

# *The Children's Corner*

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# The Children's Corner

## 1. The architect

searching for where the horizontal can go  
in an otherwise landscape

where is the space  
to view the field beyond

what turn, from the entrance  
directs you to a vista

the sky or the distant mountains  
to carry us outward

## 2. A doll house

there is no apparent stairwell  
those steps disappear into

as though by miracle  
people transport themselves

from hall to bedroom  
plumbing is not apparent

but the bath is always full  
a kettle always on the stove

the inhabitants oblivious of their exposure  
to the eyes of strangers

### 3. London, 1941

wallpaper, a bedframe  
that juts from a shelf

dust, a broken table  
the arm of a doll

a tree next door  
continues to bud

a pile of rubble  
in what was a street

where a stone figure on a pedestal  
reads a book, undisturbed

### 4. An empty gallery

the paintings converse  
as they must

a wall of the new  
with 'return to order'

there is no interruption  
the space between

uncrossed by swift nudes  
the movement of shades

if this were possible  
in a world of uniform light

## 5. Zoo

a space for shadows to walk in  
the length and breadth of a cage

outside it, nature revealed,  
a simulacrum, populated once

by humans, now  
only the sound of other species

flying or crawling above  
or beneath the enclosure

a sky cleaner than possible,  
the world of unnecessary effort

held back  
by an invisible threat