

PREFIGURING THE STATE:
REFUGEE CAMPS
OF THE WESTERN SAHARA
in conversation with
Samia Henni, ETH Zurich

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MANUEL
HERZ



Photo: Iwan Baan

ARCHITECTURE OF TERRITORY
Ocean Territories: Geopolitics,
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The Sahrawi refugee camps established in Sahara in southern Algeria 40 years ago, give us an opportunity to question the predominant notions connected to refugee camps. An architectural reading of these camps shows how these spaces have developed into a political project of the refugees. Governed by the refugees themselves, the Sahrawi camps prefigure the state still denied to them. The camps in fact, act as a laboratory for how the concept of the nation-state can be reformulated in the 21st century.