

## MANHOLE COVERS

RICHARD GLOVER

**T**hroughout inner London are numerous steel covers inserted into the pavement enabling access to essential utilities such as water, power and telecommunications. They are generally known as manhole covers.

Manhole covers service a simple function and would not normally be considered for their aesthetic value. The photographer Richard Glover maintains that they are, however, thoughtfully designed objects in their own right and graphic examples of the interrelationship of time and the vagaries of the environment.

The designs of the covers are generally simple but bold reflecting their utilitarian function. Some coal chute covers incorporate motifs that are almost ornate. Questions remain unanswered: who were the designers? What were their constraints, their influences?

Through my photographs I want to arrest the attention of fellow pedestrians and present this quiet beauty which radiates at our feet.  
*Barbican, London, October 1994*

