

# DIE BERLINER MAUER (THE BERLIN WALL)

THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF A HISTORICAL EVENT  
INSPIRED THIS SHADOWBOX DESIGN

BY BILL HUGUNIN, CPF



◀ This shadowbox design contains a piece of The Berlin Wall and a plaque to commemorate its fall in 1989.

In September of 1990 I was serving active duty in the United States Army and was stationed near Wurzburg, Germany, in the southern state of Bavaria. I was able to see firsthand how the liberation of East Germany affected the German culture. This was very evident at Oktoberfest. I saw East and West Germans singing, dancing, laughing, and carrying on like one big family reunion. What a great time, and memories that will never fade!

This November marks the 15th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, and I was fortunate enough to acquire a piece of this historical icon. So obviously I had to frame it! The artifact is made of concrete and has a very rough texture. These characteristics prompted me to find a frame that possessed

some earthy yet industrial elements in its design. My search didn't take long. I found a frame that had the feel of hammered iron. Voila, earthy yet industrial. I was off and running!

► *The scoop liner served to draw the eye in toward the piece, as well as balancing out the "industrial" look created by other design components.*

A problem had arisen while I was getting excited; the frame wasn't deep enough to house this 2" thick chunk of concrete. This frame was the perfect choice; I knew that I had to use it, but how? Solution: use another profile from the collection and cut it on its side. (This is a classic trick that many framers have been using for a long time now.) Now that I had a frame that was deep enough, I got to work.

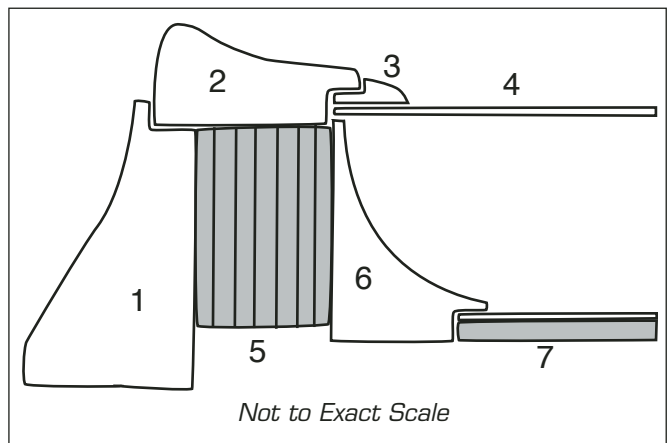
The fact that the "Wall" itself isn't too complex in design meant that the framing needed to be simple but, as always, effective. With the "Wall" being somewhat of a light color I decided to use darker materials to contrast



and, in turn, highlight the item within the framing. To soften the "box-feel," I used a deep-scooped liner wrapped in black silk. Then I continued with a black silk mat that I would mount the piece onto. There is a foam pedestal under the "Wall" raising it up slightly to create depth and dimension. I adhered the object with glue.

▲ *The depth of the frame was created by stacking two mouldings. One of the profiles was turned so that its face served as the side of the shadowbox.*

The dark frame was paired up with a grayish "weathered" fillet, an embracing accent to the concrete's colorization. To complete the items inside the frame I placed a black-coated brass plate engraved with the words "Die



- ▲ *Components used:*
1. Outer Moulding
  2. Inner Moulding
  3. Fillet
  4. Conservation Glass
  5. Foamboard as Filler
  6. Silk Liner
  7. Silk Mat

Berliner Mauer" and underneath the title I placed the month and year the demolition began: "November 9, 1989." It seemed only proper to name the piece with its native tongue. Finally, conservation, anti-reflective

glass was used to eliminate any glare that would distract from the depth of this unique piece.

In the end I wanted the frame design to carry a sense of formality and reflection. The tearing down of the wall was a major turning point for Europe and an important bookmark in world history. I was honored to be able to preserve a portion of it. Auf weidersein! ■

Bill Hugunin, CPF, is senior frame designer at Framing Concepts Gallery in Chesterton and Crown Point, IN.

