



# Northern exposure

A former superpower on the wane – Russia, illustrated with love

This visual essay illustrating modern Russia, by photographer Simon Roberts, exposes the beautiful and often strange chaos left behind some 16 years after the collapse of the Soviet Union – an edifice that turned out to resemble ‘one gigantic Potemkin village’, as an introduction by Rosamund Bartlett puts it. The result of Roberts’ 13-month journey across Russia is an unvarnished collection of portraits of a

proud people and a scarred landscape, littered with relics of a glorious past. The images revel in the sheer scale of the country, its many regions, races and religions no longer unified by politics, but instead increasingly isolated by fading industry and simmering conflicts. Ultimately, however, the big picture the book conveys is one of honest optimism. *Motherland*, Simon Roberts (Chris Boot, £25)

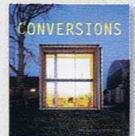
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Iconic shots of the American heartland, gifted to the in LA by collectors Nancy and Bruce Berman. (Getty, \$



**02 | A BERLIN DECADE**  
A new city of scaffolding cranes, documented by Thiel between 1995 and (Hatje Cantz, £40)



**03 | CONVERSIONS**  
Emma O’Kelly of Wallpaper and Corinna Dean show spaces made new, rural to urbane. (Laurence King,



**04 | MICHAEL REISCH**  
Mesmerising settings, e from real African landscapes by the German photographer (Hatje Cantz, £25)



**05 | THE NATURE OF PHOTOGRAPHY**  
An illustrated primer on history of the medium – Atget to Arbus – by the of contemporary landscape Stephen Shore. (Phaidon