DEFENDING WALLS

A SCALAR CATALOGUE OF LIMA'S WALLS
WALL

noun

1. a continuous vertical brick or stone structure that encloses or divides an area of land. “a garden wall”

2. a thing regarded as a protective or restrictive barrier. “police investigating the murders met a wall of silence from witnesses”

verb

1. enclose (an area) within walls, especially for protection or privacy. “parts of the city’s East End had been walled off with concrete barricades”
INTRODUCTION
The colonial city was bounded by the Rimac river to the North. Over the years the city grew beyond its walls and extended northwards towards the river, during the Spanish colonial rule, then south-west wards towards Port Callao when Peru became independent from the Spanish Empire. The walls were torn down towards the end of the 19th century to increase the city’s limits. The dissolution of boundaries in 1872, industrialization of the nation in the 1920s and neoliberalist reforms in 1992 enabled the city to grow exponentially during the 20th century.
DIVIDED CITY

After the neoliberalist reforms by Fujimori in 1991 to 1994, there was a rapid increase in poverty levels, from 27% in 1985 to 40% in 2000. The Fujimori reforms resulted in the loss of 100,000 jobs in the industrial sector and 30,000 layoffs within the government sector. The demise of the middle class had vast impacts on Peru’s urban landscape, large malls began emerging within the city, dramatically reconfiguring the traditional spaces of centrality, office towers begin cropping up in the more affluent neighbourhoods. What followed was a series of glorification and urban tragedies in different parts of the city – Central Lima became the first world for the rich (San Isidro, Miraflores, etc holds 99% of the rich) whilst the rest of the 85% moved towards the three peaks of Lima, forming the Barriadas.

Berlin Wall 1961

SOCIOECONOMIC LEVELS
Larcomar Shopping Mall
Miraflores District

Cerro San Cristóbal
Rímac District
ROOM . BUILDING
The Door

The door becomes the protective / restrictive entrance to the fortified space.

The Window

The window allows visual connection between inner and outer space.

The Grill

The grill is a defence mechanism for the windows.
Camino Real Shopping Mall  
San Isidro District

Mate Museo  
Barranco District
Gated House
San Isidro District

GATE AS WALL

The gate at the porch becomes a frontal defence element for the house.

Residential Perimeter Wall
The perimeter fence protects the surrounding area around the central building.

Residential Building as Wall
The void area is turned inwards and the building becomes the defensive wall.

Commercial Mass

Porch Wall
The gate at the porch becomes a frontal defence element for the house.
URBAN BLOCK
A collection of buildings is enclosed within a perimeter wall but remains porous to its inhabitants to a certain extent.

Two rows of houses/buildings erect an informal gate at the start and end of their street to provide security to its residents.

A series of high walls in industrial areas enclose an industrial area with limited openings.

**Tall Industrial Walls**

**Callao District**

**Porous Enclosed Walls**

**Informal Street Gate**

**Industrial Walls**

**Residential**

**Civic/Education**

**Industrial**
DISTRICT
Bungalow in Las Casuarinas
San Juan de Miraflores District

A Child in the Slum Area of Surco
Santiago de Surco District

Credit: Anadolu Agency
The following pictures show Lima’s Wall of Shame, also dubbed Peru’s Berlin Wall. The 3-meter-high wall divides the rich neighbourhood of Las Casuarinas, home to Lima’s richest, from the slums of Vista Hermosa, where the vast majority live in poverty, often without basic amenities. Nowhere in Lima is the class divide between the rich and the poor more obvious than at this wall. At 10 km long, the wall was initially put up over fears that the less well-off would steal from the wealthy. The structure is made out of concrete and topped with barb wire and divides the districts San Juan Miraflores and Surco from each other. The wall recently gained international attention after campaigners posted pictures and videos of the wall online in an effort to condemn those behind the idea. Three initiatives ‘Muralist Brigade’, ‘Open Space’ and ‘Hunger’ joined forces recently to help locals from Vista Hermosa paint murals on the wall, in an effort to raise awareness to the wall as well as humanize its grim reality.
Expanding Length
Wall of Shame

Humanizing the Wall
Wall of Shame

Credit: Detroit News