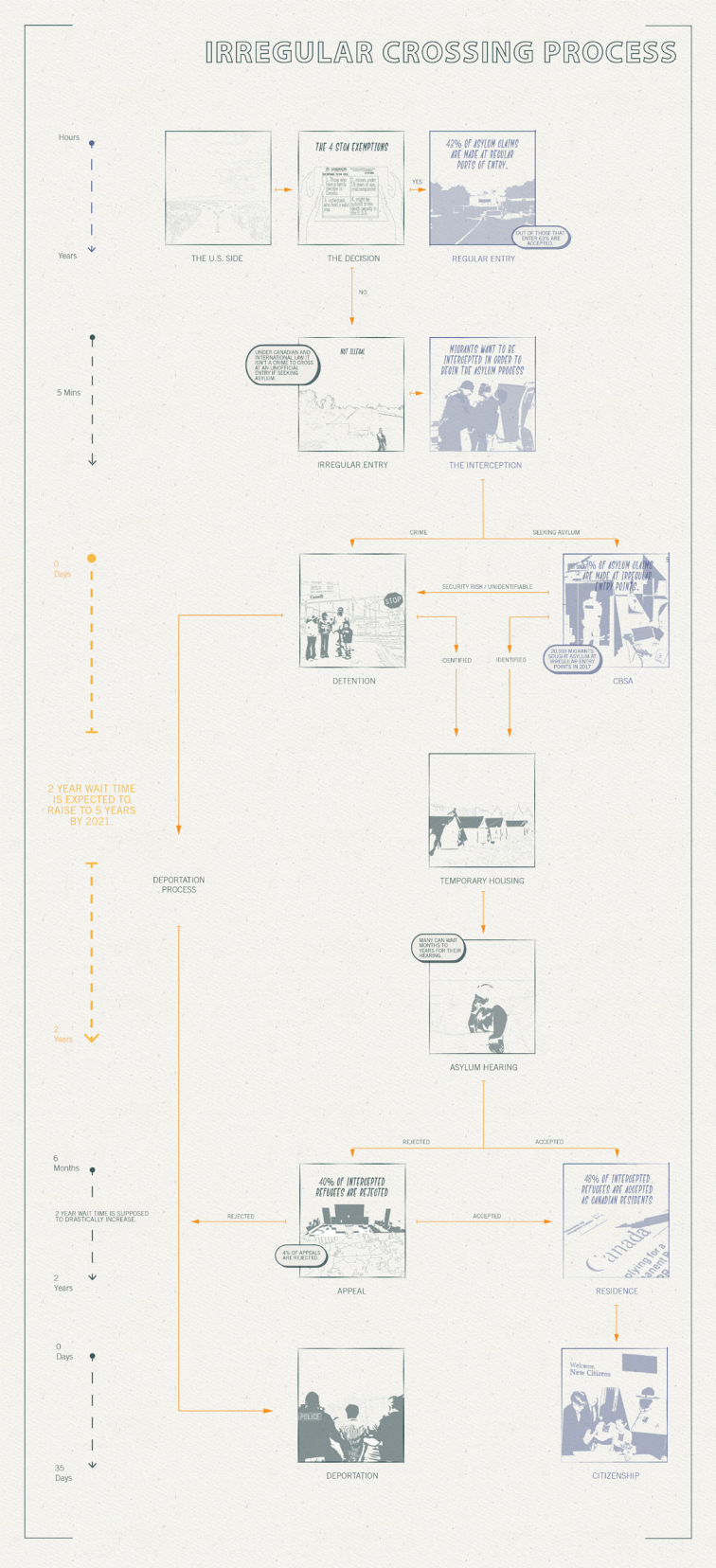
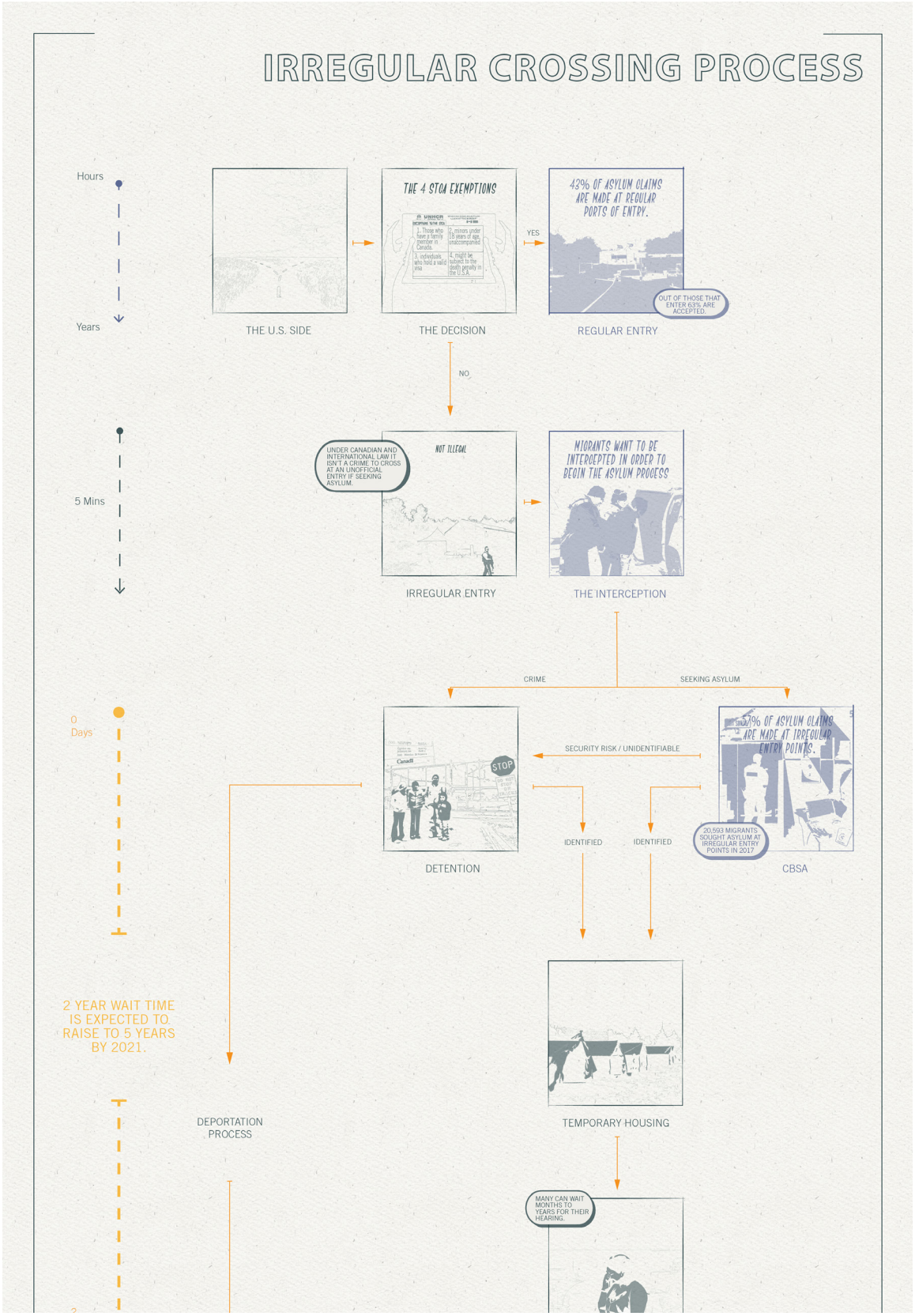
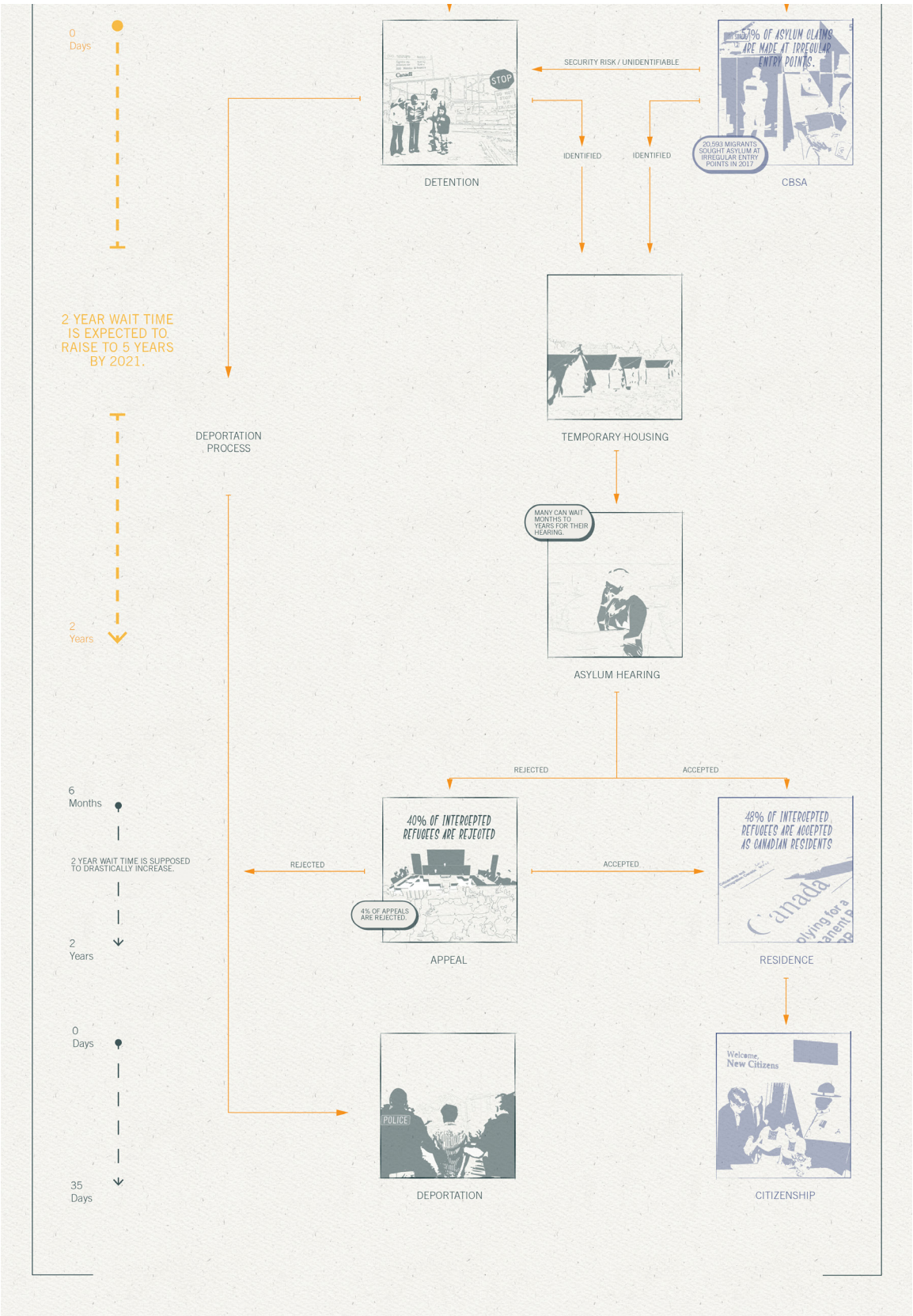


Interception steps within the Canada - U.S. irregular border crossing system. Diagrams in blue illustrate conditions that migrants hope will occur.

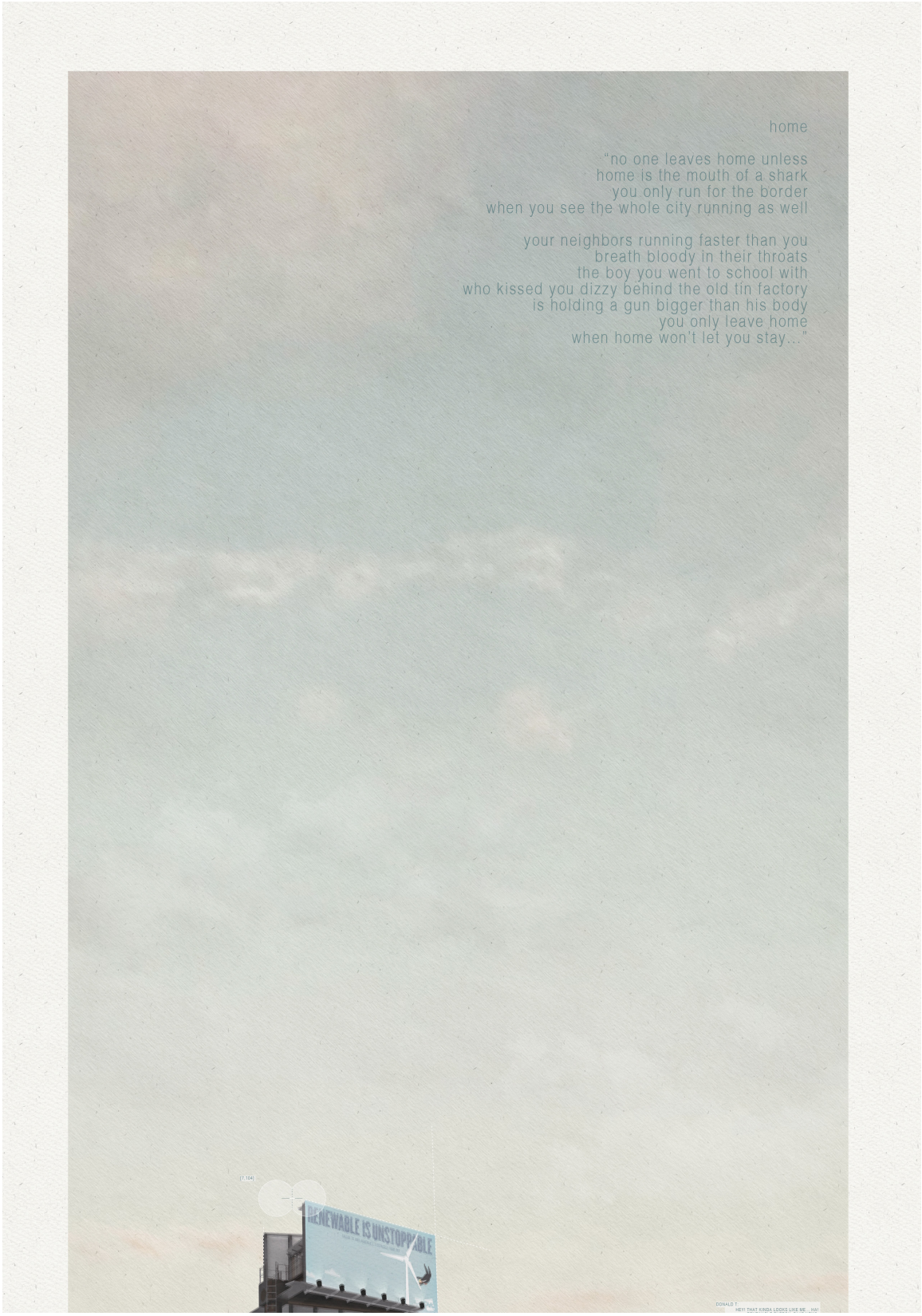


Part 1: Interception steps within the Canada - U.S. irregular border crossing system. Diagrams in blue illustrate conditions that migrants hope will occur.



Part 2: Interception steps within the Canada - U.S. irregular border crossing system. Diagrams in blue illustrate conditions that migrants hope will occur.

An example of a Billboard Station that would be placed along the North - South route between NYC and the border. These overnight stations provide migrants with a safe place to spend the night.



Part 1: A Billboard Station that would be placed along the North - South route between NYC and the border. These overnight stations provide migrants with a safe place to spend the night.

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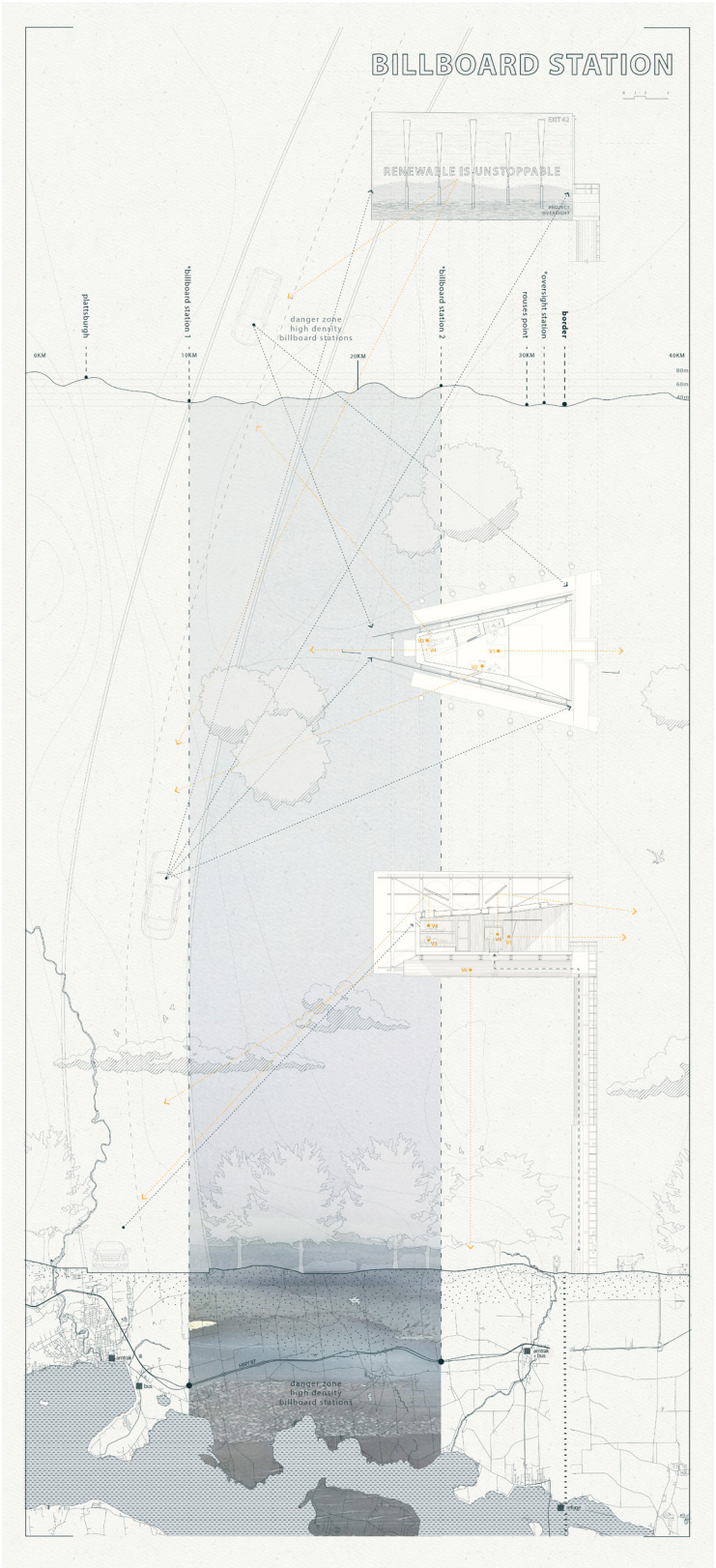
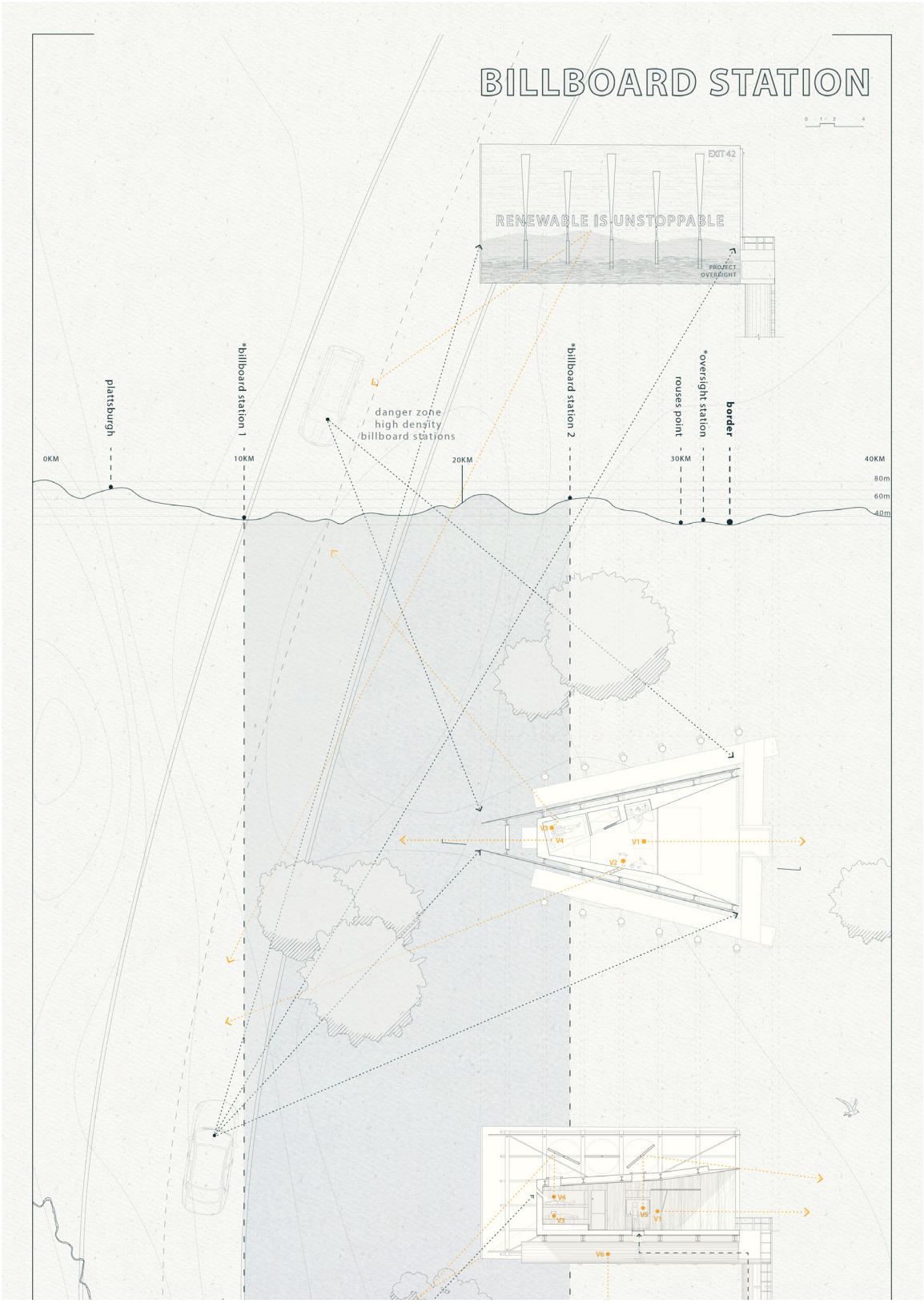


Billboard Station hybrid illustrates the zone that requires a high density of stations and the section, plan, and elevation of one station. The orthographic drawings are overlaid onto a site plan that indicates the stations relation to cars on the highway. Sightlines are highlighted in orange.



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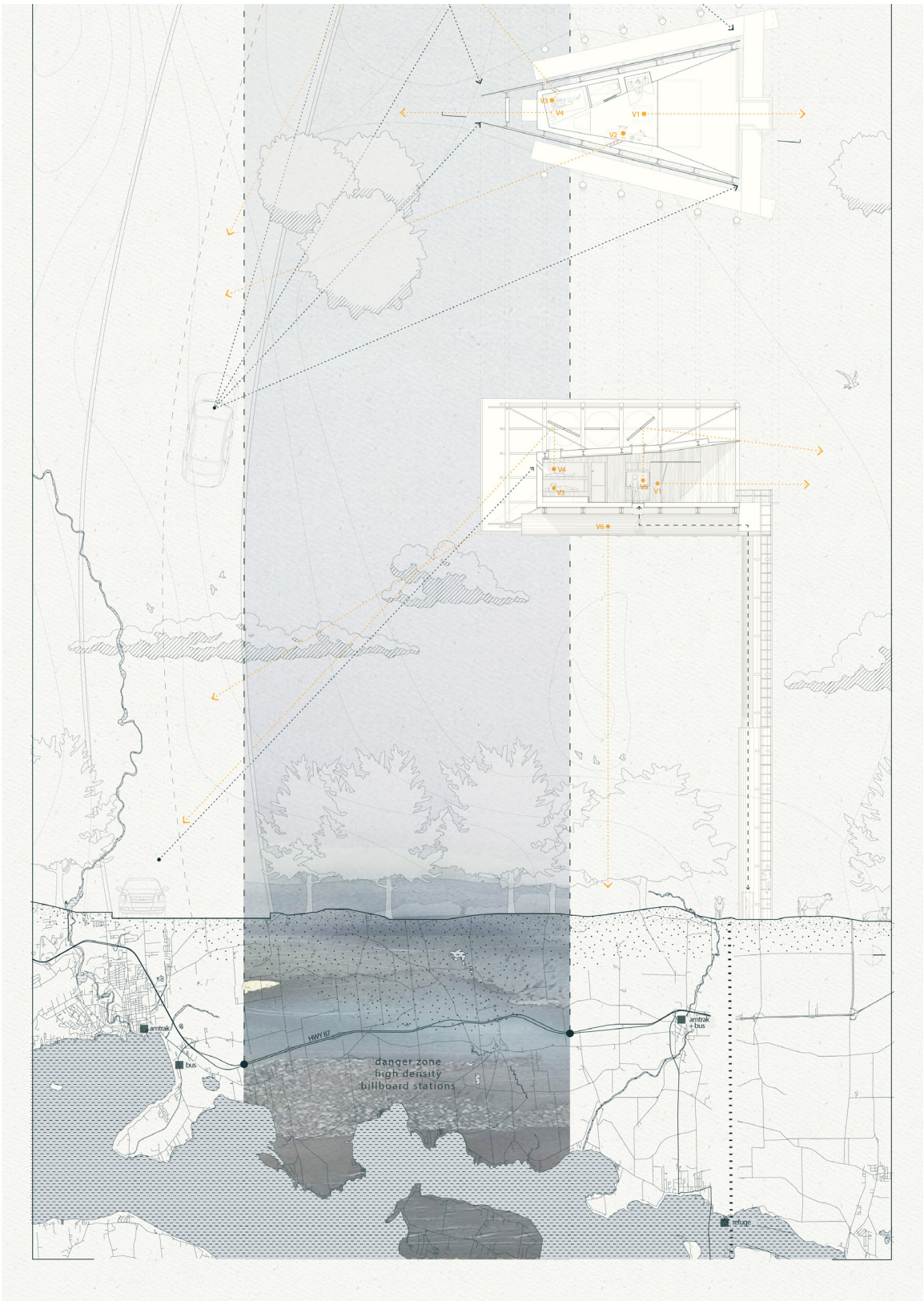
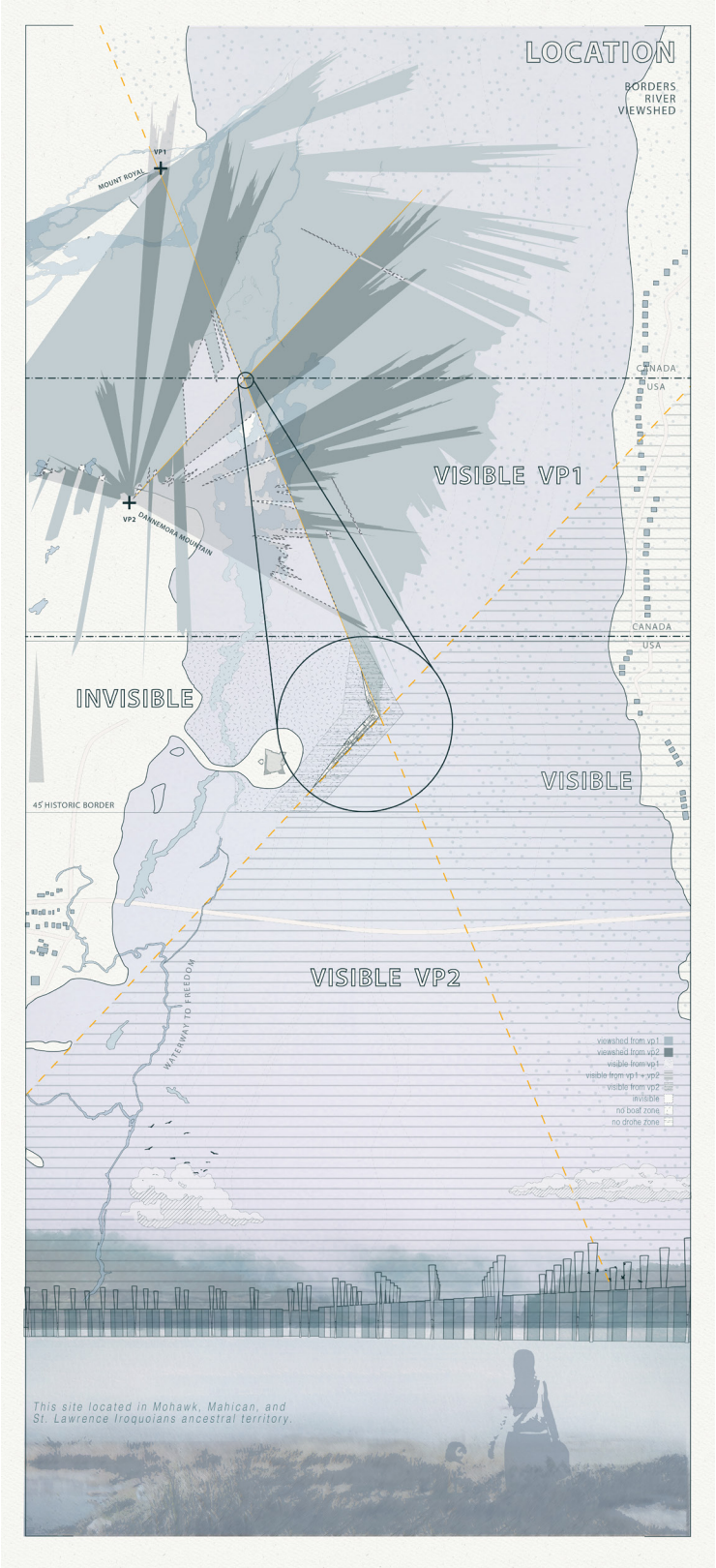
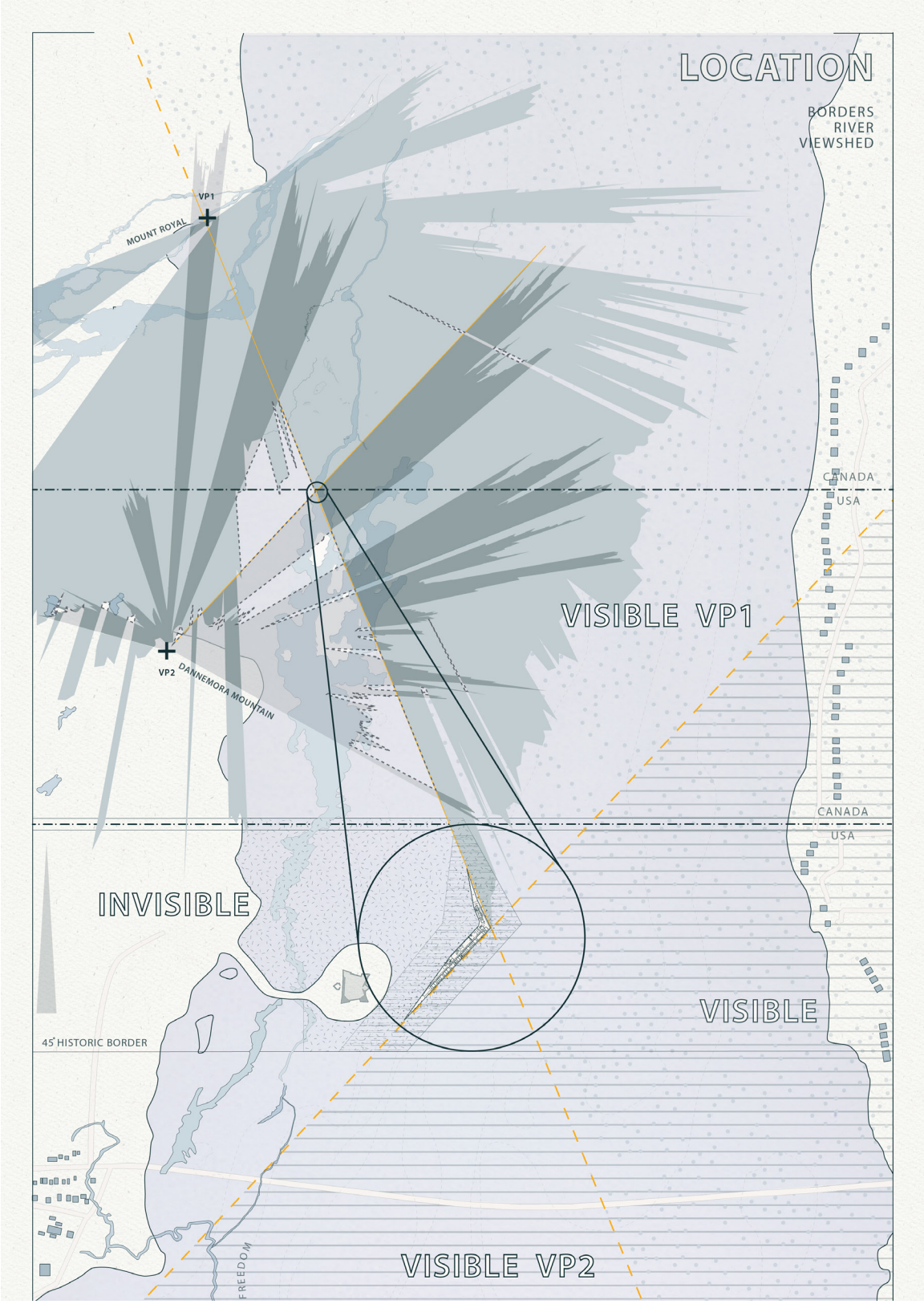


Part 2: Billboard Station hybrid illustrates the zone that requires a high density of stations and the section, plan, and elevation of one station. The orthographic drawings are overlaid onto a site plan that indicates the stations relation to cars on the highway. Sightlines are highlighted in orange.



Layered mapping to indicate the viewshed from Mount Royal and Dannemora Mountain, the site's context, and its history. The bottom perspective illustrates a migrant waiting beside the fort for a repair boat to take her and her child to Border Refuge.



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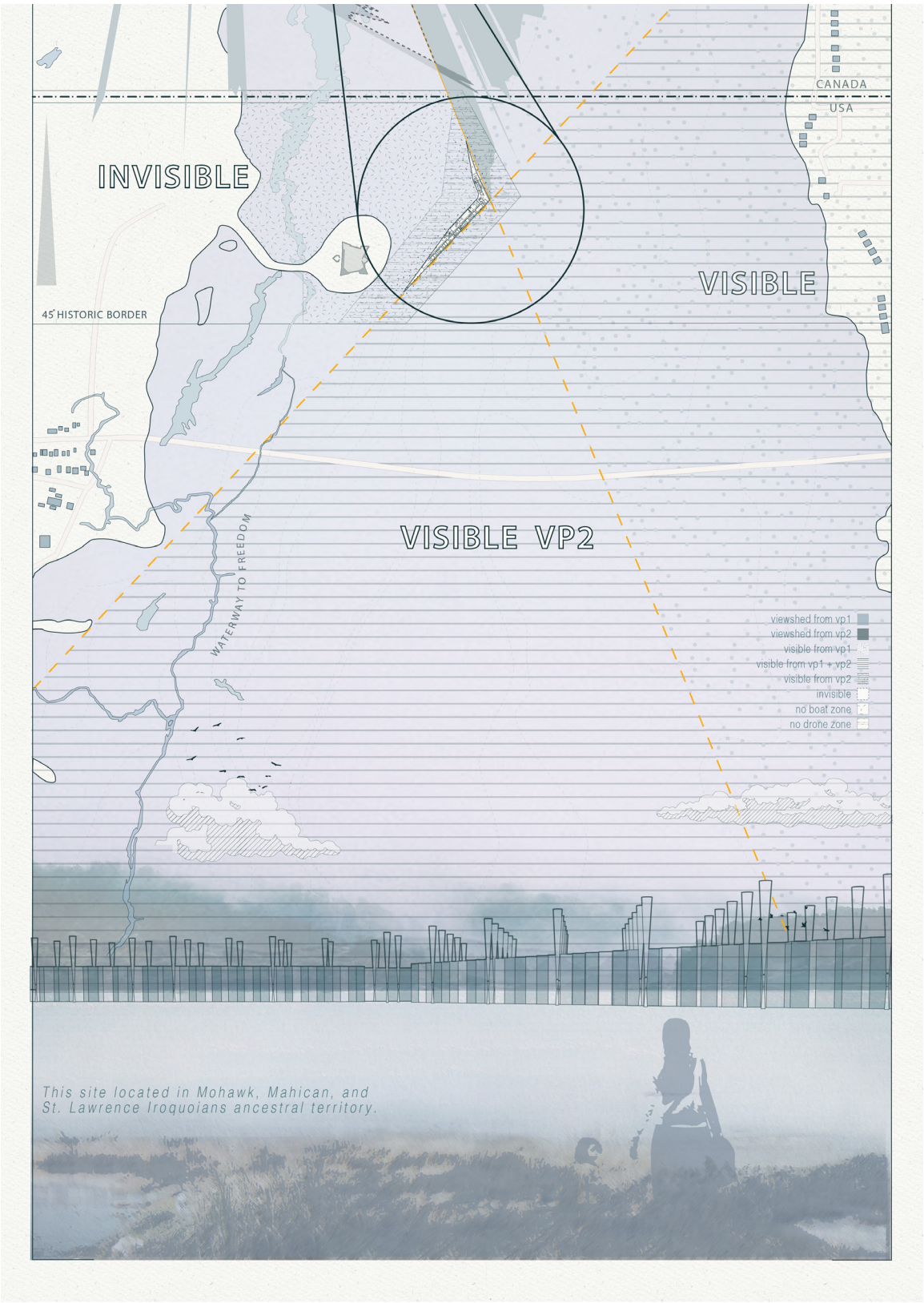

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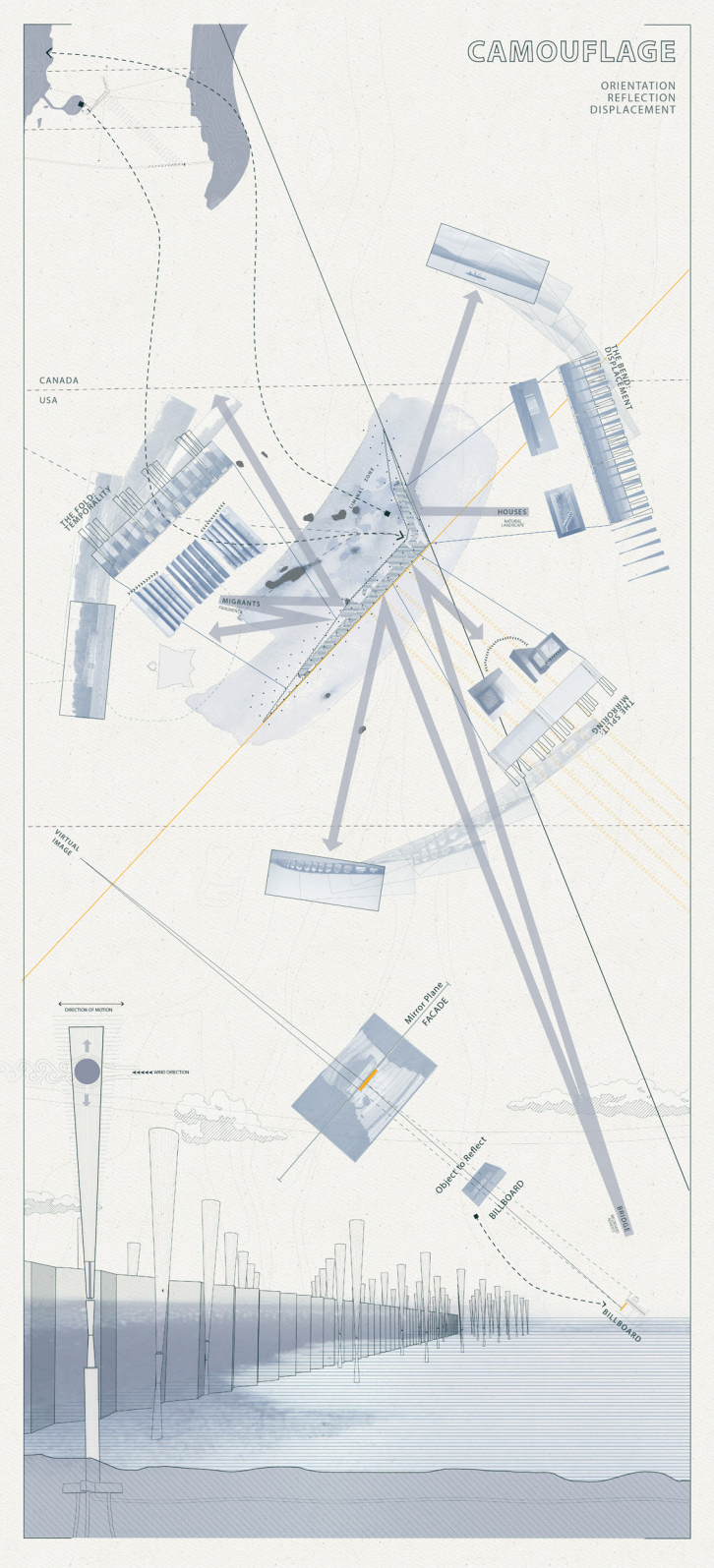
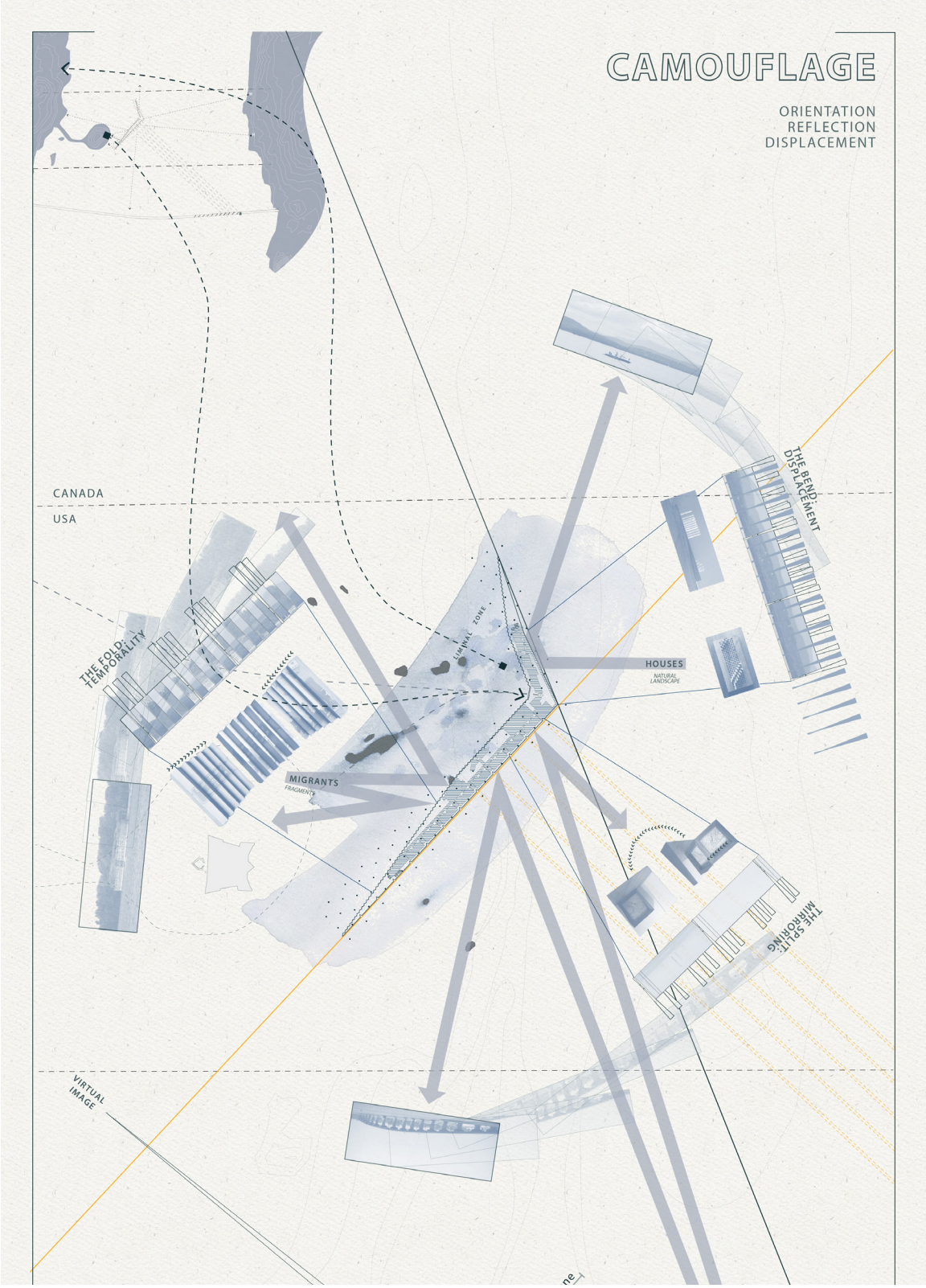


Camouflage diagram to illustrate the sightlines the fort, the rural housing across the river, and the cars on the bridge have when looking at the two-way mirror facade. The mechanisms that the Fold, the Bend, and the Split undergo are each illustrated through model images below their respective elevations.



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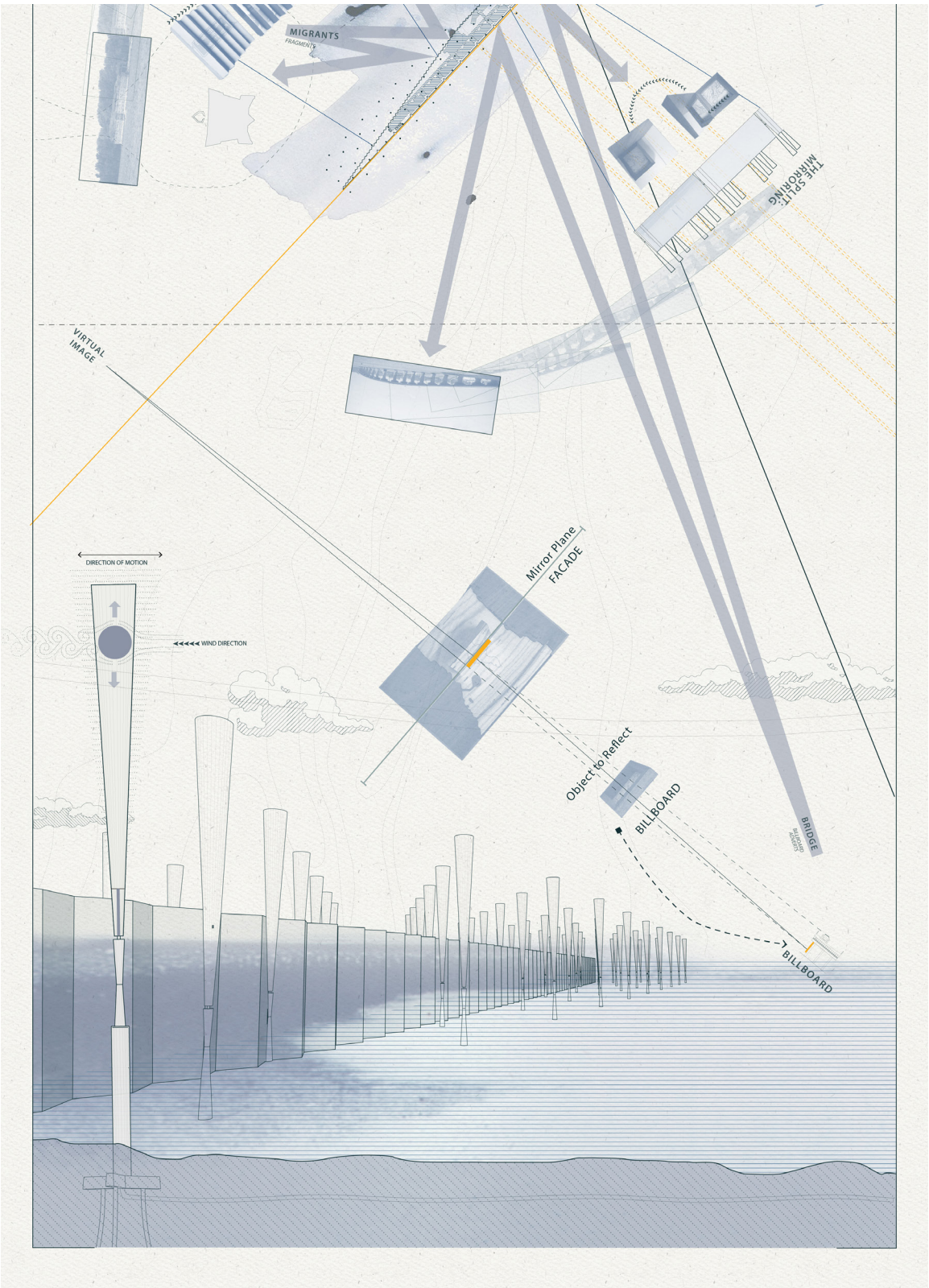

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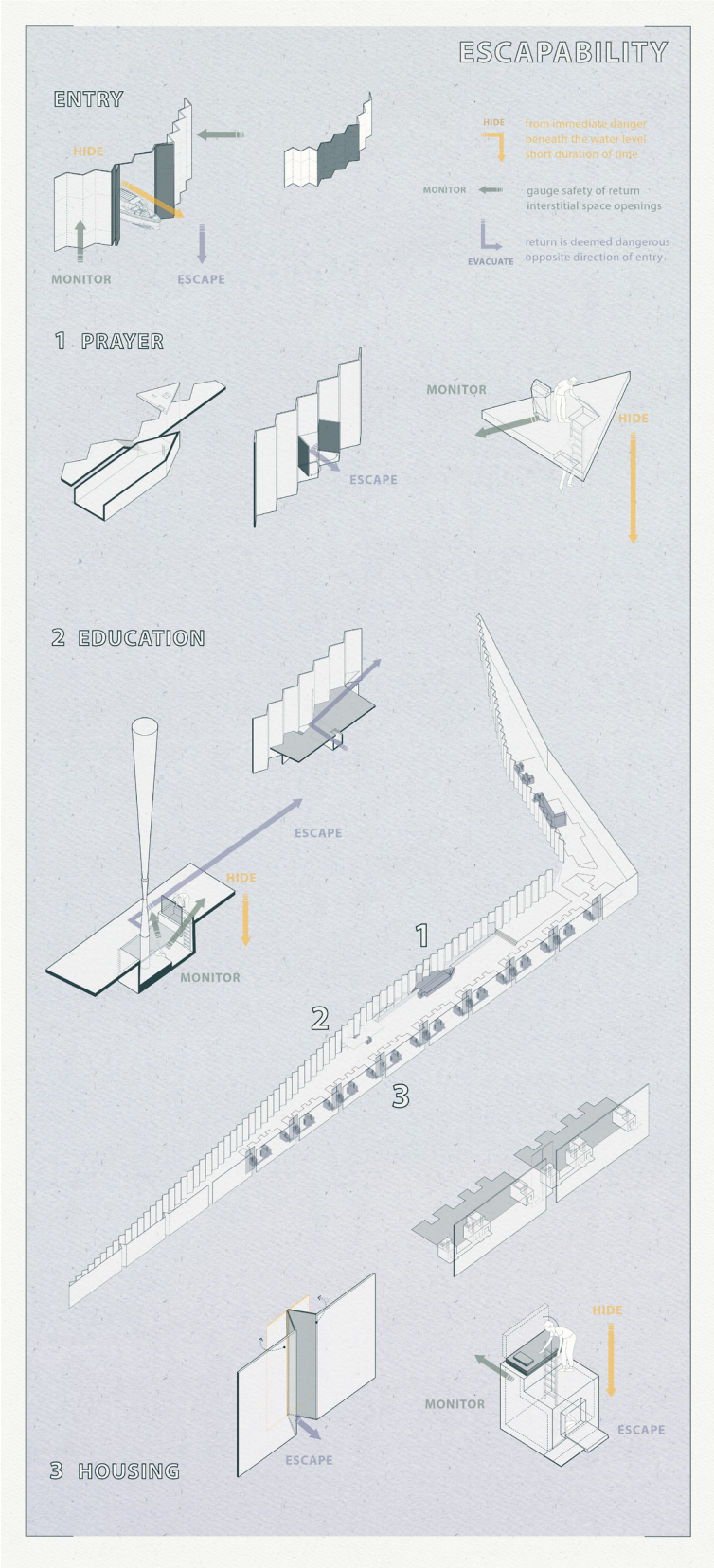
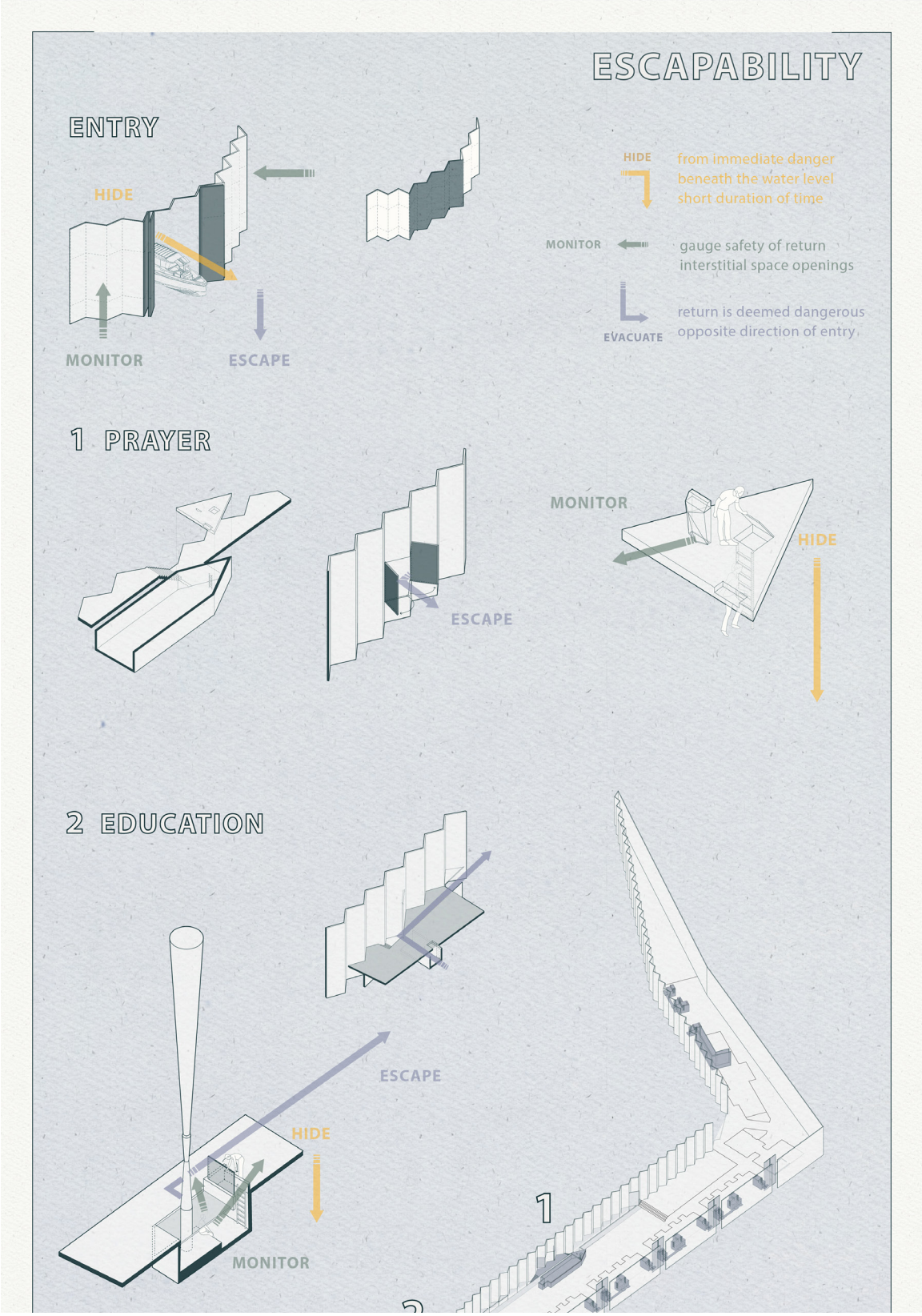


Possible escape routes migrants can take. The main entrance and departure is diagrammed above, with the Chapel and Prayer room below, followed by the Education and Housing Units.



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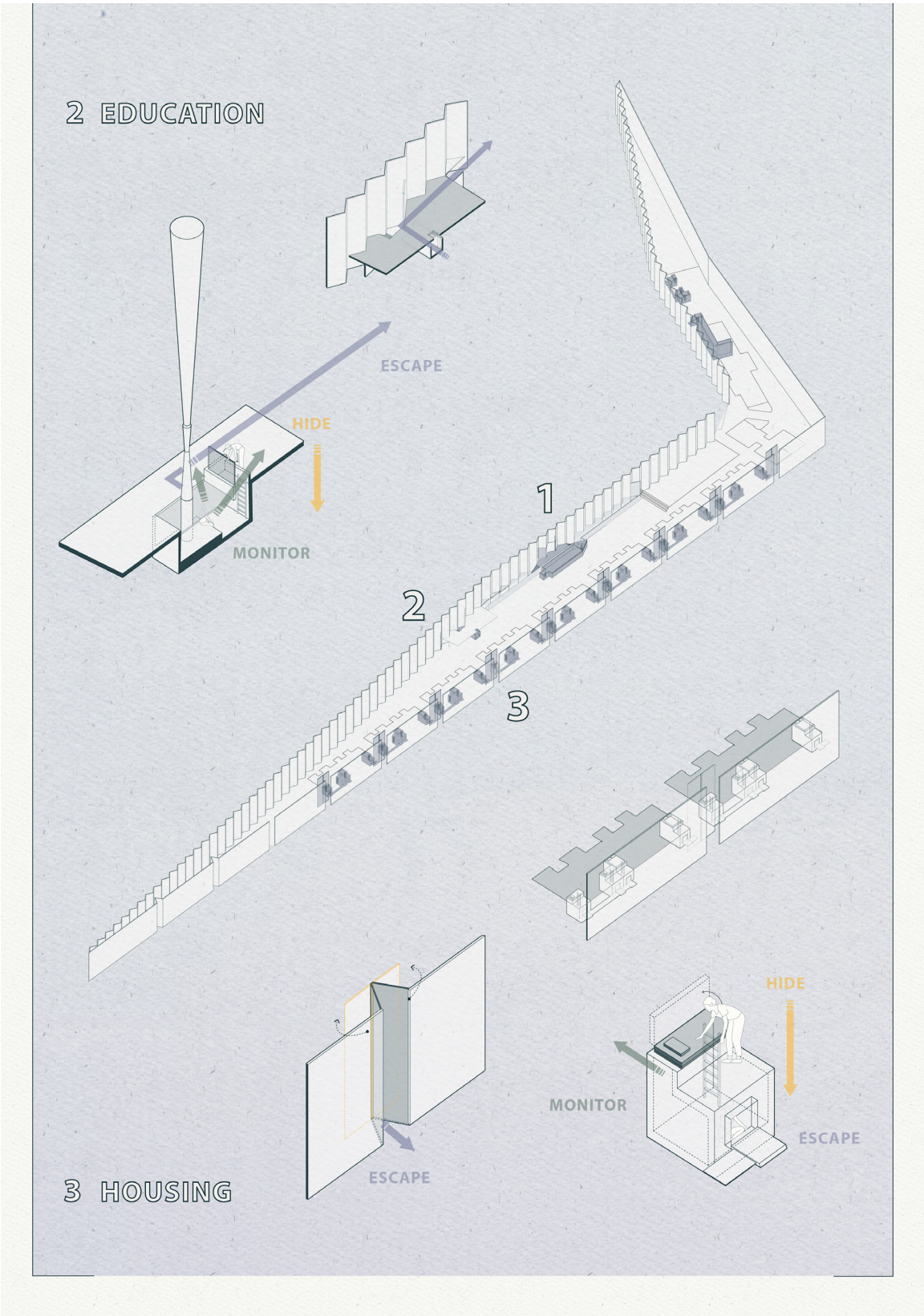

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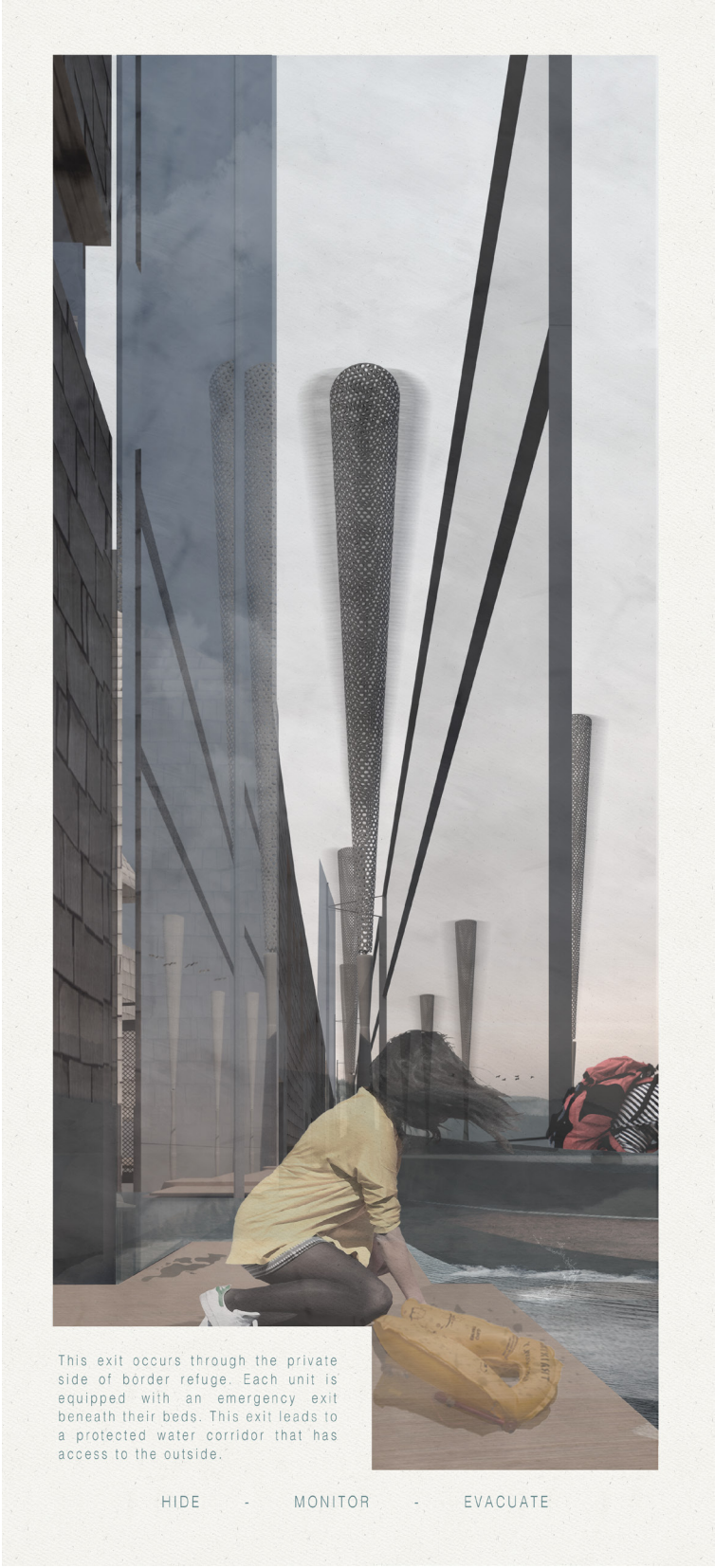
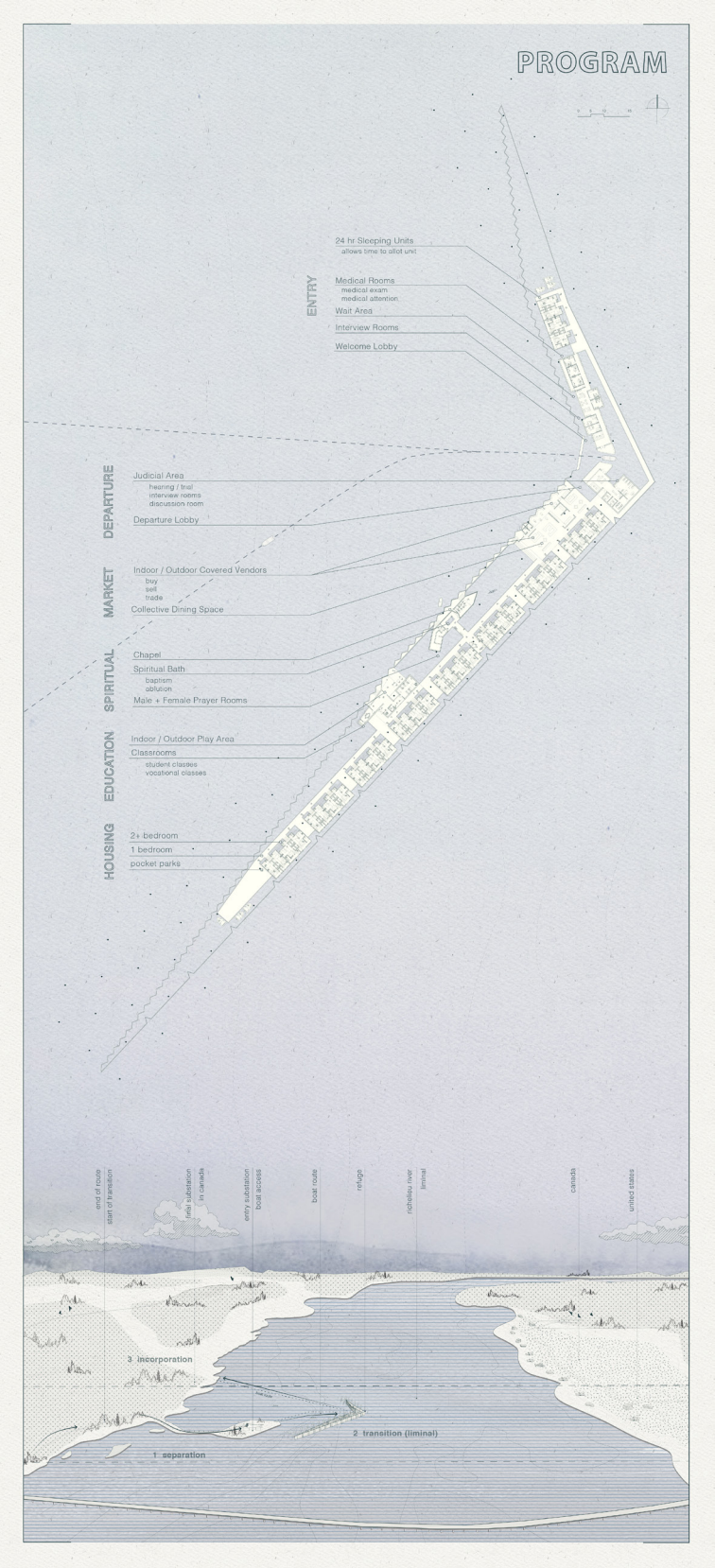
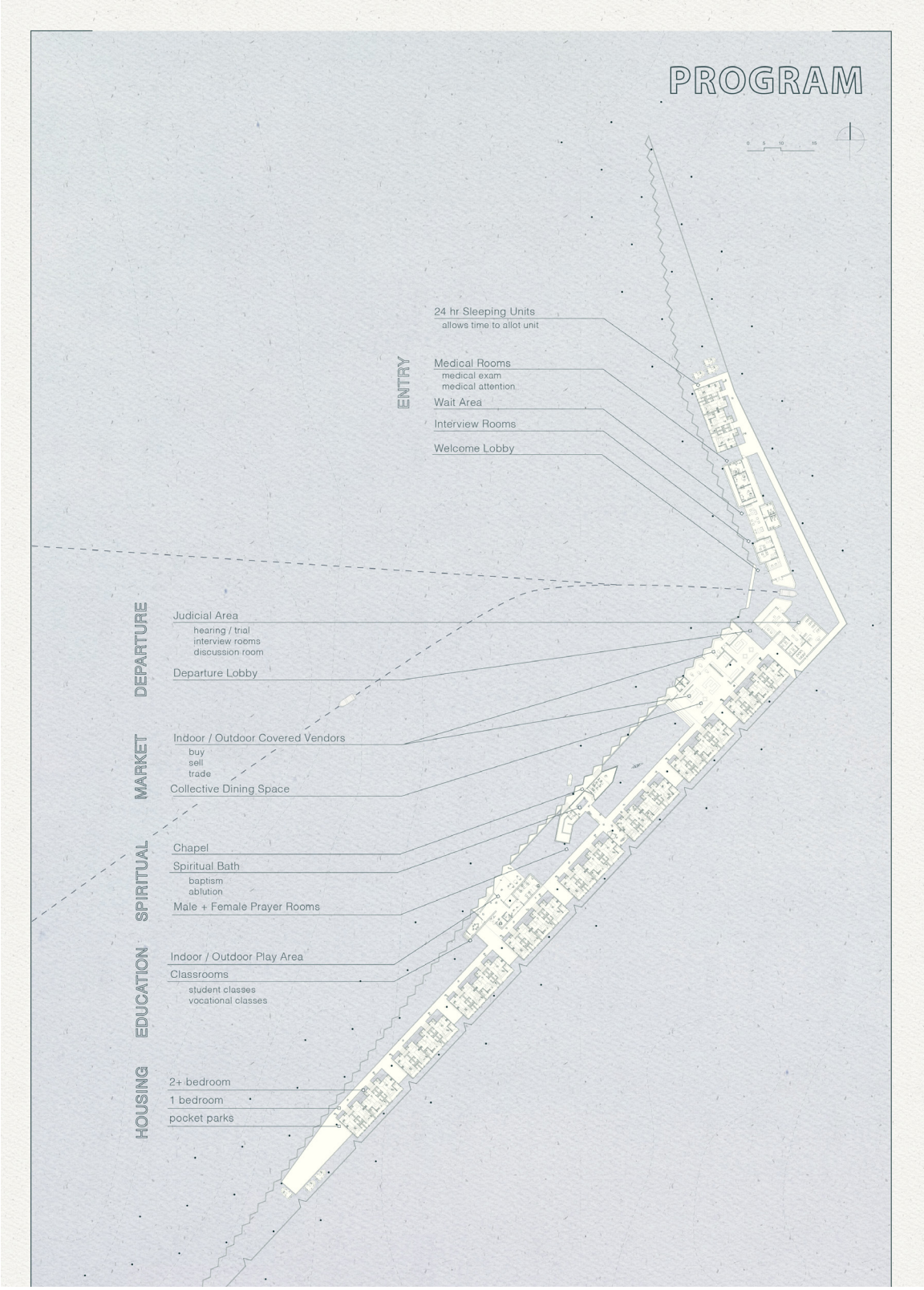


A woman who has just escaped her housing unit, climbed down the ladder, exited onto a floating platform, and is now waiting to get into the escape repair boats that have medical exit packages.

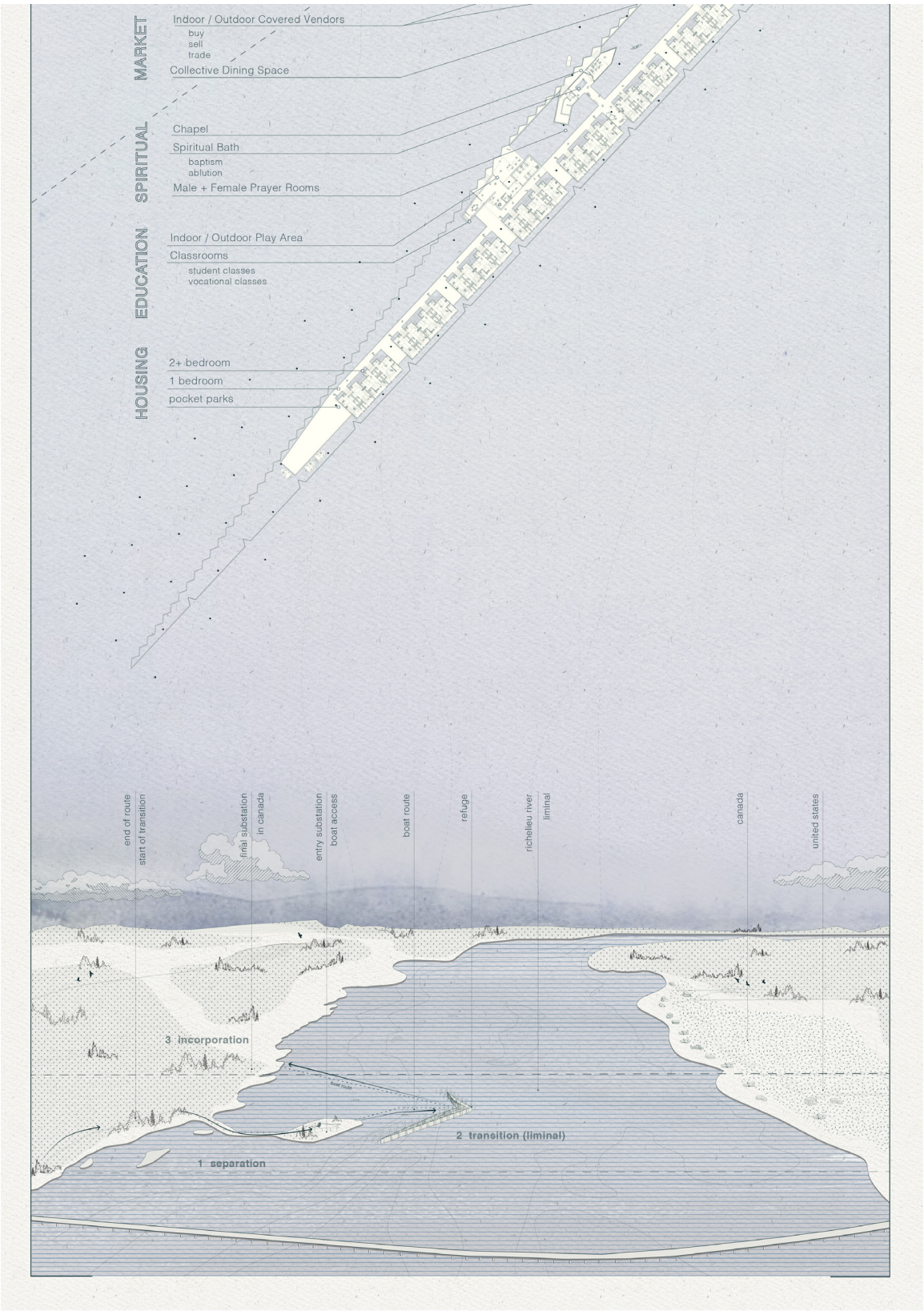
Part 1: A woman who just escaped her housing unit, climbed down the ladder, exited onto a floating platform, and is now waiting to get into the escape repair boats that have medical exit packages.



Above is a diagram illustrating the majora and granular programming, their locations, and the entire plan layout. Below is a perspective of Border Refuge with the procession highlighted.



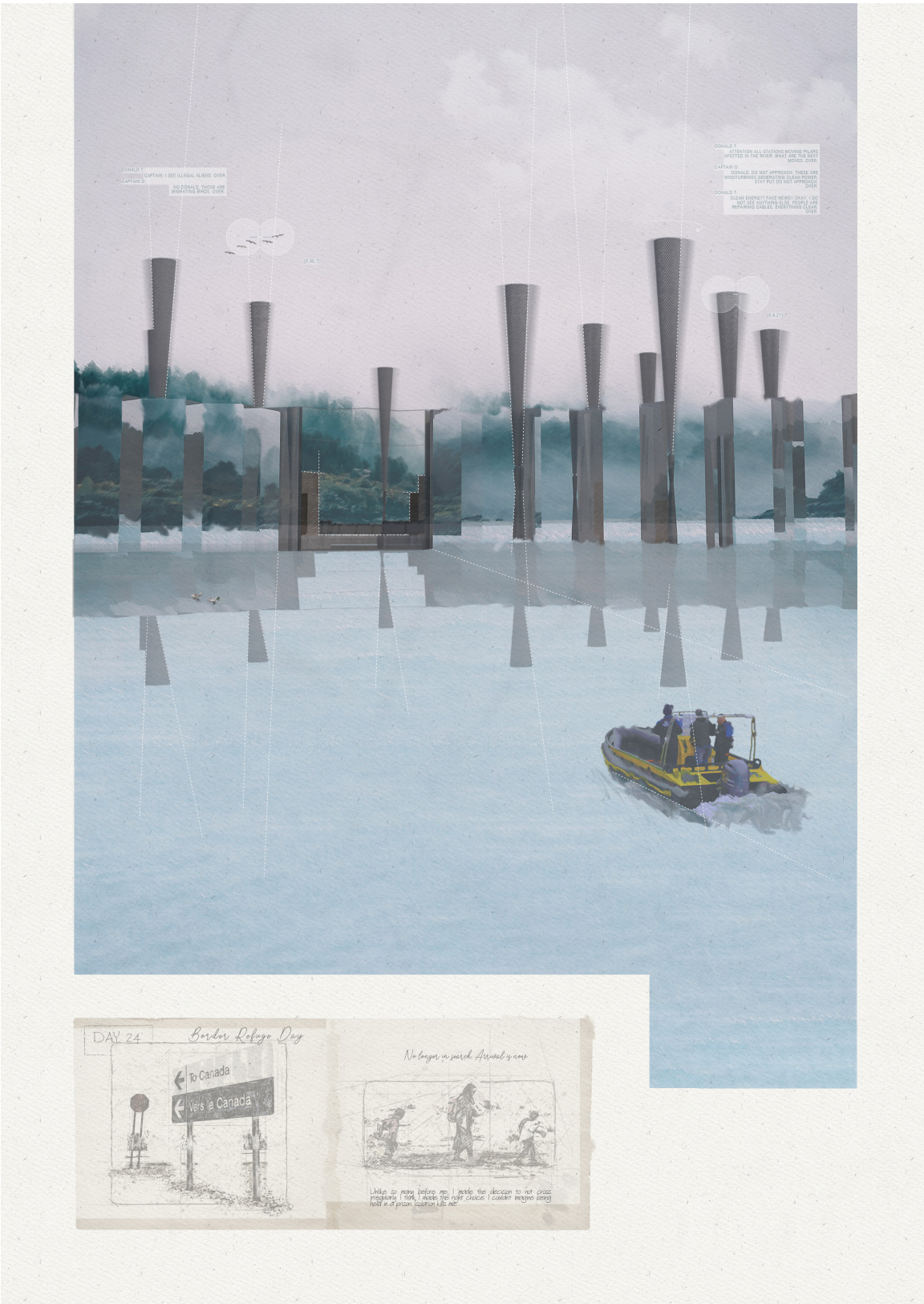
Part 1: Above is a program diagram illustrating the granular program, their locations, and the entire plan drawing. Below is a perspective of Border Refuge with the procession highlighted.



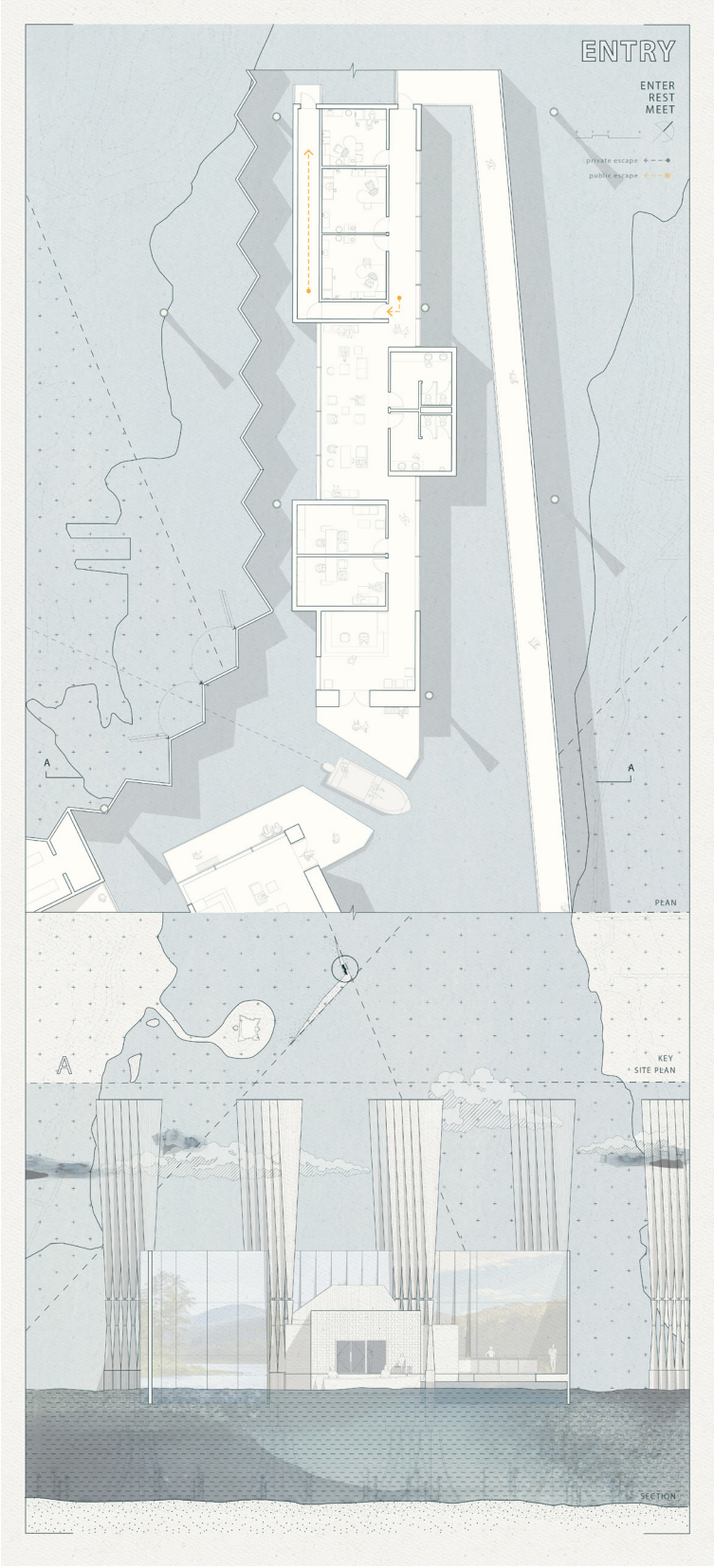
Part 2: Above is a program diagram illustrating the granular program, their locations, and the entire plan drawing. Below is a perspective of Border Refuge with the procession highlighted.

View to entry of Border Refuge and the folded facade. The landscape blends into the two-way mirrored glass and creates the mirage. Migrants are heading to the Border Refuge in a repair boat (base images for sketches from Nimani 2016).

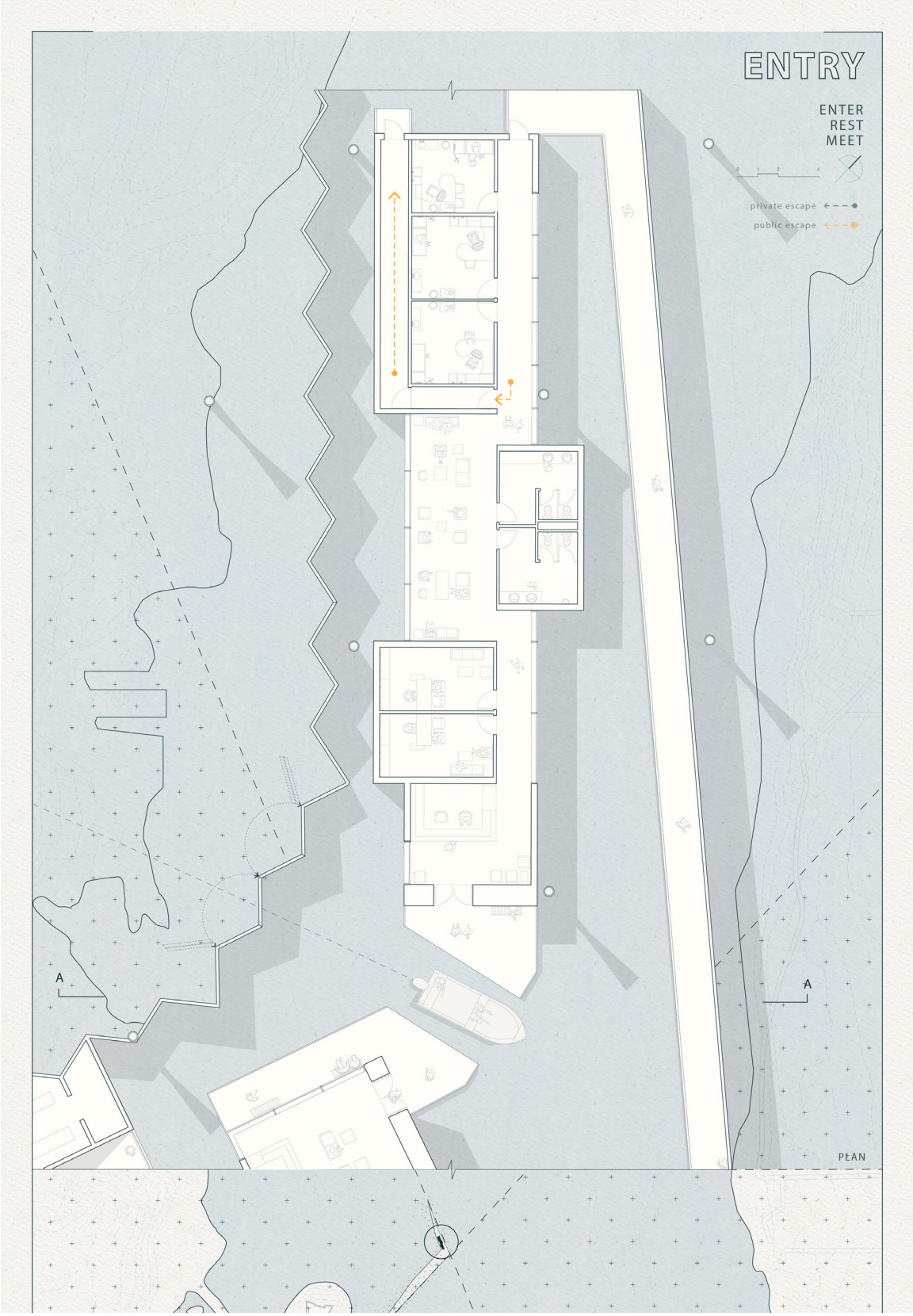
Part 1: View to entry of Border Refuge and the folded facade. The landscape blends into the two-way mirrored glass and creates the mirage. Migrants are heading to the Border Refuge in a repair boat (base images for sketches from Nimani 2016).



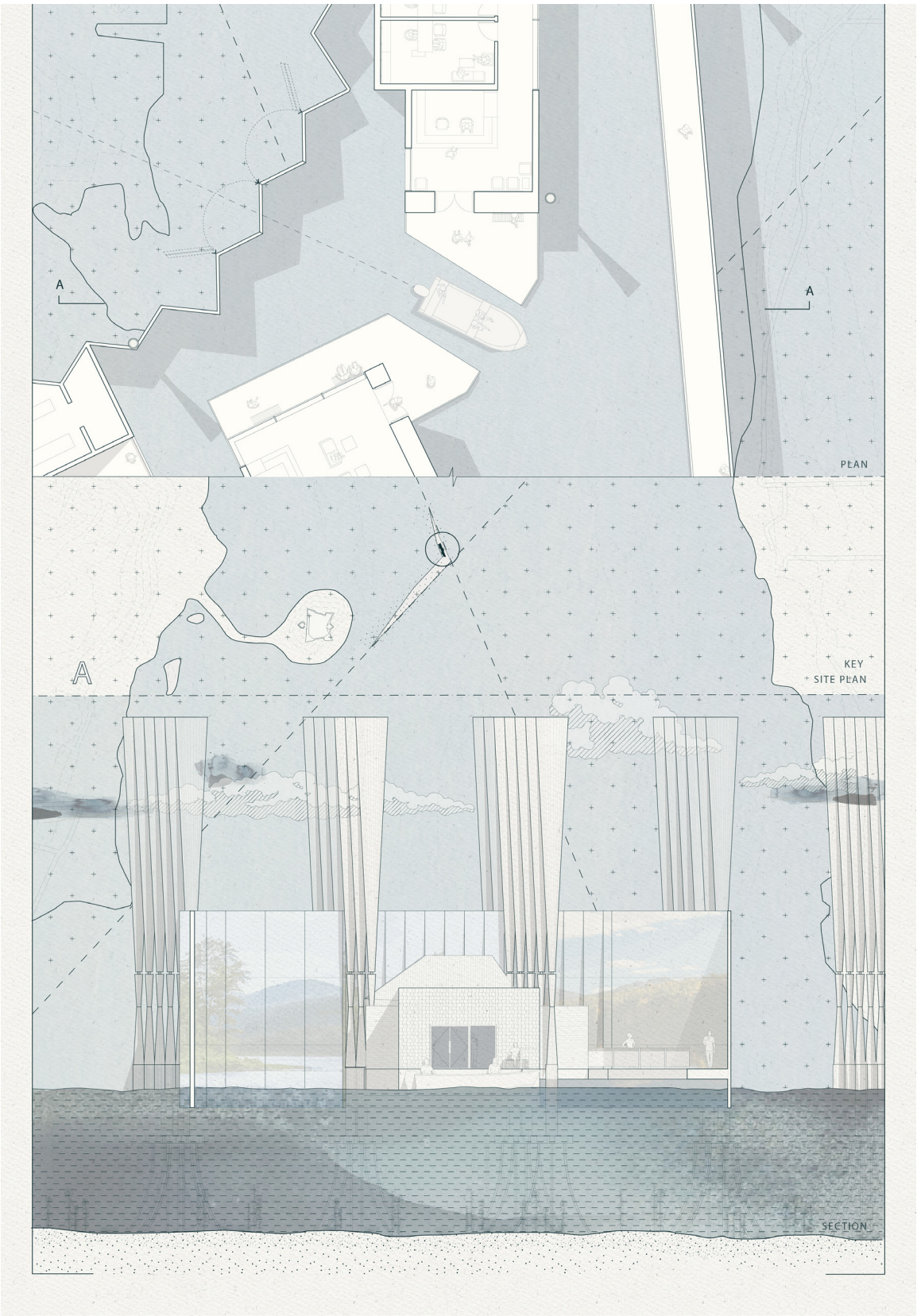
Part 2: View to entry of Border Refuge and the folded facade. The landscape blends into the two-way mirrored glass and creates the mirage. Migrants are heading to the Border Refuge in a repair boat (base images for sketches from Nimani 2016).



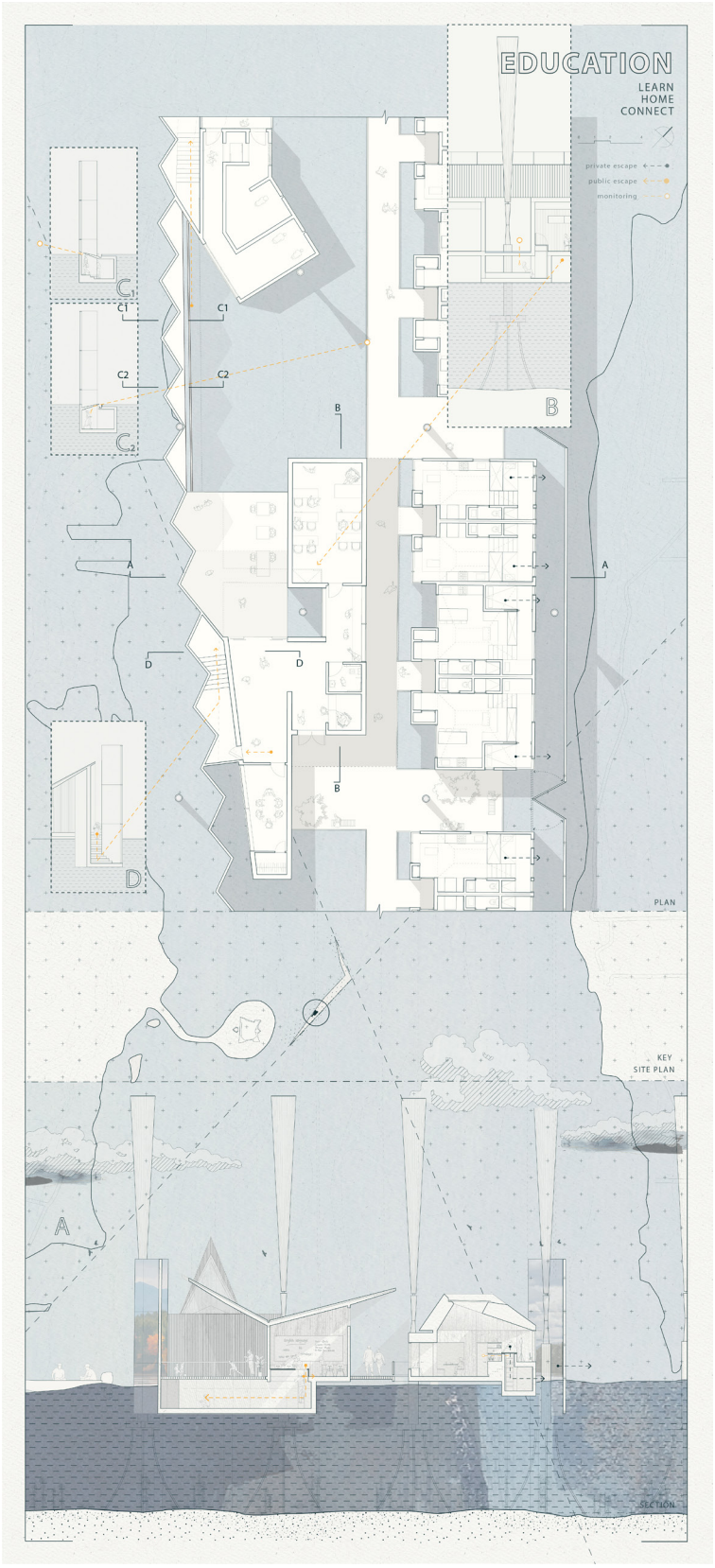
Arrival hybrid. The drawing sits within a key plan and uses its layers to illustrate context, plan, and elevation. Escape and sightlines in public and private are marked.



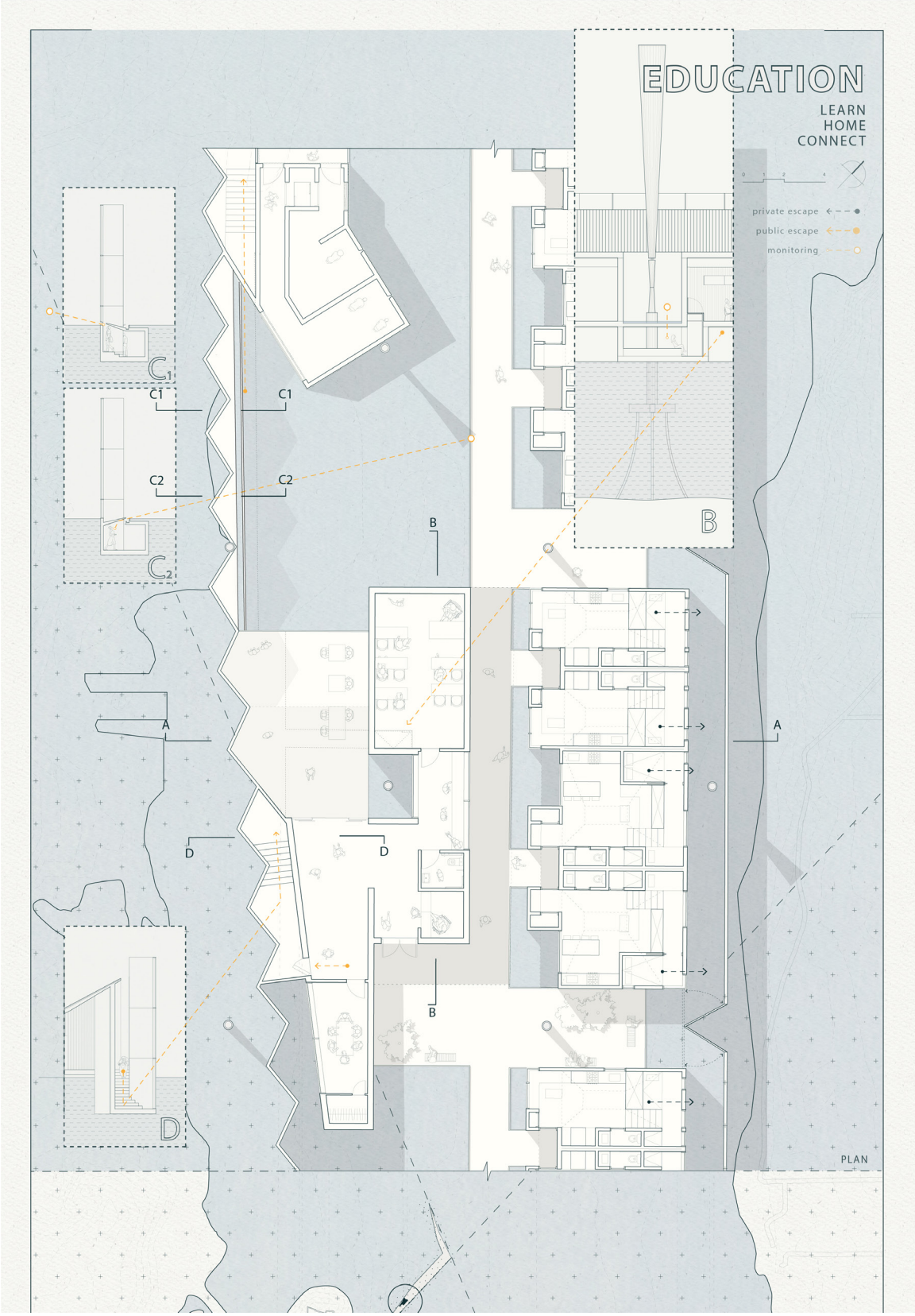
Part 1: Arrival hybrid. The drawing sits within a key plan and uses its layers to illustrate context, plan, and elevation. Escape and sightlines in public and private are marked.



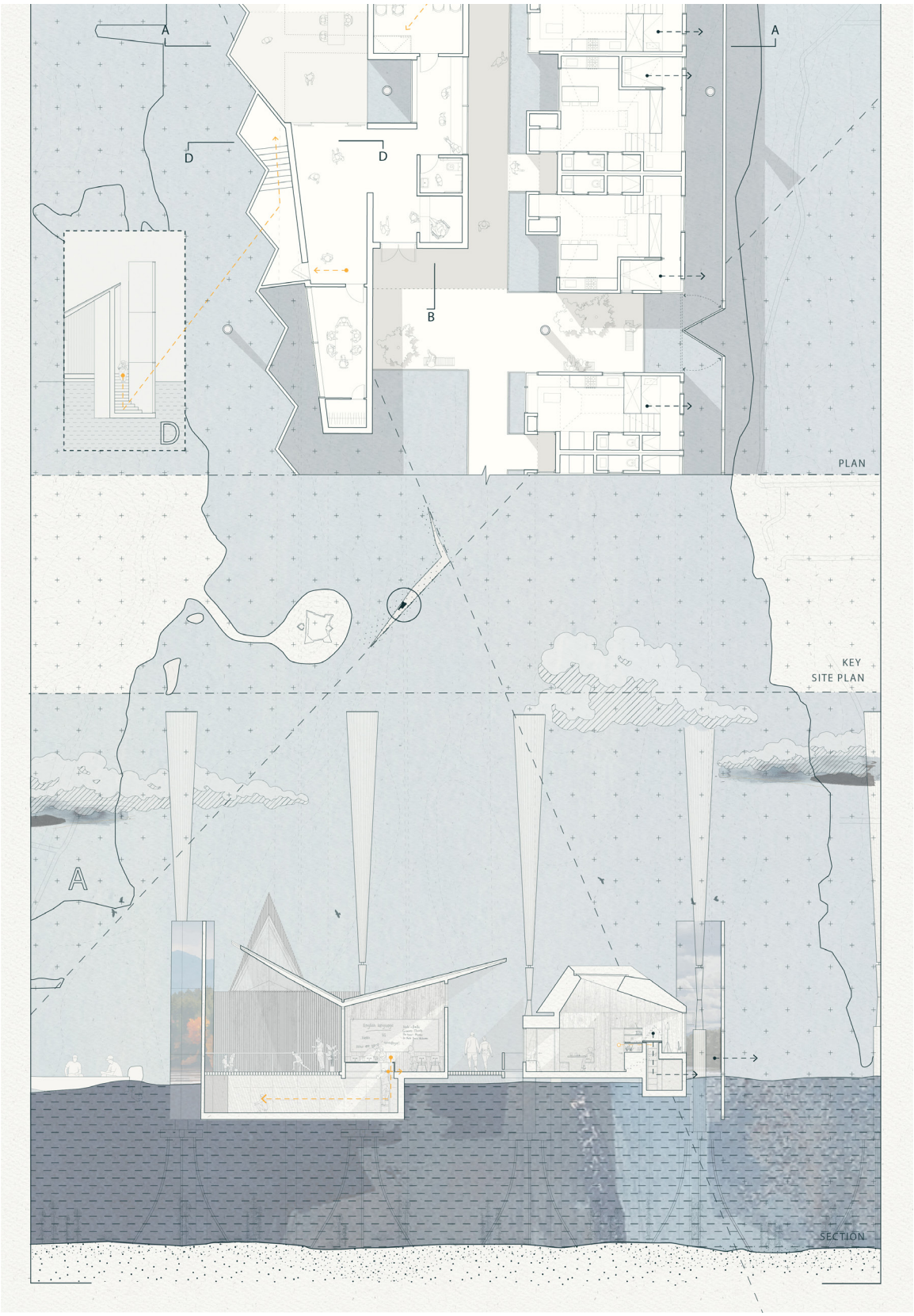
Part 2: Arrival hybrid. The drawing sits within a key plan and uses its layers to illustrate context, plan, and elevation. Escape and sightlines in public and private are marked.



Education and Housing hybrid. The drawing sits within a key plan and uses its layers to illustrate context, plan, and section. Escape and sightlines in public and private are marked.



Part 1: Education and Housing hybrid. The drawing sits within a key plan and uses its layers to illustrate context, plan, and section. Escape and sightlines in public and private are marked.

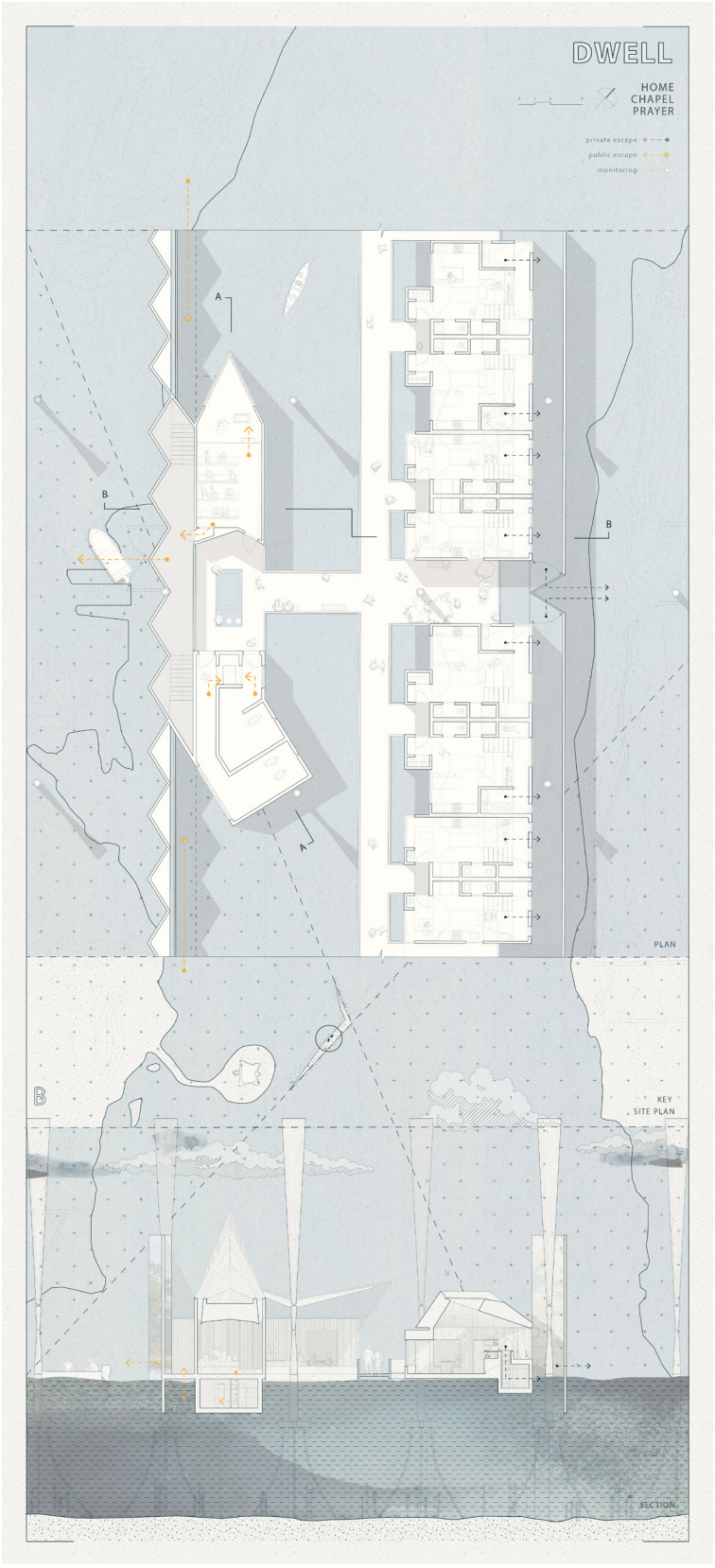


Part 2: Education and Housing hybrid. The drawing sits within a key plan and uses its layers to illustrate context, plan, and section. Escape and sightlines in public and private are marked.

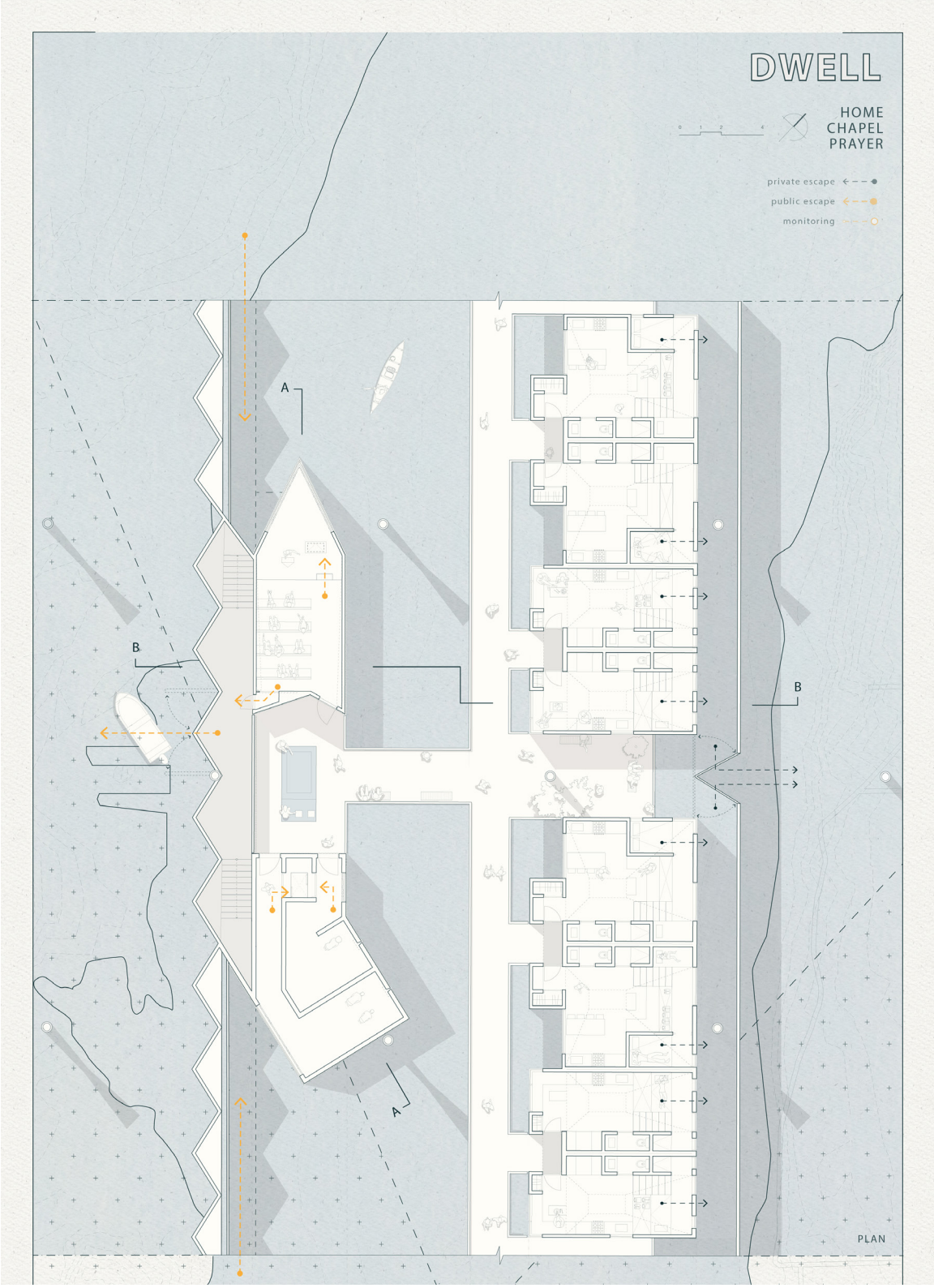
Interior perspective of the one bedroom unit, illustrates how light, the inhabited wall and a subtle material palette were key considerations (base image for sketch from Bonisteel, Gougenheim and Dalsime 2019).

Part 1: Interior perspective of the one bedroom unit, illustrates how light, the inhabited wall and a subtle material palette were key considerations (base image for sketch from Bonisteel, Gougenheim and Dalsime 2019).

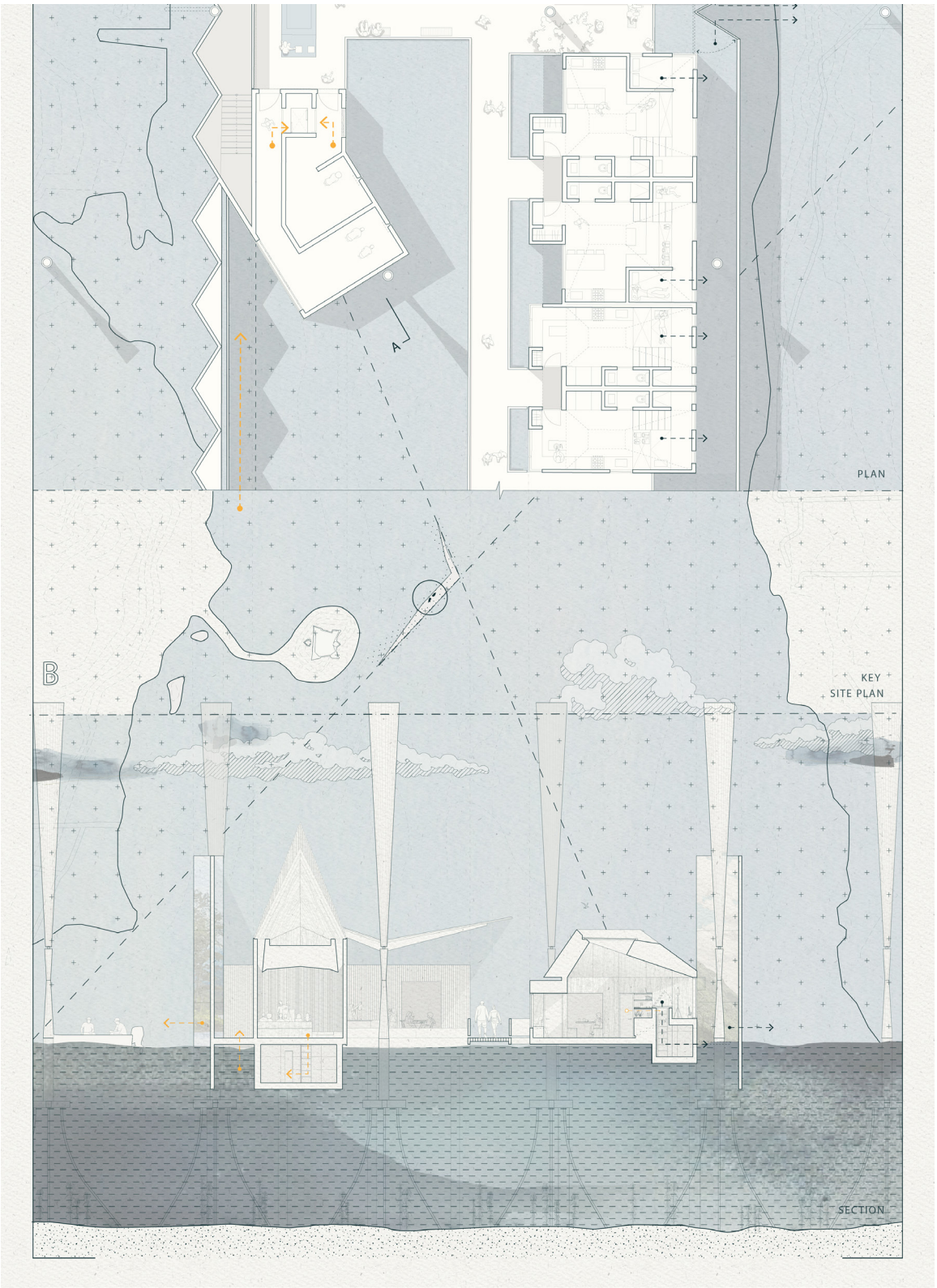
Part 2: Interior perspective of the one bedroom unit, illustrates how light, the inhabited wall and a subtle material palette were key considerations (base image for sketch from Bonisteel, Gougenheim and Dalsime 2019).



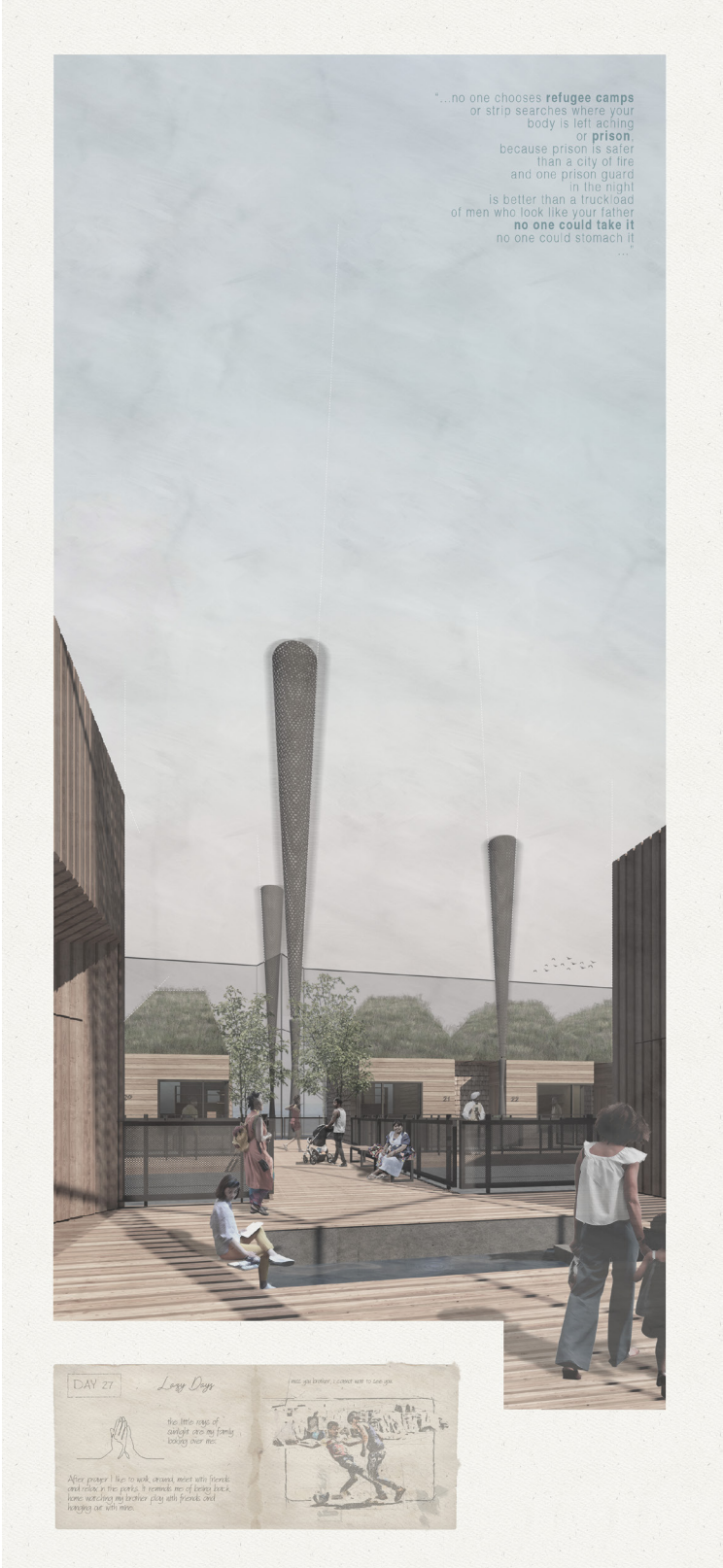
Chapel and Prayer room and Housing hybrid. The drawing sits within a key plan and uses its layers to illustrate context, plan, and section. Escape and sightlines in public and private are marked.



Part 1: Chapel and Prayer room and Housing hybrid. The drawing sits within a key plan and uses its layers to illustrate context, plan, and section. Escape and sightlines in public and private are marked.



Part 2: Chapel and Prayer room and Housing hybrid. The drawing sits within a key plan and uses its layers to illustrate context, plan, and section. Escape and sightlines in public and private are marked.

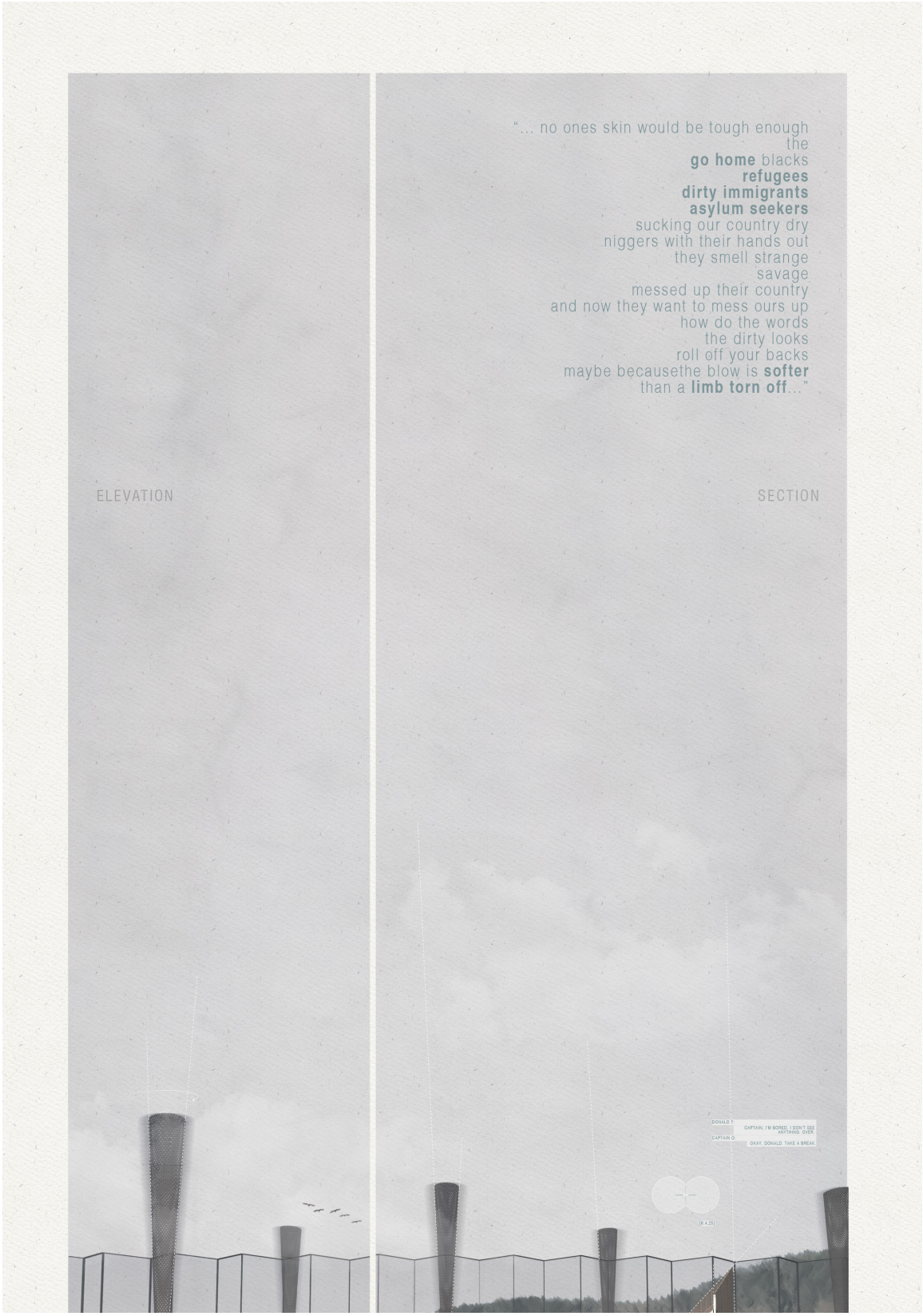


View looking across the gathering and contemplation pool between the Chapel and Prayer room. The units in elevation across the pedestrian street separated by a pocket park (base image for sketch from Albertalli 2016).

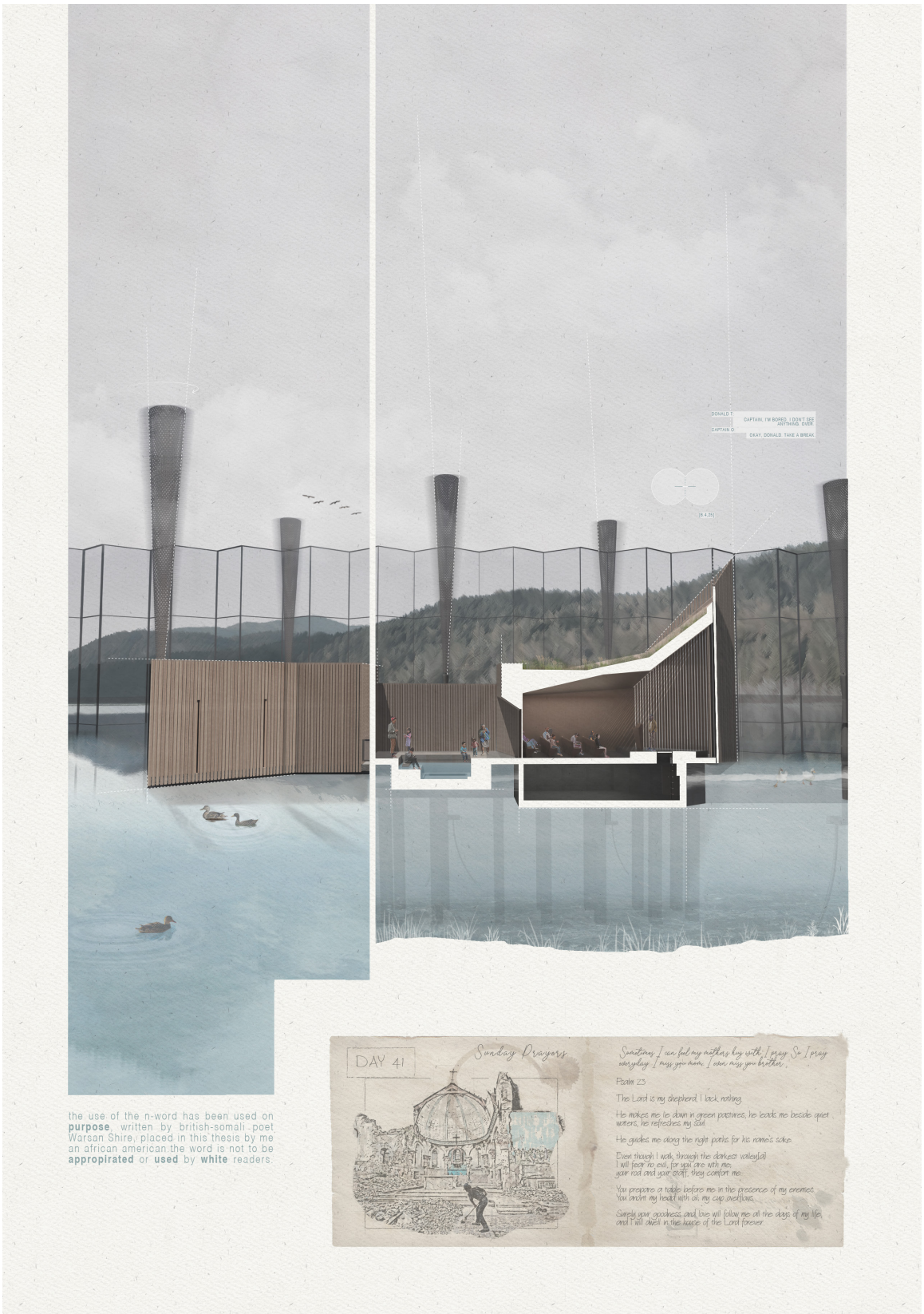
Part 1: View looking across the gathering and contemplation pool between the Chapel and Prayer room. The units in elevation across the pedestrian street separated by a pocket park (base image for sketch from Albertalli 2016).

Part 2: View looking across the gathering and contemplation pool between the Chapel and Prayer room. The units in elevation across the pedestrian street separated by a pocket park (base image for sketch from Albertalli 2016).

Sectional perspective and elevation of the Chapel and Prayer room, illustrating materiality, light, and program in relation to the facade and the River (base image for sketch from Chery 2013).



Part 1: Sectional perspective and elevation of the Chapel and Prayer room, illustrating materiality, light, and program in relation to the facade and the River (base image for sketch from Chery 2013).



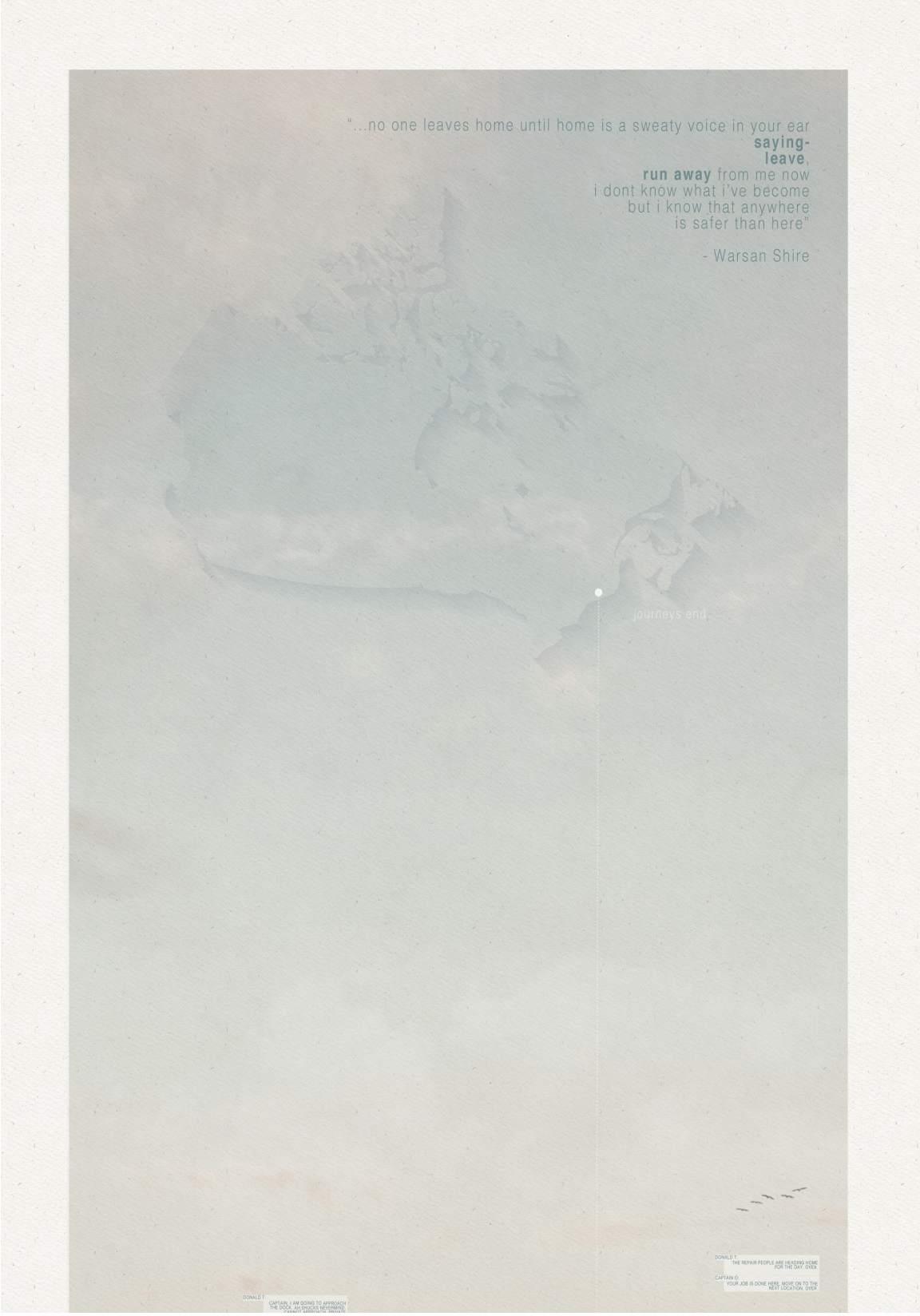
Part 2: Sectional perspective and elevation of the Chapel and Prayer room, illustrating materiality, light, and program in relation to the facade and the River (base image for sketch from Chery 2013).

The journey comes to an end, she says goodbye to her friends and departs. She has been granted Canadian citizenship and is departing for her new home (base image for sketch from Oye 2019).

Part 1: The journey comes to an end, she says goodbye to her friends and departs. She has been granted Canadian citizenship and departs for her new home (base image sketch from Oye 2019).

Part 2: The journey comes to an end, she says goodbye to her friends and departs. She has been granted Canadian citizenship and departs for her new home (base image sketch from Oye 2019).

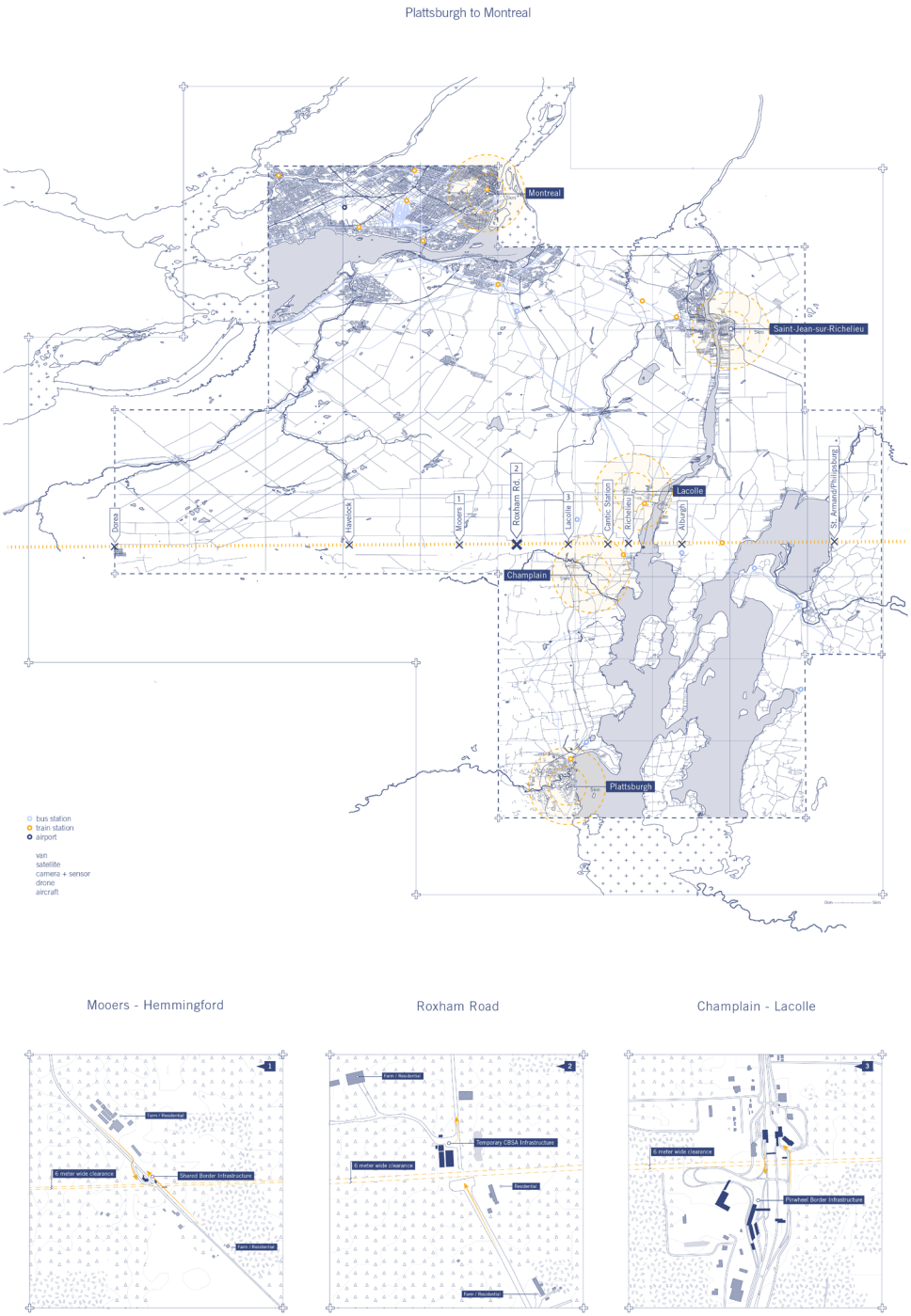
The repair boat slides into the dock, migrants touch Canadian soil for the first time, entering a new world and leaving their past behind them (base image for sketch from Blinch 2015).



Part 1: The repair boat slides into the dock, migrants touch Canadian soil for the first time, entering a new world and leaving their past behind them (base image for sketch from Blinch 2015).

Part 2: The repair boat slides into the dock, migrants touch Canadian soil for the first time, entering a new world and leaving their past behind them (base image for sketch from Blinch 2015).

Appendix B: Rossetti Drawings

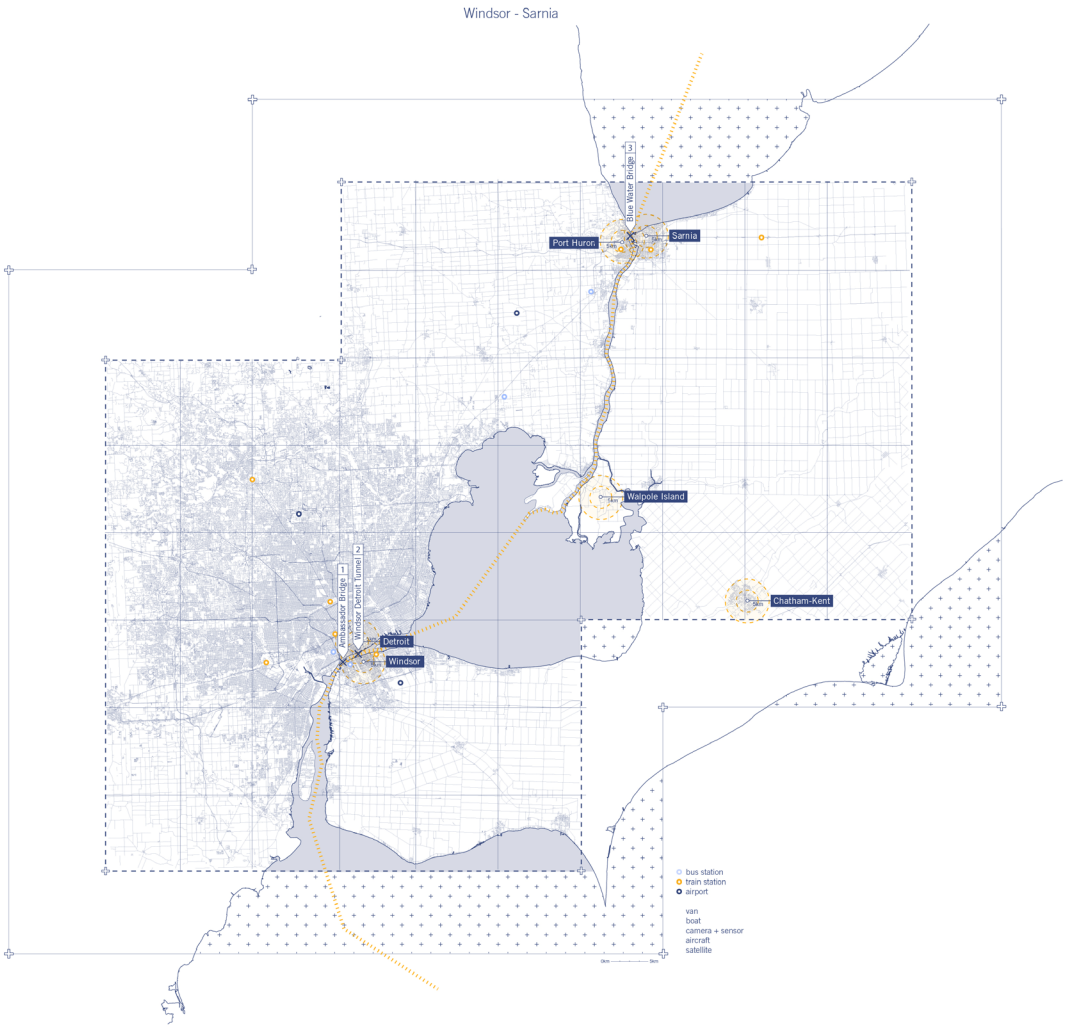


A small rural border crossing with limited hours and a single lane. Often closed in bad weather. The infrastructure is that same as was created in 1935, it is on the national historic registry. It was established in response to the Prohibition and remained important in helping to stop smuggling.

Roxham Road was an official Canadian port of entry until the 1950's. The U.S. never had a posting here, it was one way travel. The Canadian infrastructure is now a private Canadian residence. Recently, Canada has setup a temporary registration center to process the thousands of irregular migrants that cross yearly.

Champlain - Lacolle is the only major land crossing between New York and Canada that does not involve a river crossing. It is the primary border crossing between Quebec and New York. It is the second busiest Canadian border crossing that isn't located on a bridge.

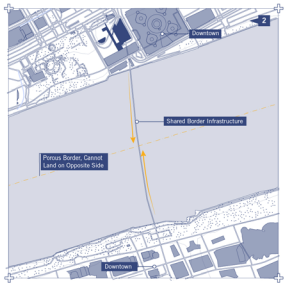
Border crossing and conditions at the Quebec and New York border (data from MapCruzin, n.d.)



Ambassador Bridge

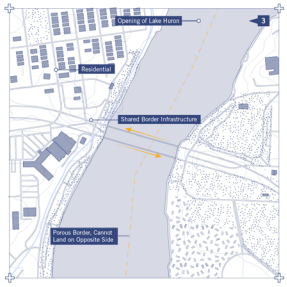
The Ambassador Bridge is the busiest United States / Canada truck crossing and handles around 8,000 trucks and 68,000 travelers daily. In terms of trade, it is also the busiest North American crossing; 25% of all merchandise trade occurs here. Because it is heavily used for trade (and is the most used route for passage) controversies exist over its private ownership.

Detroit - Windsor Tunnel



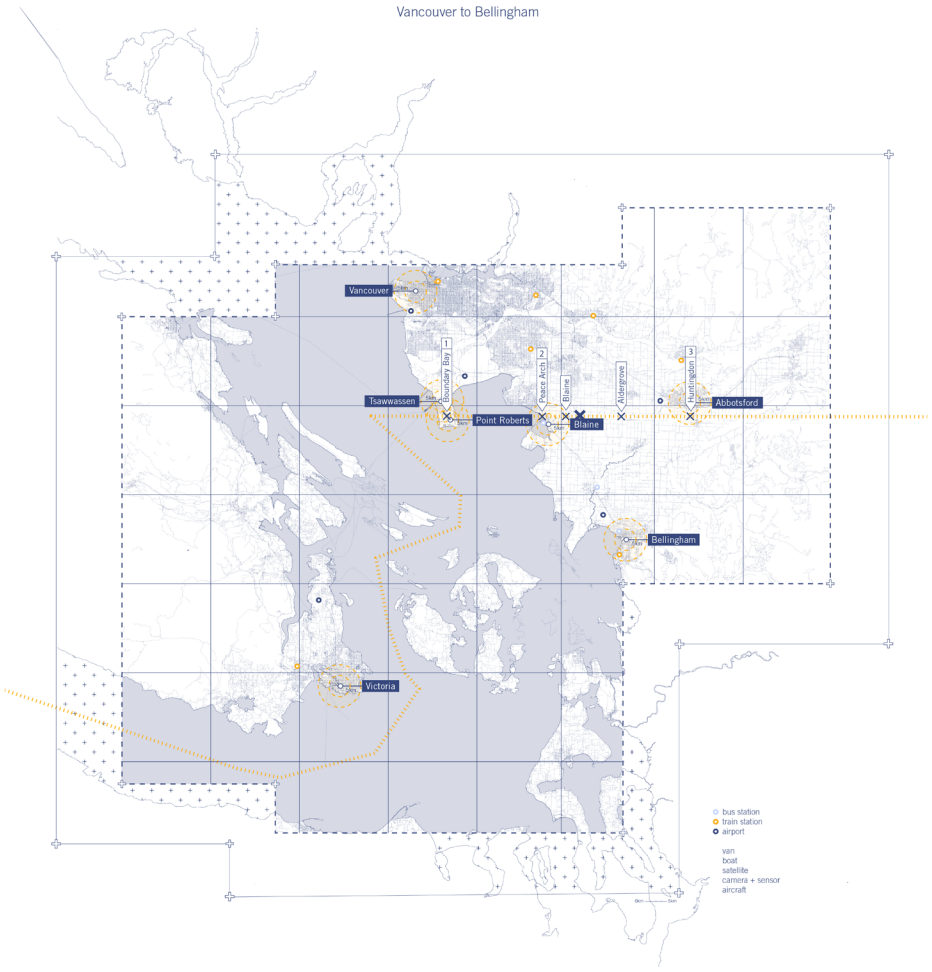
The Detroit-Windsor Tunnel crossing is a large complex consisting of toll and inspection plazas on each side of the border where you pay your toll and undergo customs inspections. The tunnel is only one lane in each direction and is not tall enough for larger trucks. The traffic is therefore largely autos and smaller commercial vehicles. This is the second busiest border crossing between the United States and Canada.

Blue Water Bridge



Prior to its creation a ferry used to take travelers back and forth. However, now highways 401 and 402 are two of the busiest highways in Canada. As part of a major transportation corridor, this is one of the busiest border crossings between the U.S. and Canada. In 2017, it processed 1,579,646 cars and 826,288 trucks.

Border crossing and conditions at the Ontario and Michigan border (data from MapCruzin, n.d.).



Point Roberts - Boundary Bay

When the border between the United States and Canada was established as the 49th parallel it cut straight through the southern tip of the Tsawwassen Peninsula. This created a chunk of U.S. territory that cannot be reached by land from the U.S. It is one of only four locations in the contiguous United States not directly connected to the lower 48, the others being Elm Point, Minnesota, Angle Inlet, Minnesota, and the town of Alburgh, Vermont.

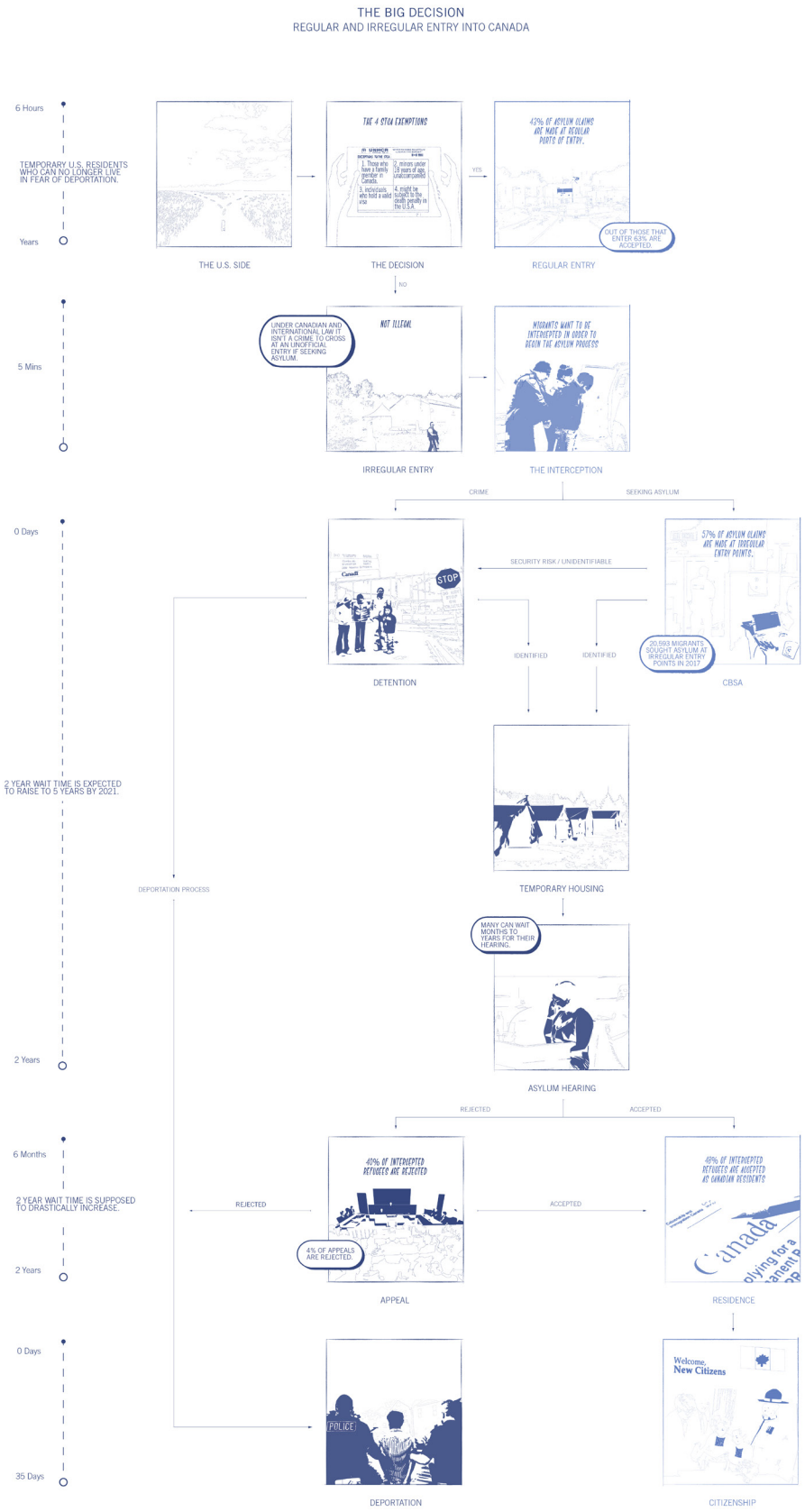
Peace Arch

Peace Arch is the third busiest United States / Canadian border crossing for passenger auto traffic. About 3,500 cars pass through it on a slow day, and as many as 4,800 cars on a busy day. As a consequence, the wait time entering either the United States or Canada can reach 4 hours at various times of the day. Commercial vehicles are not allowed to use this port.

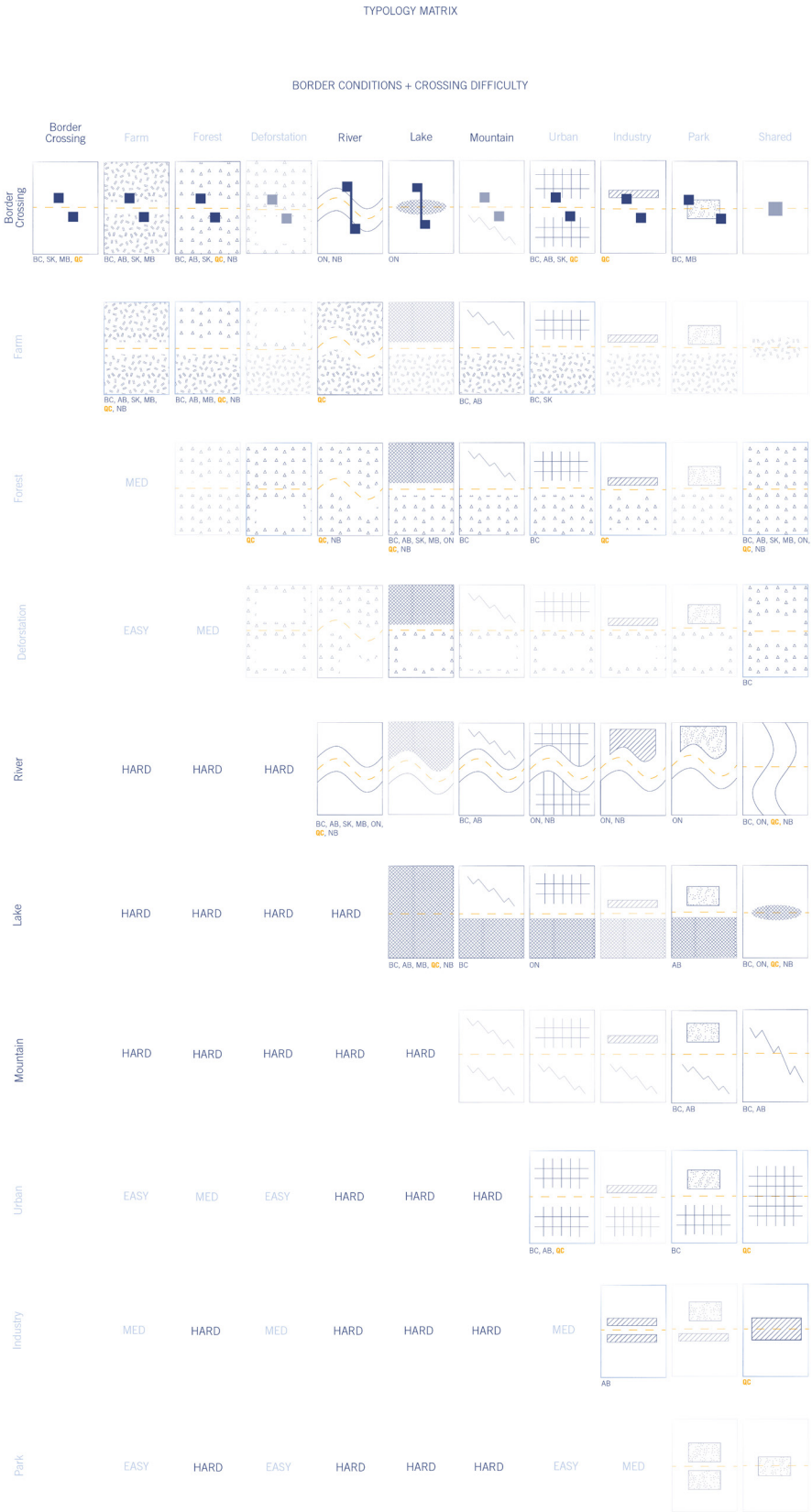
Sumas - Abbotsford

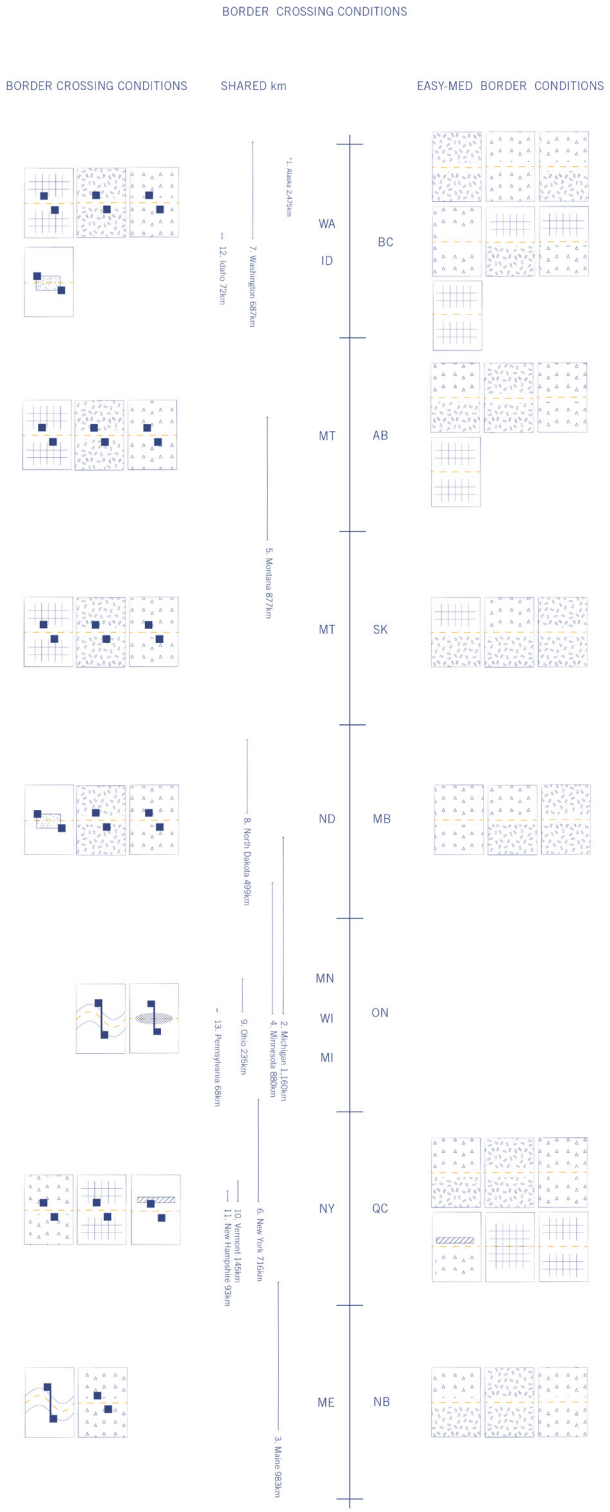
Although this is one of the highest volume border crossings between the two countries. Although it took years for settlements to be built on both sides of the border, it has always been an important crossing in Canadian history since being established in 1846. It is an ideal location due to the flat land that allows the easy creation of roads and railways.

Border crossing and conditions at the British Columbia and Washington border (data from MapCruzin, n.d.)

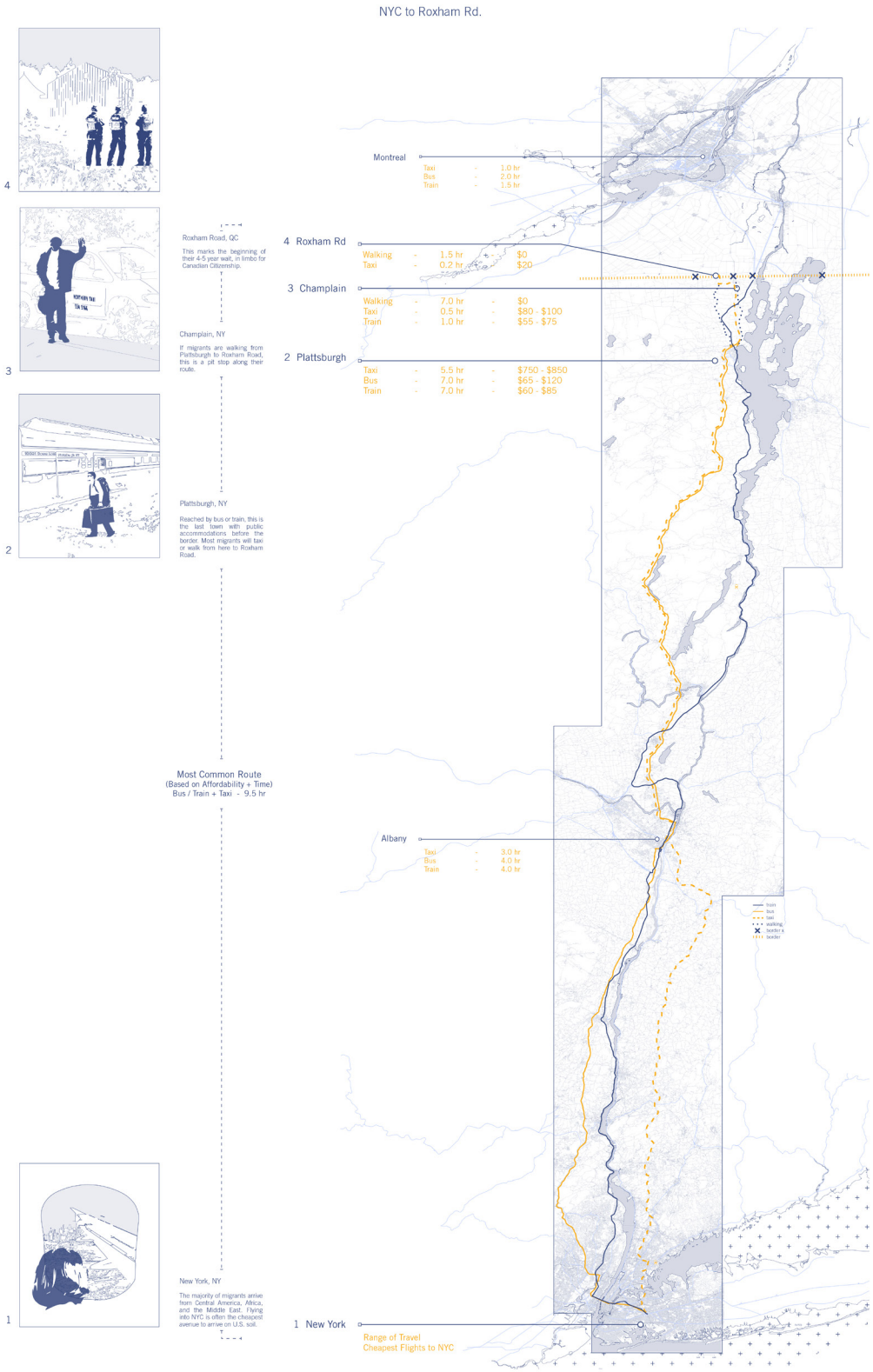


Process of interception when crossing irregularly at the Canada - U.S. border.

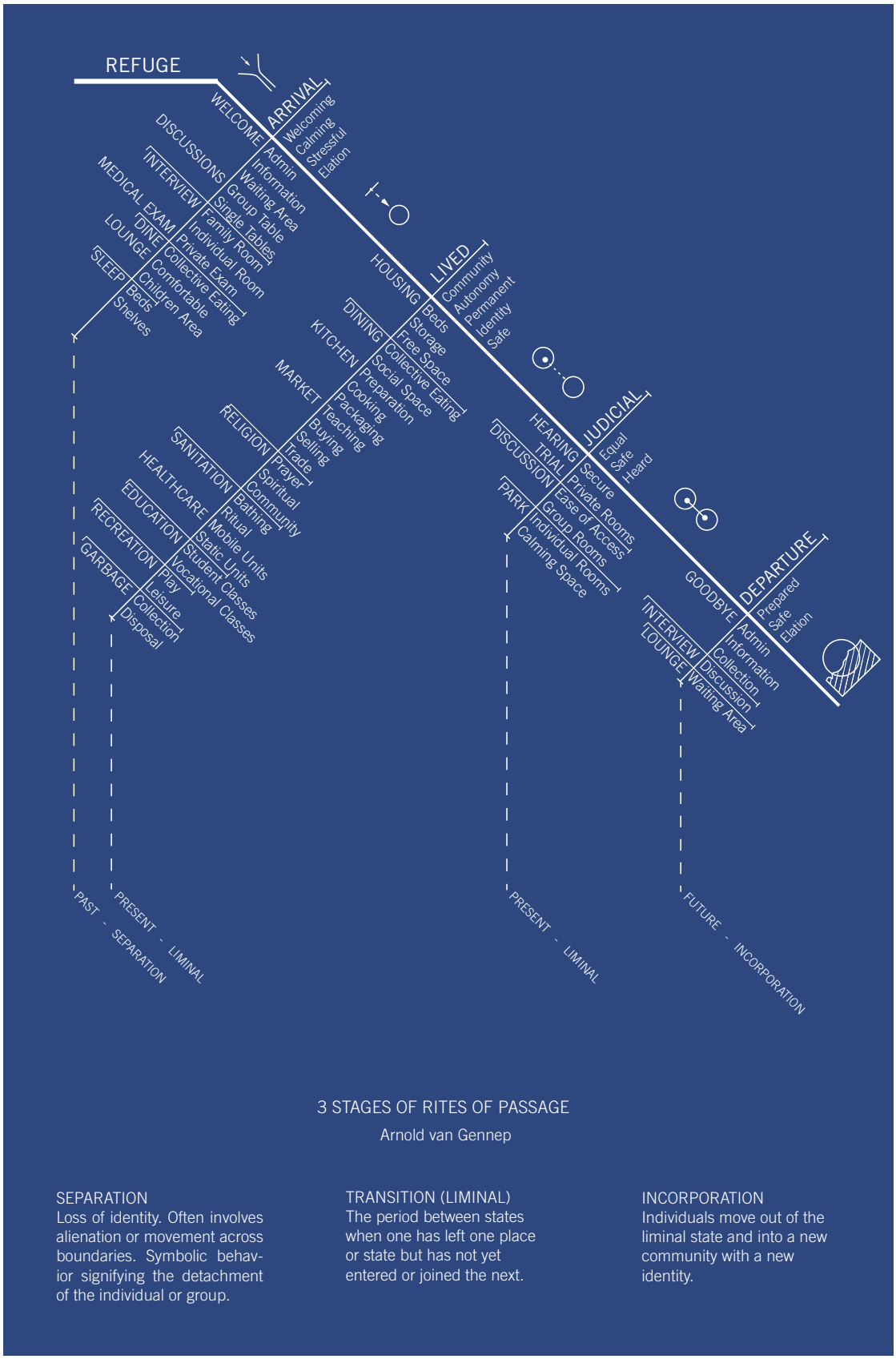

TYPOLOGY MATRIX
BORDER CONDITIONS + CROSSING DIFFICULTY
Border Crossing
Farm
Forest
Deforestation
River
Lake
Mountain
Urban
Industry
Park
Shared
MED
EASY
MED
HARD
HARD
HARD



Border typologies, shared distances, and high level of difficulty across the Canada - U.S. border (data from Google Earth 2020).

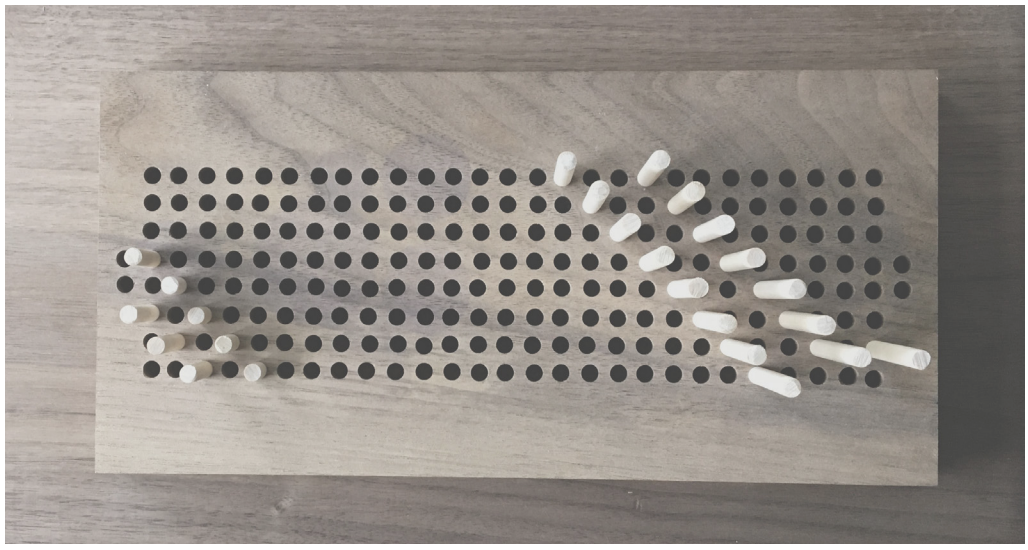


Cost, locations, and durations of routes migrants take from New York City to Roxham Road. Based on these distances programmatic requirements were developed (data from MapCruizin, n.d.).



Program diagram, illustrating the groupings of granular programming.

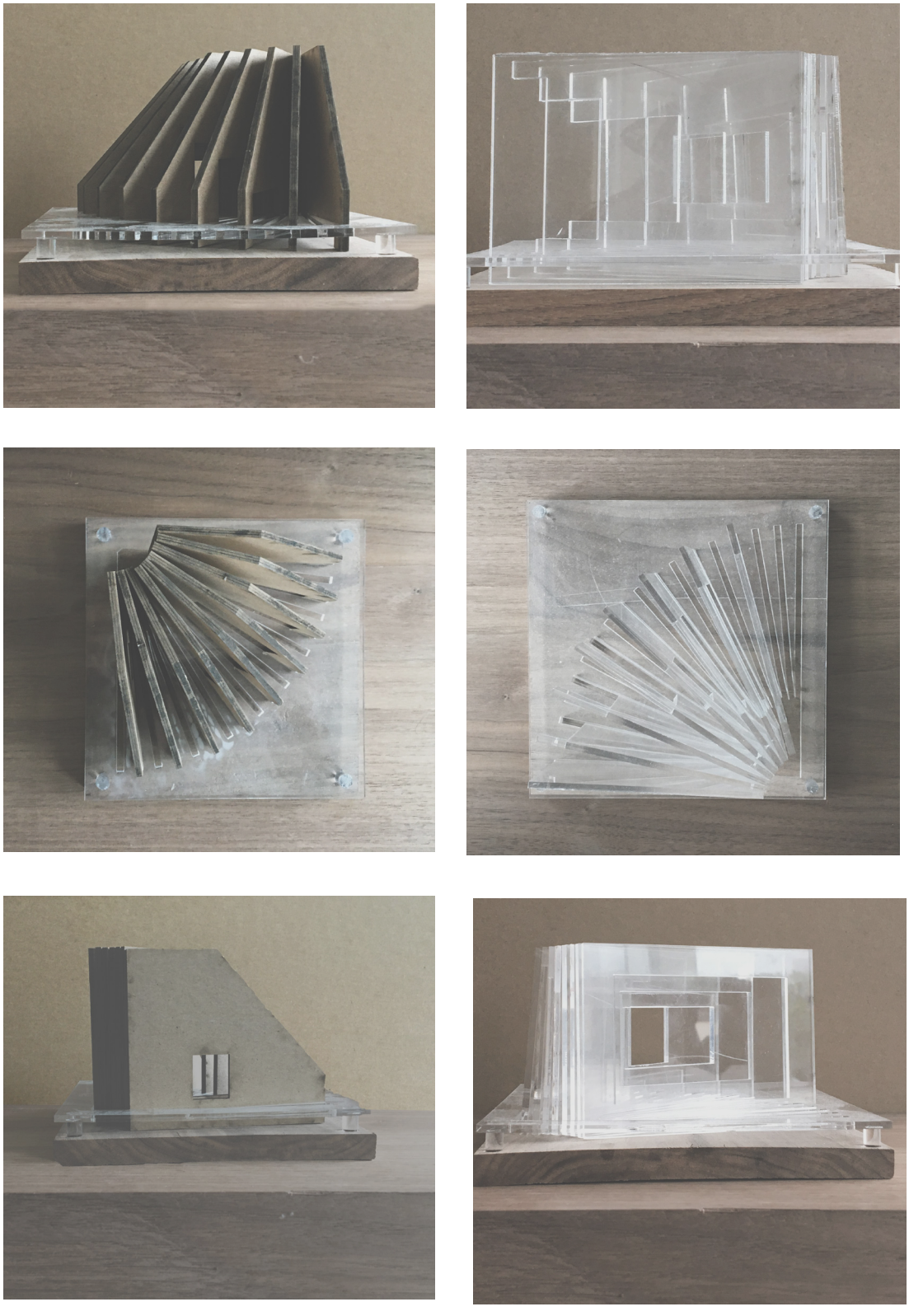
Appendix C: Physical Models



Model to test infinite field conditions, dowels are representative of the bladeless turbines used as a tool of deception on site.

Site model. Etched context, sections on the sides, and two verses of Warsan Shire's Poem "Home."

Test concept models of the folded facade.



Test concept models looking at sightlines through a mass.

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