

Trespassing Barriers An Architectural Intervention on the India-Pakistan Border

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Abstract

BORDER: The line that separates a country from another. An artificial term created and maintained exclusively by men. It is a concept that brings to mind physical barriers, restrictions, and limits in all aspects; it could decline into difference, discrimination, and violence. Here there is no imaginary line. One discovers it, not in an immediate and choking effort, but gradually and in a pacific way.

Wall and fence are then transformed into curtains made of cotton spun, arranged in a way that denies the vision of what is beyond. It is a fluid and of easy penetration “frontier”, which now cries out to be transposed, through which one can have a sensorial experience when crossing to the other side - graduation is the path to elucidation.

After this first contact, a big plaza opens itself to celebrate life. It is a natural space for festivals, and most importantly, connects oneself to others.

The same plaza is also a long path to where the cultural exchange reaches its peak. A gallery rises. It gathers together both cultures. The sufferings caused by the wars are remembered. Traditions and festivals are celebrated.

Communion is found at the center: two curtains are placed above the circular slab, which gently lays down on top of the main structure; the curtains can be seen through the two circular holes in the slab. They symbolize both countries, and every people represented in that place; they are a landmark, a monument, a memory to be kept.

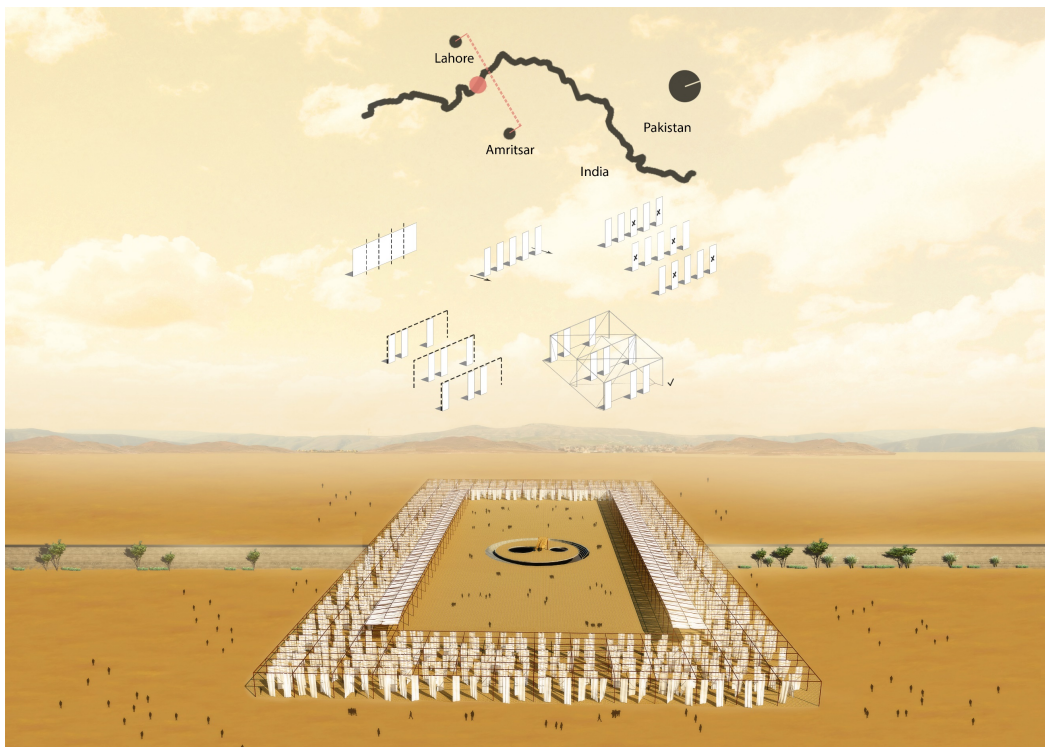


Figure 1. Aerial perspective including the localization drawing of the intervention between borders and also a diagram of the curtain structure genesis. Source: Author's drawing.



Figure 2. Crossing the border – wall and fence are now transformed into curtains. Source: Author's drawing.



Figure 3. The underground Gallery, located at the center of the great plaza. On top of the slab, two curtains representing both countries and its population. Source: Author's drawing.