

## Camino Real

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The city is an entity, an organism. It is A synchronicity of vital organs.  
People are the lifeblood which courses through its veins. We are that life's blood.

A single moment can alter the course of a lifetime, change the tide of history. Cortez setting foot in the Americas in 1504 was such a moment. In his wake is a cross-cultural pollination leaving no facet of life remaining unaltered. El Camino Royal (the Royal Highway) distributed the dream of a better life through New Spain, but the rivers created Texas.

A Spanish colonial city, San Antonio is designed around a system of plazas in accord with the Law of the Indies. A true hybrid of Latin and Anglo, it has its own local dialect (Spanglish.) San Antonio is a border town. The river is intrinsic to understanding the city. It has always been the foundation of the local economy. Visitors come just to see its river. Now they come to see its artists and museums. The city of San Antonio is begging a plaza to bridge its River Walk with its art museum. With at least four cultures to choose from, how do you speak to the needs of everyone? This quandary necessitates a dialogue between architectural students, artists, developers, community, and the museum. Our task is to determine the nature and language of the experiences we will be accommodating.

In the center of town, there is a limp pulse. Artists initiate the fresh eyes of Civilization.

The ebb and flow of the city is infused Again with its needed blood.  
cheap food (i.e. land) and its arterial highways clog, twice or more daily. This inhibits city's healthy functioning, reduces its potential to get work done though loss of productivity as its blood cells sit in traffic, accomplishing nothing.

Sprawl is the cancer which saps the strength of the entity. The roads and infrastructure costs are largely not recovered from land-tax revenues. As the system deteriorates, the life-force of the city begins to wane.