



# projekt beton

Eriz Moreno Aranguren





Bus map with the proposed highway Berlin-Königsberg. 1944.

**Projekt Beton** (Polish: Concrete Project) is a project aiming at tracking and tracing the abandoned Reichsautobahn Berlin-Königsberg (a.k.a. Berlinka) in the northern Poland.





### ***Introduction:***

The construction started in the mid 1930's; the route was a section of the future Reichsautobahn connecting Berlin with Königsberg. The motorway was not completely finished, but the construction works were well advanced, up to today's Polish town of Barwice (Bärwalde). After the Second World War (and the movement of the border to the Oder-Neisse Line) the motorway was left unfinished in Polish territory and, over time, the disused part was covered by nature.

In Poland, the road starts at the Polish motorway A-6 next to the German border near Szczecin (Stettin). Crossing the river Odra (Oder), it veers slightly in the northeast direction. About 8 km north of the A-6 and the National road 10 junction the A-6 motorway continues northward, while the old autobahn continues eastward as the road 142.

Today the outline of the highway remains appreciable in-situ and via satellite, as it rises higher than the surrounding terrain. Moreover, sections of the highway can still be found in some of the clearings.

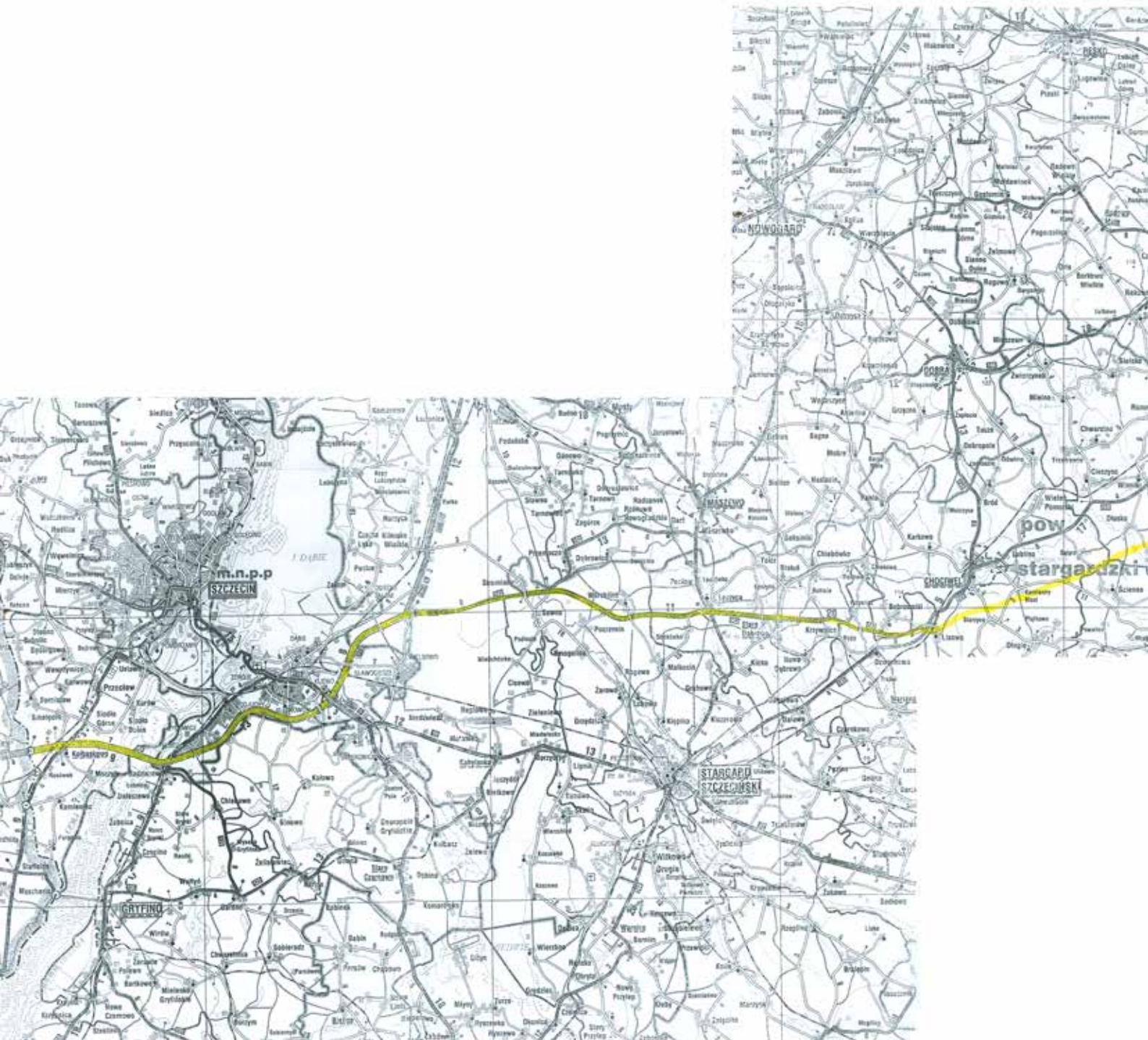
The main purpose of the autobahn, back then, was to allow a large number of inhabitants to drive long distances in their own cars, enjoying the sights of the country along the route. This explains some of the twisted paths of some Autobahnen, such as the A-8 passing through Irschenberg (Germany) from Munich to Salzburg, which offers spectacular views but it is an impossible route for the heavy-traffic of nowadays.

*Bridge structure:*

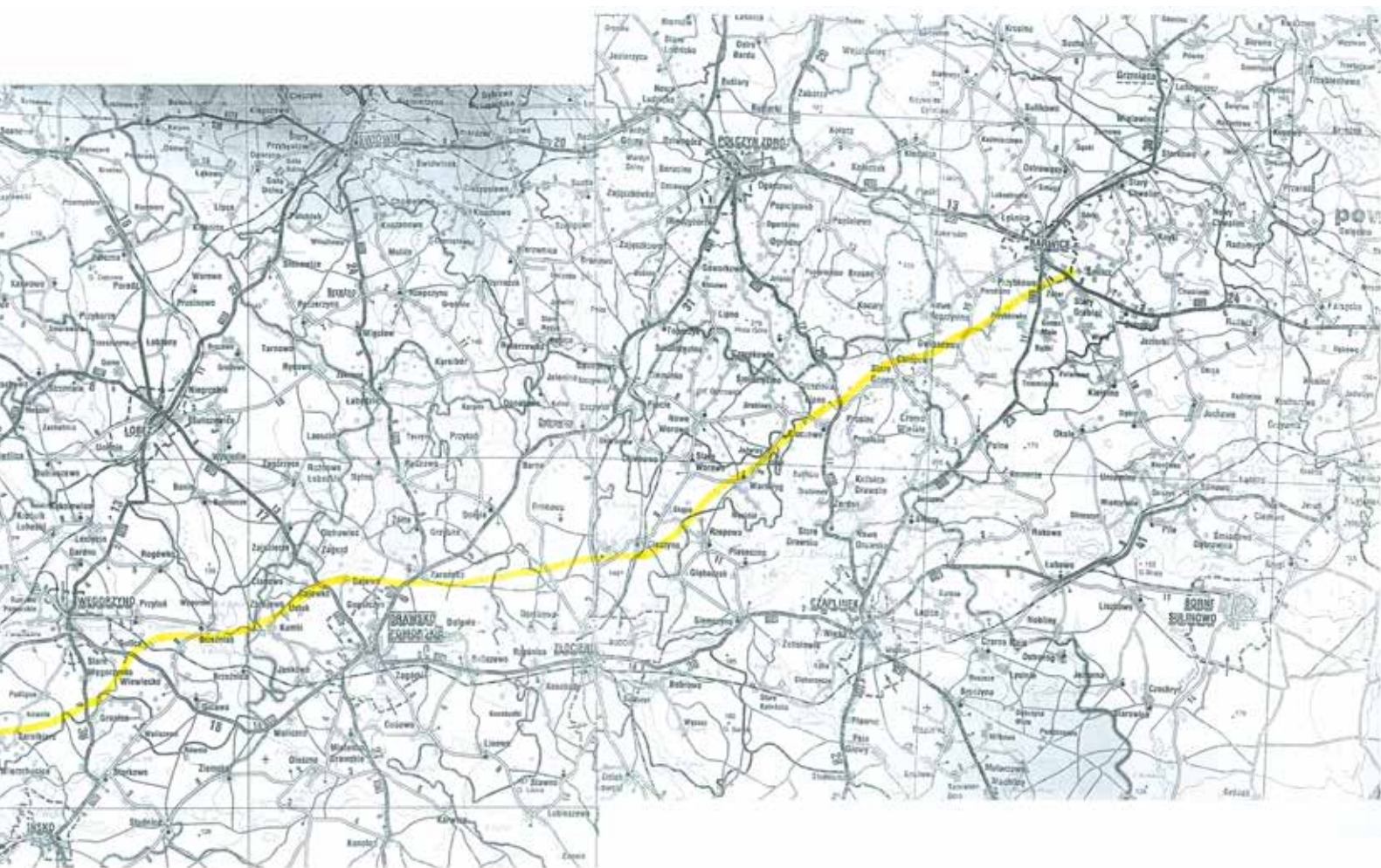
N53.527158 E15.622595

15 x 20cm Digital Photography.









*Route of the highway on a contemporary map.*

### ***Projekt Beton is:***

Projekt Beton is looking for photographs of the landscape as a way to travel and observe. When I treat every day as a journey down the motorway, watching its landscape, the photography is a technique of approaching the original idea of the Autobahnen of showing the country to the people who travel on them; the landscape which on the Reichautobahn Berlin - Königsberg nobody admires any longer.

- An idea of drawing
- An adventure
- A geographical exploration mission
- A discipline
- A line where Art and Life meet

### ***Realized work:***

To show the different objective aspects of Berlinka (landscape, engineering, road), Projekt Beton is divided in three different series:

- Analogical slideshow of the route, tracing the Reichsautobahn Berlin-Königsberg from Szczecin till Barwice taking a picture every 500 m. 240 slides to be displayed in three projectors with 80 photos carrousel in loop.
- Document still visible engineering work remains of the original highway. 100 digital photos with GPS coordinates.
- Photographs of the landscape of Berlinka to display that could be shown to its users. 10 photographs on aludibond. Size: 100 x 66cm.

When the project is exhibited the public will have all the possible information to let them create their own experience (maps, links to websites, texts, etc.).





*Motorway section crossing a lake, disused.*



*Motorway section covered by trees.*







*Artificial peninsula:*  
N53.650171 E16.164297  
Digital Photography.



*Reichsautobahn Berlin – Königsberg n.24*

- Analogical slideshow of the route, taking a picture every 500 m. 240 slides.





*Reichsautobahn Berlin – Königsberg n.69*



*Reichsautobahn Berlin – Königsberg n.75*





*Reichsautobahn Berlin – Königsberg n.94*



*Reichsautobahn Berlin – Königsberg n.111*





*Reichsautobahn Berlin – Königsberg n.123,5*



*Reichsautobahn Berlin – Königsberg n.173*





*Reichsautobahn Berlin – Königsberg n.203*





*N53.432284 E14.844353*

- Registering the remains of the original highway. Digital photos with GPS coordinates. 100 images.





*N53.433208 E15.299530*





*N53.539518 E15.690945*





*N53.584261 E16.044991*



- Photographs of the landscape of Berlinka. 10 photographs on aludibond. Size: 100 x 66cm.





**Statement:**

*"...the artist seeks.... the fiction that reality will sooner or later imitate"*  
Robert Smithson from "A Museum of Language in the Vicinity of Art", 1968.

My interest lies in mapping, entropy, history, landscape, culture and society.

In Projekt Beton I explore the territory with the idea of humanizing it.

The Nature, entropic, has recovered the human construction that crosses the landscape rectilinearly. Highways, non-places, are Earthworks who tell us about travels and distances, transport and speed.

A (non-) monument like the Mayan pyramids hidden in the jungle. The exploration of the territory in search of El Dorado. This course develops a work of anti-monuments and a shift in the conflictive history between Germany and Poland.

According to Korzybski, a map is not the territory it represents, just as a word is not the object it represents. Experience in the territory gets me close to the map: walking on it I am doing it mine. Normally I work on the basis of a map, but in Projekt Beton the map is the consequence of the trail: I know its ends and with my experience I will plot points in between.

The relation between place and non-place is like the meaning and the place where it means.

The real work only can be seen on-site, but my work also focuses on transcribing the places into works. I do not intend to create a representation of the outside inside the exhibition space, but to create independent objects.





[http://erizmoreno.info/pages/EN/Projekt\\_Beton.html](http://erizmoreno.info/pages/EN/Projekt_Beton.html)

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