

100 Houses 100 Years



Twentieth
Century
Society

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All the houses are strictly private save where noted and most are not visible
from the street.

Page 2 The Black Rubber House by Simon Conder Associates in Dungeness, Kent (see page 180).

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Covert House

Architect: Deborah Saunt and David Hills (DSDHA)
Location: Clapham, London

Covert House poses an interesting question given London's housing crisis: could this diaphanous mirror box be a model for acceptable densification? Given the will, half the back gardens in suburbia could have such a house, increasing the number of homes without environmental destruction. To win approval from planners and neighbours in a conservation area Saunt concealed her home's scale by burying one of its two storeys underground and staggering the profile of its upper pavilion so it swoops as low as the garden walls around it. The partial loss of the garden plot is offset by new planting and sustainable design. But the cleverest mitigation is what makes it so entrancing. Glass and mirrors work together like the camouflage on a dazzle ship to confuse the eye and blur the line between the built and the planted so even in plain sight the house appears to dissolve into the surrounding trees.

Elizabeth Hopkirk

