

UCSD and Mexicali architectural faculties to hold conference on architectural urbanism along the U.S./Mexico border, December 5-6

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UCSD AND MEXICALI ARCHITECTURAL FACULTIES TO HOLD CONFERENCE ON BORDER ISSUES
DECEMBER 5-6

A conference about architecture and urbanism along the U.S./Mexico border will be sponsored Dec. 5-6 by the University of California, San Diego, School of Architecture and the Universidad Autonoma Baja California (UABC) Facultad de Arquitectura of Mexicali.

Entitled "La Frontera: From Margins to Metropolis," the conference's first day of sessions will be held in the Robinson Complex Auditorium at UCSD; the Dec. 6 sessions will be held on the UABC campus in Tijuana.

The conference will join organizations on both sides of the border in dialogue about how San Diego and Tijuana can become a single vital, international city.

School of Architecture Dean Adele Naude Santos noted that "there is widespread consensus that San Diego/Tijuana is a region wrought with contemporary urban questions and rich with opportunities. Geographically, we are one city on the landscape, despite the international border that keeps us distinct, politically, economically and culturally.

"As the region grows rapidly and NAFTA becomes a reality, new questions arise about how San Diego and Tijuana will relate. This conference will join academics, professionals and interested persons on both sides of the border who are interested in urbanization and is intended as a first step toward a common vision."

The Dec. 5 discussion will center on architecture and urban design, exploring such topics as housing, interesting projects, issues of practice and the economic, ecological and cultural contexts that affect urbanization. The Dec. 6 session will feature presentation of Zona Norte (a district in Tijuana) as a design problem. Teams will work in an intensive three-hour session on developing possible solutions to the challenges of Zona Norte; each team will be multidisciplinary, multicultural and include both professionals, academics, students and members of the public.

In addition to creating dialogue, specific goals of the conference include:

- * Working toward the creation of a formal mechanism of communication between professional organizations on both sides of the border;

- * Additional steps to implement the vision for "Zona Norte that the conference charette (design session) creates.

Keynote speakers for the two-day session will include architect Alejandro Zohn of Guadalajara, architectural writer Louise Noelle Mereles of Mexicali, architect Mark Mack of Los Angeles, and architect Antoine Predock of Albuquerque.

Among noted panelists are Manuel Esparza Leon, director of urban administration in Mexicali; James Robbins, president of the San Diego Chapter, American Institute of Architects; Chuck Nathanson, director of San Diego Dialogue; Larry Herzog, professor in the Mexican-American Studies Program at San Diego State University, and architect Rob Wellington Quigley of San Diego.

Panel topics include Architecture at the Margins; Urban Design--Bridges Not Borders; Transcending Borders--Issues of Architectural Practice; Architecture as Cultural Identity; Major Civic Projects, and Affordable Housing: Comparative Solutions.

The public is welcome to attend. Registration is \$30 for both days (\$10 for students). Additional information can be obtained by calling 534-3920.

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