

## BLIND HOUSE, CASA CIEGA

Blind houses are uncompromised shelters with no windows and sealed doors. They are paradigms for a future where environmental components such as air and water have degraded in lock step with fundamental civil liberties such as privacy. No one can peer in a window if you don't have one. No one will be tempted to knock on a door if it's sealed. Whatever is inside cannot be acquired and collated into a data base. It is unknowable. It is a place where wild spirits may have free reign.

Some say we live in an age of glass houses where each of us is effortlessly scrutinized and quantified. Is there really no other option but to embrace the loss of our privacy and auto determination as the cost of being connected?

More than glass houses, we seem to live in moldy wood ones peppered with holes and infested with data termites. Lodged inside our intelligent devices, are sedentary ratters, governmental snoops and private interests that spy for sport or profit. They collect and file, store and trade. There may come a day when hummingbird drones hover at the kitchen window while little bug size Black Hornet helicopters flit about the garden. While inside house spider drones peer out at us from cracks in the molding. Privacy, if we have any in the future, will be the demoralizing consequence of our status as a low value targets. Only untouchables will escape scrutiny.

Outside the air is tainted with particulates, the ground water fouled or depleted, the produce tainted and engineered. Even the sunshine burns more than warms and stimulates abnormal cell growth. Inside, air and water can be filtered. Inside, solar simulators provide full spectrum lighting in the living areas. With a hydroponic garden in the basement and a chicken coop in the guest room you are good to go. Be true to yourself but privately and inside a hermetically sealed abode.

Imagine the great energy contained within such walls. Bombs, particle accelerators, and prisons all have terrifying power because of their concentration and containment. The blind house is not a prison but a willful construction. It serves as a sort of citizen protest by example. But it is also a viable countermeasure to a world where the thoroughly pillaged commons leave the individual few options short of encapsulation. It may be an admission that one cannot effect meaningful change in the public realm, that what is outside is beyond recall, but at least it is an affirmation that inside, auto determination is still possible.

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