



# Oswald Mathias Ungers: Morphologie: City Metaphors

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First published in 1982, German architect Oswald Mathias Ungers' *City Metaphors* juxtaposes more than 100 various city maps throughout history with images of flora and fauna and other images from science and nature. Ungers assigns each a title--a single descriptive word printed in both English and German. In Ungers' vision, the divisions of Venice are transformed into a handshake and the 1809 plan of St Gallen becomes a womb. Ungers writes in his foreword: "Without a comprehensive vision reality will appear as a mass of unrelated phenomenon and meaningless facts, in other words, totally chaotic. In such a world it would be like living in a vacuum; everything would be of equal importance; nothing could attract our attention; and there would be no possibility to utilize the mind." A classic of creative cartography and visual thinking, *City Metaphors* is also an experiment in conscious vision-building.

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