Christopher Piñón (to appear): Verbs of creation

The paper by Christopher Piñón gives an account of verbs of creation (e.g., build, compile, draw, write) which are known to take an internal argument denoting a physical object that is effected or brought into being as a result of the event named by the verb.

The author argues that such verbs are actually ambiguous with respect to the sortal character of their internal argument. In particular, the internal argument of a verb of creation may also denote what he calls a template, i.e. an abstract individual that is physically instantiated in the course of the event described by the verb. This idea allows to analyze performance verbs of creation (as sing in sing a song) and those denoting the creation of templates (as compose in compose a symphony).

Moreover, Piñón can also explain data such as Sarah built the house that Rebecca designed where the house that Rebecca designed designates a house template (or design) which Sarah builds an instantiation of. To this end, he proposes a set of sort-shifters that serve to capture systematic ambiguity among verbs of creation like build.