

# Photobooks as an intermedial phenomenon

*An analysis of “Palast der Republik”*

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# Summary

1. Introduction
2. Intermedia Studies
3. Photobook as an intermediatic phenomenon
4. Example Analysis: Palast der Republik –  
Christoph Rokitta
5. Conclusion

# Introduction

Photography



RESTRICTIONS

BOOKS

=

**PHOTOBOOKS**

Intermedia Studies

deep semiotic mechanisms ->  
related to the embodiment of  
the ruin process

Intermedia Studies

“(...) the book as a form of intermedia  
combines all of these modes of art in a  
characteristically new way”

*Higgins apud Drucker*

# INTERMEDIALITY

“(...)implies all kinds of interrelation and interaction between media”

*Claus Clüver*

“the phenomenon whereby the properties of all media partly intersect and the study of this same phenomenon(...)”

*Lars Elleström*



Photobook as an intermediatic  
phenomenon

Written text

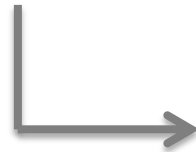
Layout/Design

Diagrams

Maps

Photography

media



Intermediatic  
character

different sign systems causally interact in  
the same process



**How** to investigate  
this phenomenon?

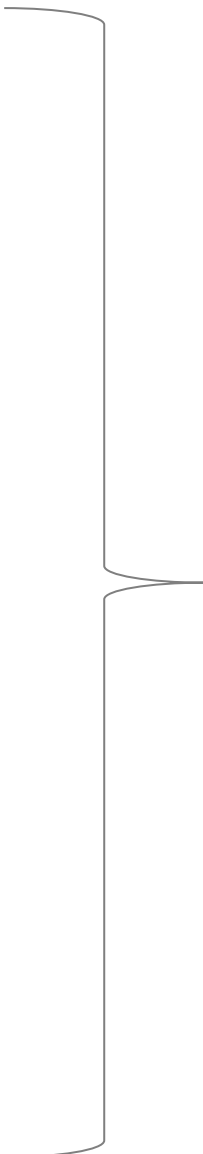
Written text

Layout/Design

Diagrams

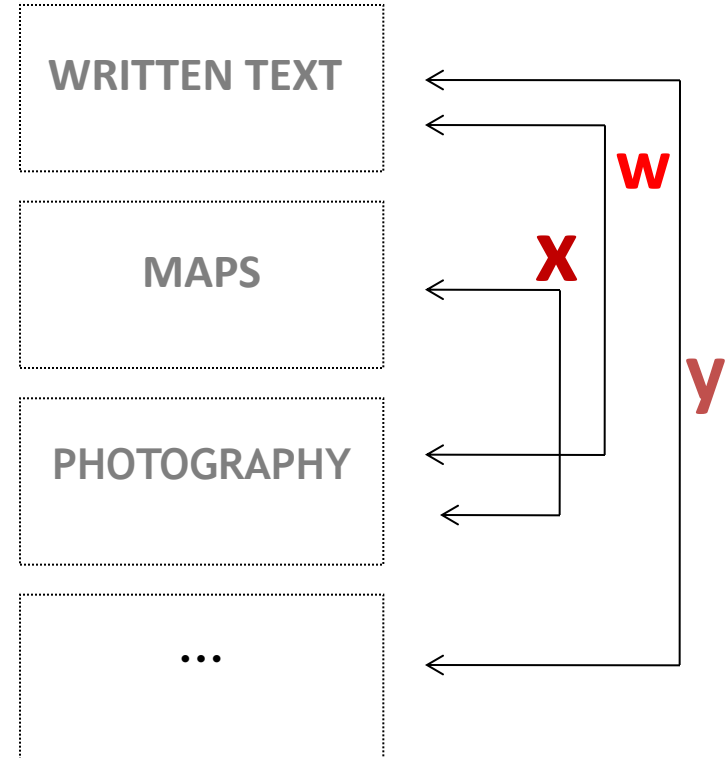
Maps

Photography



structural  
and  
semiotic  
coupling

... to describe and  
analyse the  
morphological  
variety of the sign  
systems interactions



Peirce proposed several typologies, with different degrees of refinement:

- icon > quality
- > diagrams > icon of relation
- index > physical connection
- symbol > law, convention



- icon



- index

“FOOT”

- symbol



Palast der Republik – *Christoph Rokitta*





indexical



iconic & symbolic

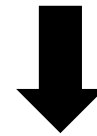
PdR 081129 K7K8  
Woche vom 29.11.2008  
Kern 7 Kern 8

iconic & symbolic

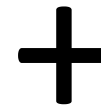
Christoph Rokitta  
Palast der Republik



Combination  
of media



Intersemiotic  
texts



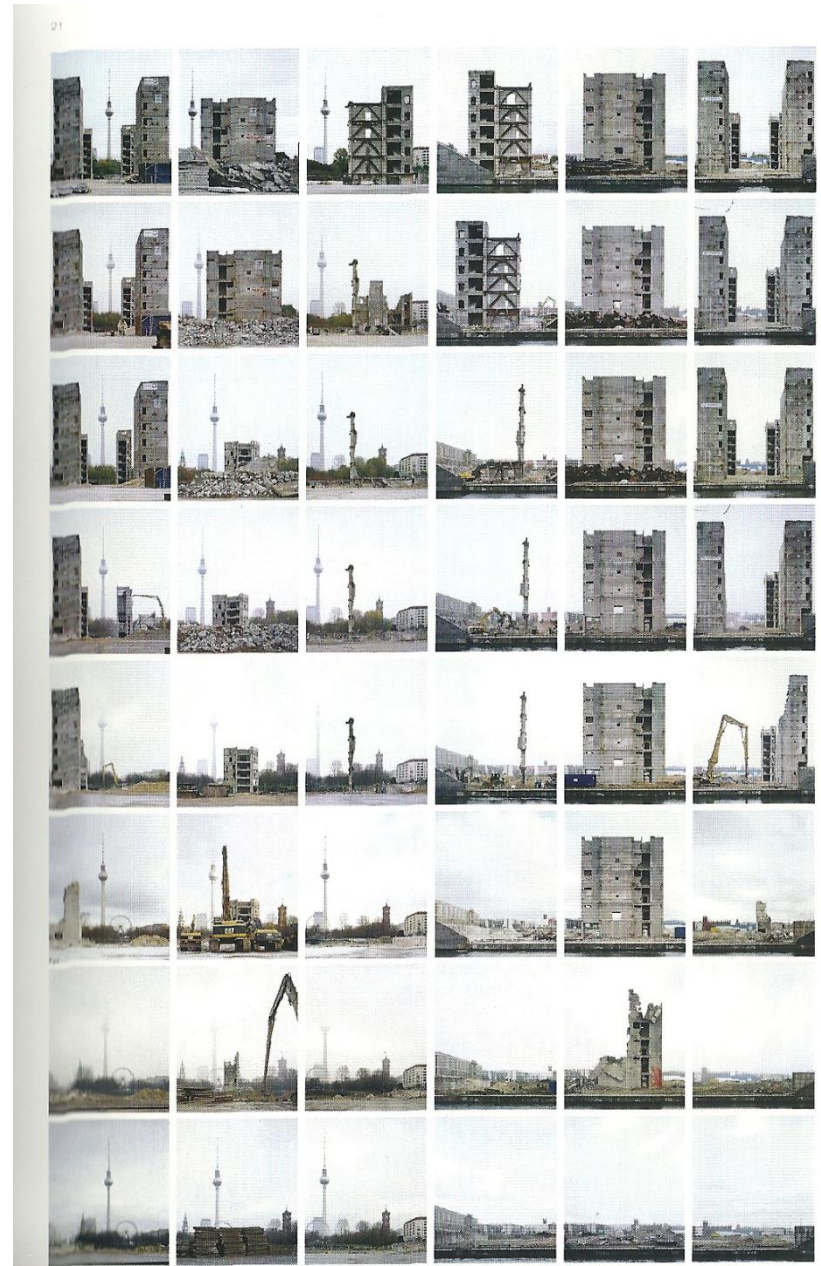
Mixmedia texts

# Intersemiotic texts

- use two or more systems of signs



their aspects are  
inseparable and  
indissociable





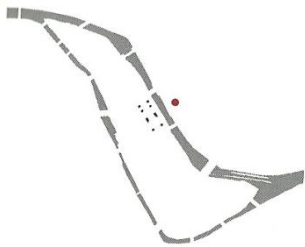


# Mixmedia texts

- complex signs in different media



would not achieve  
coherency or self-  
sufficiency outside that  
context



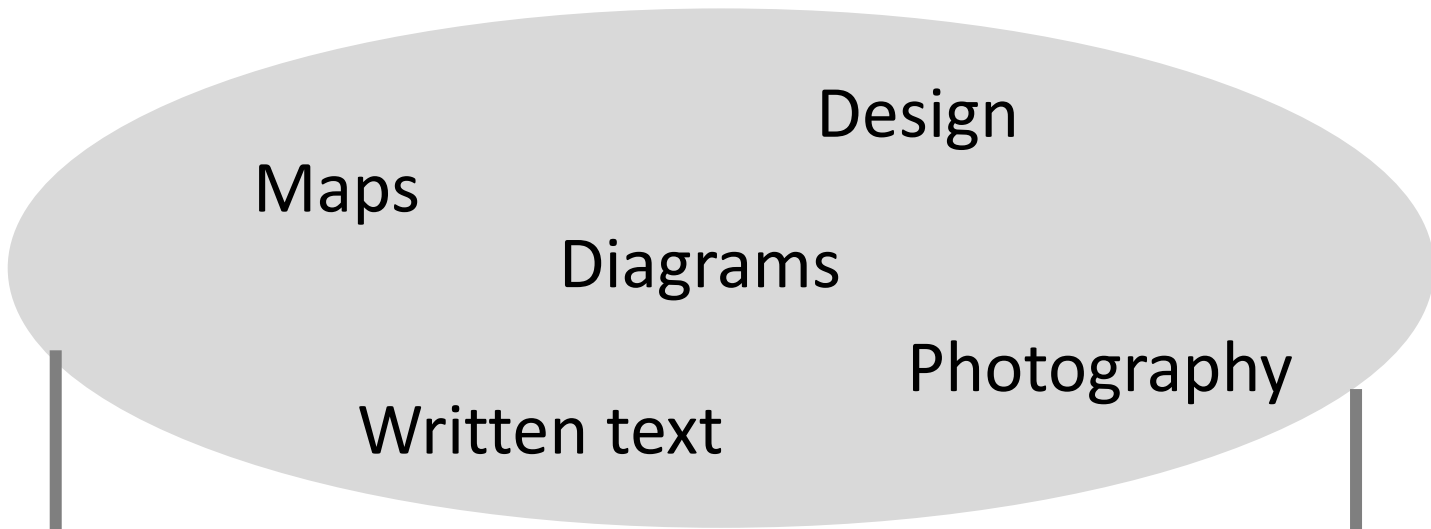


PdR 081025 K6  
Woche vom 25.10.2008  
Kern 6

PdR 081025 K7K8  
Woche vom 25.10.2008  
Kern 7 Kern 8



Conclusion



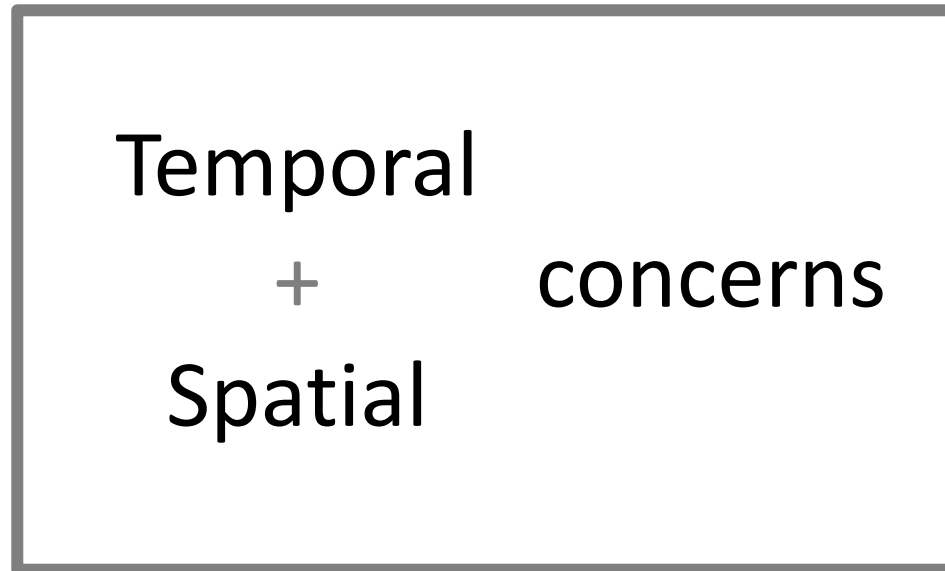
Mixmedia  
texts

Intersemiotic  
texts

Demolition  
experience



# Model of the ruin process



# Thanks,

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**[irg]** iconicity  
research  
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