

EVERYBODY ONE AT A TIME ALL THE TIME

Within the Tijuana/San Diego corridor several forms have arisen that effectively articulate the nuanced problematics of this complex border. It would be difficult for a sculpture to add to the multiple comments/objects that have arisen spontaneously – the most dramatic example being the border wall plunging into the ocean. My project will mimic the existing conditions creating a parallel situation. With that goal in mind, I will manufacture a desire, enclose it within a border, create the appropriate key to cross the barrier, give the key away to parts of the public, and then release the situation to develop on its own.

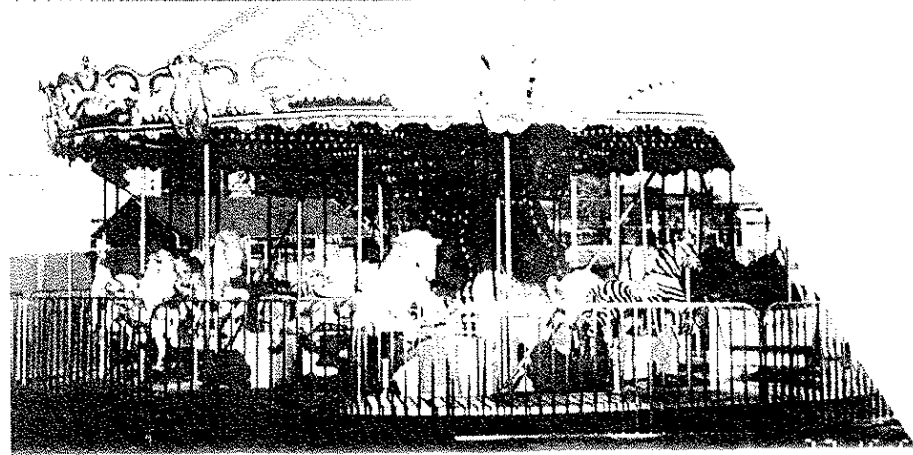
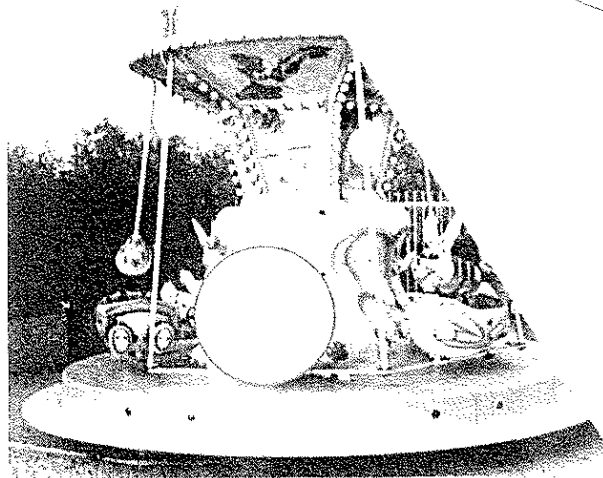
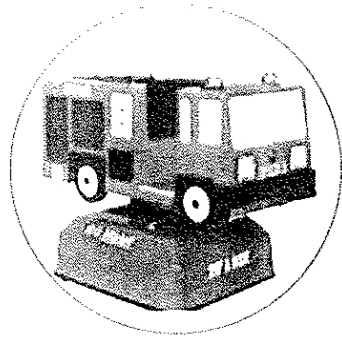
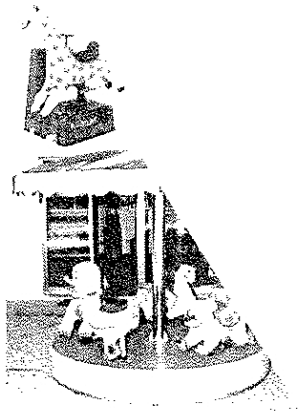
The project will be activated by three distinct elements. Each element is scalable and adaptable depending on funds, obstacles, bureaucracy, etc. Ideally all three elements should be manifest, but it is possible to activate the situation in a variety of ways. The emphasis is on adaptability, agility, effectiveness and feasibility.

SEAPORT	tug boat
AIRPORT	control tower door
SMALL PARK	storage shed
BIG PARK	monument maintenance door
ZOO	tiger's cage
STADIUM	concession stand door
MARINA	gate
POLICE	police car
FIRE	fire truck, station house
HOSPITAL	drugstore door
PRISON	prisoner's cell
SCHOOL	principal's office
COLLEGE	classroom
LIBRARY	reserve stacks
MUSEUM	storage room
HOME	door to apartment building
BUSINESS	McDonalds
RAIL SYSTEM	locomotive
BUS SYSTEM	bus
NAVY	destroyer captain's room
AIR FORCE	airplane
ARMY	tank
GOVERNMENT	major general's office
ELECTRIC	turbine room
WATER	water treatment plant
WASTE	garbage truck

THE KEY TO THE CITY

The key to the city is a symbolic object. I want to literalize that symbol and create a key to San Diego and Tijuana. Thus, the locks to several spaces in both cities would be changed so they can be opened by a single master key. The key will only be potentially real; but in its concreteness, it would activate the imagination in a localized and specific way. For example, the mayors of San Diego and Tijuana could be persuaded to change the lock of the door to their offices; but only if that door is not accessible without first going through other locked and guarded doors. The lock to the tiger's cage could be changed, but only

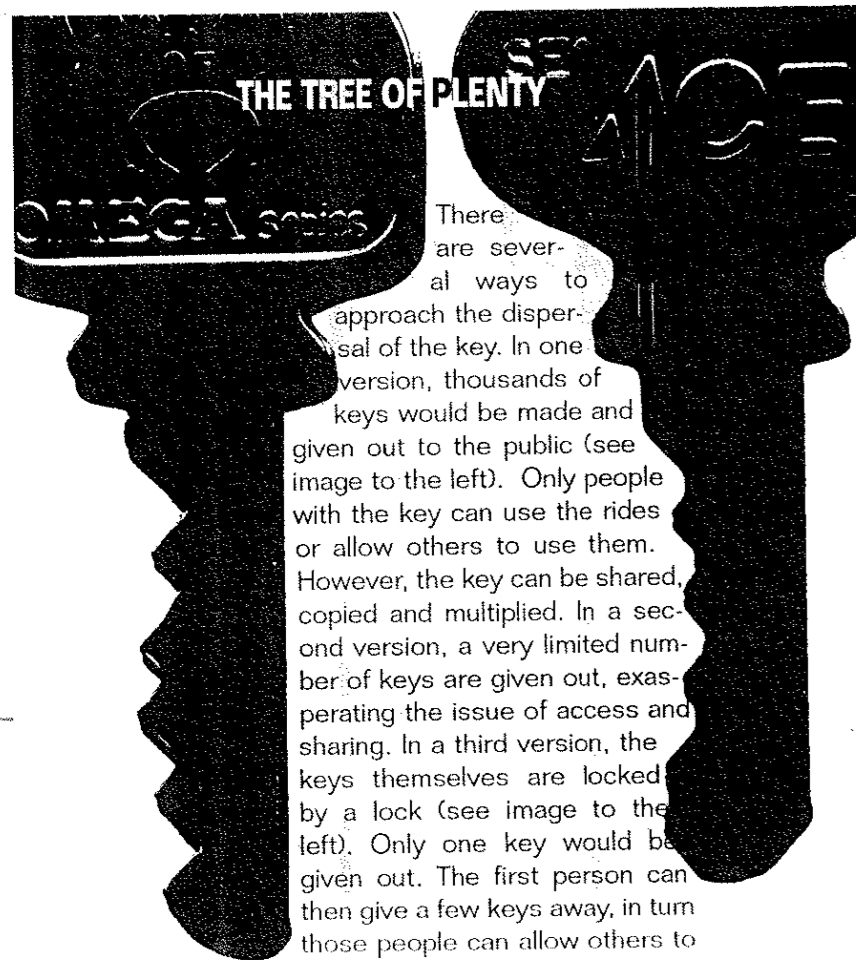
if the cage is in an area closed to the public. Negotiating in this way, it will be possible to change the locks of a fire truck, a plane, a library, an aircraft carrier, etc. Eventually creating a sense that the key truly is the key to the city. The meaning of the piece will be insinuated by the accumulation of spaces that the key pretends to open but can't. It might allow the question of what exactly denies access beyond the lock.



THE CAROUSEL

The key will truly deliver on a single desirable space: a carousel or similar children's ride. The carousel will be the attractor that activates the situation. It will be the one object of desire that the key can open among the many spaces that it cannot. With unlimited funding the carousel would be a beautiful grand object, where miniatures of the spaces unlocked by the key replace the horses.

Thus, the horses would become a fire truck, a tiger free of its cage, the mayor's house, the power plant, etc. However, the carousel can be reformulated to be a series of custom-made individual rides (which would have the advantage of being 'self-serve'), or a generic rented carousel (perhaps more exiting, but logistically more difficult to manage its access with a key).



There are several ways to approach the dispersal of the key. In one version, thousands of keys would be made and given out to the public (see image to the left). Only people with the key can use the rides or allow others to use them. However, the key can be shared, copied and multiplied. In a second version, a very limited number of keys are given out, exacerbating the issue of access and sharing. In a third version, the keys themselves are locked by a lock (see image to the left). Only one key would be given out. The first person can then give a few keys away, in turn those people can allow others to get keys, and so on.

A proposal by Paul Ramirez Jonas for InSite05

Any border or barrier can be crossed given the right key. A letter can cross the ocean through means of a stamp. A locked space can be accessed given the right key. A border can be crossed with the right passport. There are many other barriers each with its own key: money, passwords, secret handshakes, language, etc.

