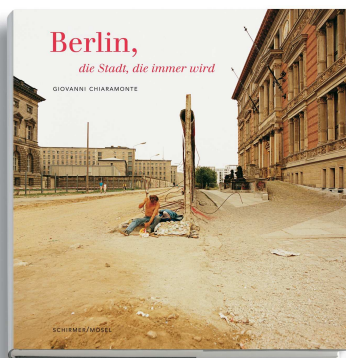


Munich, February 2010

PRESS RELEASE

**20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fall of the Wall:  
Berlin in Unfamiliar Light and New Color –  
The Photographs of Giovanni Chiaramonte**



**Giovanni Chiaramonte**

*Berlin, die Stadt, die immer wird*

*Photographien 1984 – 2003*

With articles by Giovanni Chiaramonte  
and Kurt W. Forster

160 pages, 66 color plates

ISBN 978-3-8296-0458-1

German Edition with English Language Booklet

US \$ 59.95; Can.\$ 77.00; EUR 39.80; CHF 65.-

Marking the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, Schirmer/Mosel has brought out an extraordinary book on Berlin: *Berlin – die Stadt, die immer wird* (“Berlin: City of Eternal Becoming”) with images by Italian photographer Giovanni Chiaramonte. It features pictures dating from 1983 until 2003 and presents a Berlin we have never seen before or have already forgotten. Chiaramonte’s Berlin appears to hover as much between the past and the future as it does between west and east. His view of the city, of its buildings and streets before the Wall came down is one from the outside. It is the view of someone from a southern country, far removed from standard Berlin and tourism clichés. The warm hues and sounds – despite the frequently bleak motif – bear witness to a sensitive eye for the beauty of ruins, decay and things unfinished. The photographs show Berlin in unfamiliar light and color – the sand of undeveloped land and the red bricks of houses seeming to glow with a summer warmth.

And there is, of course, the unmistakable veneration of Berlin’s architecture, from Schinkel to Aldo Rossi. Alongside numerous wastelands the buildings, with their formal stringency, are a characteristic of the urban structure, while at the same time in constant change. For Chiaramonte they are a revelation of history, the unveiling of Berlin’s original identity and its dramatic fate: industrialization, mobilization, the Holocaust, bombing, division, reunification and the associated de-industrialization, first in the west and then in the east.

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Chiaramonte reveals this process of incessant development by juxtaposing images of the same street taken at different times – though this illustrates not just what has been achieved with regard to construction in the post-Wall era. Rather, Giovanni Chiaramonte`s pictures are an impressive confirmation of the undivided and indivisible unity of the capital city Berlin.

Giovanni Chiaramonte was born in 1948 in Vares, Italy. His photographic work has been showcased in national and international exhibitions since the 1970s. He has also edited and written various books and essays on urbanism.

In 2005 he received an honorary doctorate in architecture from the University of Palermo. For his latest book of Berlin Chiaramonte penned an essay about his work on the protracted project.

Kurt W. Forster, international architecture expert and Professor of Art and Architecture at Yale, who has been closely associated with the city of Berlin in his capacity as an urban planning advisor, has contributed an essay about Chiaramonte`s photographs.

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