



Christo & Jeanne Claude: Wrapped Reichstag, Berlin, 1971 1995 (Jumbo Series)

Wolfgang Volz, David Bourdon, Jeanne-Claude

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In 1977 the "wrap" artist Christo, famous for both his wrapped Roman wall and his Running Fence in northern California, proposed to wrap Germany's Reichstag--the first of three proposals to be turned down. In 1994, after a vote by the German parliament, Christo's fourth proposal to wrap the building was accepted. *Wrapped Reichstag* depicts the trials and tribulations, meetings, drawings, and conversations that led to the acceptance of Christo's plan. Simple chronologies give important dates in both English and German, and giant, play-by-play photographs chronicle the years of effort involved in the project's production and completion, testaments to the tenacity of all involved. Completed on June 24, 1995, the Reichstag stayed wrapped for 14 days. Photographs of the wrapped building from all angles at all times of day and night give the reader a clear idea of the finished work's grandeur.

Christo & Jeanne Claude: Wrapped Reichstag, Berlin, 1971 1995 (Jumbo Series) Details

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From Reader Review Christo & Jeanne Claude: Wrapped Reichstag, Berlin, 1971 1995 (Jumbo Series) for online ebook

Kathleen Dixon says

This is an exceedingly weighty book, which documents the Land Art project of Wrapping the Reichstag. It begins with a brief history of the building itself, setting the historical background, and then moves to the first mooting of the Wrapping idea (which was actually 10 years prior to the date in the title). Christo and Jeanne-Claude had already undertaken some monumental wrapping projects and this idea really appealed to them, but they wouldn't have imagined that it would take more than 30 years to ever happen.

This book holds the complete history of the project. Every concept drawing, every accurate drawing, every letter written, every conversation, every meeting, every measurement, and even the transcript of the debate in the German Parliament, is copied into this weighty tome. There are photos accompanying everything, including the making of the fabric to wrap the building in, the sewing of the pieces, and its transportation. Then there's the making of the scaffolding and necessary pipes to hold the fabric (a polypropolene if I remember correctly, coated in aluminium), and even the ropes to contour the finished wrapping. And at the end, many photographs of the finished article - all beautiful!

What the book doesn't have is an index. I didn't notice that as an omission when I read the book today (over a lazy morning with a cup of coffee and cushions to support the weight of the turning pages), but when I wanted just now to check on the fabric I would have liked to have a go-to for it. It also doesn't give any information on costs - who paid for the artists, for the materials, for the engineers, for the abseilers, etc.? - or anything on the deconstruction which I would have found interesting.

Oh yes - it's bilingual, which I guess is more practical given the small amount of text in comparison to the documents and photos.

All in all, I found this fascinating.
