



SCHOOL OF PLANNING, ASU

. Any brief overview of the demographic and economic forces propelling growth in the U.S.-Mexico border region around the city of Tecate reveals that this is a region that is under tremendous pressure of change. The editor of *El Bordo, Retos de Frontera*, a website where numerous scholarly articles are presented by academics and investigators, (Ungerleider Kepler, undated), describes the rationale for this effort as follows: *Creemos que existe una gran necesidad, aquí en la frontera norte de nuestra nación, de estudios y trabajos serios de investigación que puedan esclarecer y/o cuestionar la compleja realidad socio-económica y política que estamos viviendo. Por tanto, lo que pretendemos es fomentar la discusión, el debate y el diálogo en torno a los problemas que nos conciernen como académicos y fronterizos.* (We believe that a major

necessity for the northern border nations is to address various and serious problems that are not only a result of the political and economic reality [in which] we are living. Certainly, what we propose is to foment discussion, debate, and dialogue regarding the problems that concern us as academics and inhabitants of the border.

There are implications of these changes for the quality of housing and the quality of life enjoyed by residents in the U.S.-Mexico border and a window of opportunity to set in place regulation, guidelines, incentives and assistance to protect what a city such as Tecate enjoys currently. There are additional forces related to culture, identity, a sense of belonging, and ownership as well as security which also have great implication for the kind of housing individuals, families and communities chose to live in and build. Some of these are explored here with a view to determining their importance and implications in building sustainable housing.

The cultural identity of the Mexicans continues to be discussed some 500 years after the Spanish conquest. The border region, where most of the population arrived as recently as the 1950s. This is particular true of the population in the western states of Baja California, Sonora and Chihuahua. Local culture and traditions in this region consist largely of a mix of several cultures brought by the new immigrants to this region. The result is often in con-