

# Book ends

## BOOK OF THE MONTH

### Berlin

**Hans Christian Adam**  
£39.99, hardback  
Taschen  
ISBN 978-3-82281-445-1

You can tell the story of 20th century Berlin in one sentence: big sexy city survives two world wars, gets divided by a wall during the Cold War and after the 'fall of the Wall' becomes reunited as an enlightened Germany prepares for a strategic role in modern Europe. Or, alternatively, you could tell it in a massive, lush feast of archive



photography so heavy that you can barely lift it, and so well produced that it could survive a nuclear attack.

Berlin is one of those freaks of geography that almost defies the imagination. Technically speaking, before unification, West Berlin was an exclave of West Germany set adrift like an island in Communist East Germany, connected by air and rail corridors. While

those in the western sector of the city enjoyed a form of post-war freedom and democracy, those on the other side of the Wall most emphatically did not, which always seems a bit unfair, in that this is a classic case of 'to the loser the spoils'.

This biography of the city unfolds in nearly 700 pages of emotive, atmospheric and iconographic photographs including shots from Henri Cartier-Bresson, Helmut Newton, Rene Burri, Robert Capa, Thomas Struth and Wolfgang Tillmans. The images capture a city in all its moods, from the between-the-wars decadence of Isherwood's Sally Bowles stories, through to Christo and Jeanne-Claude's astonishing mid-1970s modern art installation *Wrapped Reichstag*, Berlin. There are pictures of the devastation of World War II and heartbreaking shots of the construction of the Wall.

These powerful photographs are supported by the words of such noted Berliners as Vladimir Nabokov, Marlene Dietrich and David Bowie.

The man behind this masterpiece is Hans Christian Adam who has researched countless public and private collections in editing this book, which is surely one of the great monuments to this wonderful city.

*Nick Smith*



**FAR LEFT** Film still from the movie *Tunnel 28: Escape From East Berlin*

**LEFT** The Kaiser-Wilhelm Memorial Church reflected in a shop window

**BOOK OFFER** Readers of *OP* in the UK can buy *Berlin* for the special price of £29.99 (including p&p) by phoning 0207 845 8543 and quoting 'Outdoor Photography offer'

© Far left: Anon; left: Roger Schall