

THE SUBURBAN DETAIL OF THE MONTH COMPETITION



We were captivated by the beauty, absurdity and originality showcased behind the paling fences. Slick inner urban junctions and nice architectural features no longer held us enthralled; the makeshift and the out-of-vogue remnant were making us stop and salivate. We encouraged people - ourselves included - to overcome the 'suburb blindness' that comes with taking things for granted. We wanted to develop a homes eye for the litter, distinctive details in this simultaneously public and private world.

Verbal descriptions were not enough. We needed pictures.



We decided to make it competitive...
The Suburban Detail of the Month Competition is about the sort of stuff that slips completely beneath the academic and intellectual radar, but by no means goes unnoticed. It's the sort of thing small children point and shout delightedly at as they pass; the DIY curiosity that is the pride of the homeowner and the chagrin of his neighbours; the sublime in the ridiculous; the beauty amid the rubble. It's about celebrating the uncelebrated, about real people and real lives and their aesthetic and practical responses to the possibilities and problems their own little castles presents.



Entry requirements were simple: just bring along your photos of a suburban detail that appeals to your sense of humour, irony, the absurd, the distinctive, or the just plain beautiful.

Judging was equally simple: everyone who attends is given 2 dots with which to vote. Most dots win. Kindly donated prizes consisted of beer, meals, coffee and sweet treats.

Judging requirements varied. Some were self-interested, some were based on image (what makes the best album cover?) All were widely debated.



The overall interest in the competition and the range of entries convinced us to publish the images. Without a coffee table book deal, we looked to the generous support of our fabulous sponsors, and produced the much adored Suburban Detail calendars (resulting from the 2004 and 2006 rounds of the competition).

Please note: The calendars are perpetual and still available, only \$15, fits on your desk changes daily, will work for any year, lots of excellent details to stimulate your mind, great conversation starter.....



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The Rexroth
Mannasmann Collective