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Between boundaries: a new border post at Beitbridge

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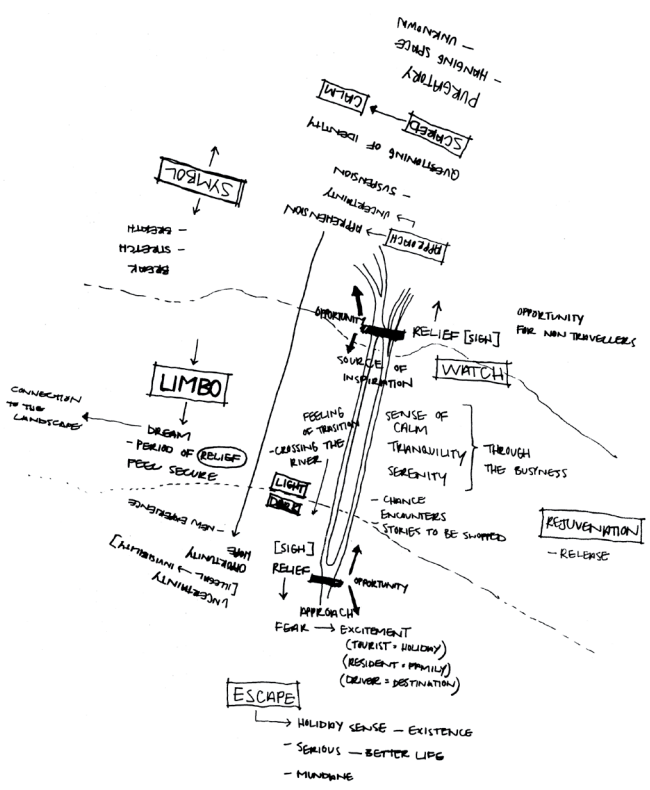

PUBLIC
- STRETCH
- BREATH
SYMBOL
- SUSPENSION
UNCERTAINTY
APPREHENSION
APPROACH
OPPORTUNITY
RELIEF [SIGH]
OPPORTUNITY
FOR NON TRAVELLERS
SOURCE OF INSPIRATION
WATCH
LIMBO
CONNECTION TO THE LANDSCAPE
DREAM
- PERIOD OF RELIEF
FEEL SECURE
FEELING OF TRANSITION
- CROSSING THE RIVER
SENSE OF CALM
TRANQUILITY
SERENITY
THROUGH THE BUSYNESS
- CHANCE ENCOUNTERS
- STORIES TO BE SHARED
LIGHT
DARK
REJUVENATION
- RELEASE
[SIGH]
RELIEF
OPPORTUNITY
APPROACH
FEAR → EXCITEMENT
(TOURIST = HOLIDAY)
(RESIDENT = FAMILY)
(DRIVER = DESTINATION)
ESCAPE
HOLIDAY SENSE — EXISTENCE
- SERIOUS — BETTER LIFE
- MUNDANE

Programme

- Cultural/Recreational and Trading Facilities
  - Market Place
    - Open space for Informal Traders
    - Showcasing Rooms for Cross Border Traders
    - Formal Retail
    - Fresh Produce
  - Pit Stop
    - Restaurants/Taverns/Nightclub
    - Public Pool
    - Departure Lounges
    - Temporary Rest Area
    - Viewing Decks
  - Rail Platform
  - Radio Station (Broadcasting Room)
- Security
  - Police Services (SAPS/ZRP/Interpol)
  - Deportation Centre (International Organisation for Migration)
    - Counselling Rooms
    - Clinic
    - Holding Area/Processing
    - Waiting Area
    - Office Space
  - Magistrates Court
    - Court Room
    - Judge's Chambers
    - Waiting/Consultation Area
- Border Function/Process
  - Departments
    - Revenue Authority (SARS/ZIMRA)
    - Immigration (SA/ZIM)
    - Agriculture (SA/ZIM)
    - Port Health (SA/ZIM)
    - Environmental Department (SA/ZIM)
    - Vehicle Inspection Department (SA/ZIM)
    - Vetinary Services (SA/ZIM)
    - BCOCC (Overall Border Management)
  - Processing
    - Pedestrian (including Cross Border Traders)
      - Immigration Counters (Ent/Exit)
      - Customs
    - Light Vehicles
      - Drive Through System including Immigration and Customs
      - Parking
    - Buses and other People Carriers
      - Drop off Area (Processed in Freight Area)
    - Freight
      - Processing Area
      - Fast Track Lane
      - Parking
      - Search and Scanning Sheds
      - Weighbridge



Fig 3.0.1. An X-ray scanner at a border post in Mexico discovers illegal immigrants attempting to cross the border in a freight truck.

Programme

The programme and accommodation schedule for this exploration into a new border post at Beitbridge has been based on a number of experiences, interviews and reports that have been conducted on borders in general and at the current Beitbridge post. It is a multi layered programme that seeks to accommodate traders and travellers in No Man's land with emphasis being placed on the transition that one is making from one country to another. It is aimed at creating an atmosphere of opportunity and culturally based possibility. Spaces are provided for various types of traders to sell and showcase their goods. Informal traders will occupy the open space where routes of movement are the busiest, whilst formal spaces will be provided for traders with larger quantities of imported goods from various global locations.

In addition, the program is aimed at celebrating the journey and creating an environment that promotes the chance encounters between travellers. There are rest areas in the form of departure lounges, restaurants and a platform on the river to remove oneself from the busyness above. A public pool will allow for a safe swim in the river in addition to promoting interaction between travellers.

This space will operate on a 24 hour basis as to match the operating times of the border. as a result, the space will adapt according to day and night. An area relating to the level of the pedestrian bridge will act as the main open market place where trader will sell their goods, and a lower level is based on the idea of a street above the river where smaller showcasing and exhibition rooms will feed off the passing vehicular and foot traffic. The aim is to provide infrastructure that acts as an anchor for these activities to occur, however, it is also the unexpected and informal events that are key to this proposal and require open space to occur. It is a place of assembly, meeting and gathering – a form of a modern agora. Access to the internet is also crucial in this space as countless business deals and transactions will occur and therefore the entire space will act as a hotspot, allowing to travellers to connect wirelessly.

> "Entry into the vast space of the departures hall heralded the opportunity, characteristic in the transport nodes of the modern world, to observe people with discretion, to forget oneself in a sea of otherness and to let the imagination loose on the limitless supply of fragmentary stories provided by the eye and ear"
>
> -Alain de Botton, A Heathrow Diary (2009)



Fig. 3.1.1. Soapstone sculptures for sale.



Fig. 3.1.2. Illegal immigrants climbing a fence outside of Beitbridge.

Trading and Recreation in No Man's Land

As previously mentioned, a focus is on the transitionary space that lies within No Man's land, with one of the major function being based of the trading and showcasing of goods. This space will form a type of free trading zone that will have benefits to the trader in terms of tax and customs procedures. The detailed accommodation schedule of No Man's land provides a breakdown of the types of activities that will be accommodated within this space. An additional diagram is an illustration of the target users and the system in which they will operate within No Man's Land.

Security and Illegal activity

Issues surrounding security and illegal activity are of high importance at a border post and need to be addressed both independently and in conjunction with governmental departments. Deportations are of a major concern at Beitbridge with a large number of deportations occurring on a daily basis. Therefore a deportation centre, run by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) will be included in the programme. The role of this centre is to provide medical and financial assistance where possible, in addition to counselling. A small district court will handle matters relating to legal issues in the border region. Larger issues will be forwarded to the Musina Magistrates court. Interpol offer an independent security presence in the aim of further reducing crime and corruption. Holding cells for criminals awaiting trial or deportation will be run by the ZRP and SAPS.

Border Function and Processing

With regard to the border function and process, the main factors in shaping the accommodation schedule and various requirements have been the Transport Logistics Consultant's Situational Analysis at Beitbridge Border Post between Zimbabwe and South Africa Final Report, November 2009, and the United Nations and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation's (OSCE) A Handbook for Best Practices at Border Crossings – A Trade and Transport Facilitation Perspective, 2012.

The Situational Analysis conducted by TLC was a project conducted by stakeholders in the post in order to move the border to a One Stop Border Post model. A Task team of various stakeholders and Ministers was established to conduct this process and in order for them to proceed, they "needed to be provided with an up to date independent or unbiased report of the situation on the ground at Beitbridge." (Fitzmaurice, 2009:3). The final report was released in November 2009 and is a comprehensive report of the existing infrastructure and requirements needed in order for the Beitbridge Border Post to be upgraded to a functional One Stop Border Post. Included in the document are proposed traffic flow diagrams for the implementation of the one stop model and have been used in part to inform the flow of traffic proposed in this thesis.

The border is a 24 hour facility and both sides operate on a three shift basis, with the first shift operating from 06h00 – 14h00, the second shift running from 14h00 – 22h00 and the final shift from 22h00 – 06h00. Many of the departments require a standby shift in case of any unexpected problems that may arise.



Fig. 3.1.3. A trailer loaded with chips or 'scopas' approaching the border.



Fig. 3.1.4. Queues at Beitbridge in the early hours of the morning.



























Fast Track





















Cross Border Trader



Customs



Scanner



Pedestrian



Relevant Documentation



Immigration



Weighbridge

Detailed Accomodation Schedule

South African Governmental Departments

Department	Function	Number of Shifts	Staff per Shift	Additional Information	Privacy
South African Revenue Services (SARS)	Clearance of Imported and Exported Goods out of and into South Africa Collection of Duties and Taxes	3 + 1 Standby	17	Officers are scattered across the border dealing with the various users. Offices are required.	
Home Affairs (Immigration)	Clearance of tourists, foot travellers, bus passengers and commercial drivers entering and exiting South Africa Monthly reports and statistics Processing of Permits	3 + 1 Standby	27	1 Supervisor and 2 Security Officers per shift	
Department of Agriculture	Physical examinations of imported and exported goods. Checking of documentation	3 + 1 Standby	8	1 Supervisor, 3 Commercial Officers, 4 passenger Officers and 1 Foot and Mouth Officer per shift	
Port Health	Compliance of Food related documentation for import Maintain public ablutions and administer health advice	3	4	1 Supervisor and 3 Officers	
South African Police Services (SAPS)	To secure Official, Travellers, Commercial drivers and Property through patrols, crime prevention and inspections	3 + 1 Standby	75	Split into three core units: Anti-Smuggling, General Patrols and Policing, and Vehicle Inspections. Senior Officers for all departments	

*Additional Facilities including meeting rooms, storage, ablutions, kitchens and various processing related programme has been added

Zimbabwean Governmental Departments

Department	Function	Number of Shifts	Staff per Shift	Additional Information	Privacy
Zimbabwean Revenue Services (ZIMRA)	Clearance of Imported and Exported Goods out of and into Zimbabwe Collection of Duties and Taxes Prevention of Smuggling	3 + 1 Standby	90	Officers are scattered across the border dealing with the various users. Offices are required. The ZIMRA officials carry out many of the duties that the SAPS in South Africa perform.	
Immigration	Clearance of tourists, foot travellers, bus passengers and commercial drivers entering and exiting Zimbabwe Monthly reports and statistics Processing of Permits	3 + 1 Standby	25	1 Accounting Officer and 2 Security Officers per shift	
Department of Agriculture	Physical examinations of imported and exported goods. Checking of documentation	3 + 1 Standby	7	Comprises of Inspectors, Assistant Inspectors and Lab Hands	
Port Health	Compliance of Food related documentation for import Maintain public ablutions and administer health advice Inspection of human remains and second hand clothing	3	4	1 Supervisor and 3 Officers	
Zimbabwean Regional Police (ZRP)	To secure Official, Travellers, Commercial drivers and Property through patrols, crime prevention and inspections	3 + 1 Standby	25	Split between patrolling officers, vehicle inspection and anti-smuggling (in conjunction with ZIMRA)	
Vetinary Services	Compliance of Animal and Vet related documentation	3 + 1 Standby	4		
Vehicle Inspection Department	Commercial sector based. Weighing and selling coupons to Trucks. Drivers license testing.	3	8	Based in the Commercial Processing Zone.	
Environmental Management Agency (EMA)	Deals with the transportation of Hazardous Goods	3 + day staff	2	2 Officers per shift, Manager and 2 day staff	

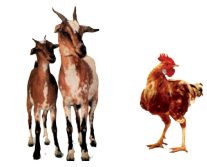
Private Semi-Public Public

Food

Informal — Market Place











Formal — Shops





Goods





Informal — Market Place







Formal — Showcasing Units/Rooms





Secondhand Vehicles



Formal — Showcasing Units/Rooms; Informal Auction



Internet Cafe

Wi-fi Hotspot





Storage Lockers for rent



Services



Radio Station



Informal — Market Place



Formal — Restaurants, Taverns, cafes



Craft





Informal — Market Place

Formal — Curio Shop







Detailed Accomodation Schedule

Space of Cultural Possibilities (No Man's Land)

Programme	Function	Operating Hours	Additional Information	Privacy
Market Place	Open Market space to allow for informal and formal traders to showcase and sell their various goods	24/7	Free trade zone and will form around travellers movements across the bridges.	
District Court	Magistrate's court is located in Musina and therefore this court will handle smaller cases related to the border district.	Standard work hours	Included are the judge's chambers and secretary office. All major cases will be sent to Musina. Holding cells in close proximity and prison is in Beitbridge town.	
Interpol	Interpol holds an independant security presence and will therfore mediate between the SAPS and ZRP.	24/7	Located next to the court and can assist with the court procedures.	
Deportation Centre	The deportation centre is run independantly by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and its role is to process and assist deported persons through counselling, health and financial advice.	24/7	Contains a clinic, counselling rooms, ablutions and offices.	
Holding Cells	Temporary holding area for certain deported persons and persons awaiting trial in the court.	24/7	Contains office space for processing purposes.	
Radio Station	Communication at a border post is vital and the function of the radio station will be to broadcast information to travellers.	24/7	Broadcasting room located in the rail platform connection.	
Internet Cafe	Accomodates eight stations.	24/7	Internet is an important resource in the area and the entire space will be a wifi hotspot.	
Rail Platform with Ticket Office	Access and ticket sales for north and southbound trains	24/7	This is a stop between the existing stations at Musina and Beitbridge to allow for access to the facilities on the bridge.	
Public Swimming Pool	Pool located in the river to allow for safe public access to swimming in the river	Daylight	The pool will be enclosed with a steel caged bottom for protection from wildlife but will allow for river water to filter through	
Rest Platform	Situated on the river and slightly removed for a quiet place of rest. Includes hammock booths and food and drink stalls	24/7	Designated quiet area with hammocks to rent by the hour. Removed from the busyness of the bridges.	
Viewing Decks	Decks from which to pause and observe the surrounding landscape.	24/7	Can also be used for fishing, with the fish being sold as part of the market.	
Formal Retail	Retail space is provided for small shops selling supermarket products and everyday goods.	24/7	Separate model to the showcasing room as these would be rented to chainstores/small store owners. Regulated products to be sold.	
Restaurants/Taverns/ Bars	Types of entertainment in the form of restaurants, taverns/nightclub and pool bars are scattered across the space.	24/7	Types of restaurants range greatly from small scale rooms with a stove and sink to larger restaurants with a separate kitchen.	
Departure lounges	Formal and informal public places for rest.	24/7	Programmed areas with seating and pool tables and unprogrammed spaces for pause and rest.	
Showcase Rooms	Showcase rooms of various sizes for various types of traders and goods. some contain smaller storage facilities.	24/7	Open rooms available for rent to a variety of traders. Goods are showcased and orders are placed. Collections occur elsewhere.	
Trader Storage	Lock up storage for traders.	24/7	Small lockers can be rented for storage of goods.	
Public Ablutions	Male and Female Ablutions located in various areas across no man's land.	24/7	Includes changerooms for swimming pool in the block closest to the pool.	
Busking/Performance	Open areas demarcated for performance and busking use.	24/7	Open for use for performance, public announcements, musicians, advertisments.	
Underground Parking	Underground parking facilities for light vehicles.	24/7	200 bays each for northbound and southbound.	

Private Semi-Public Public