

# THE SECRET HOUSE

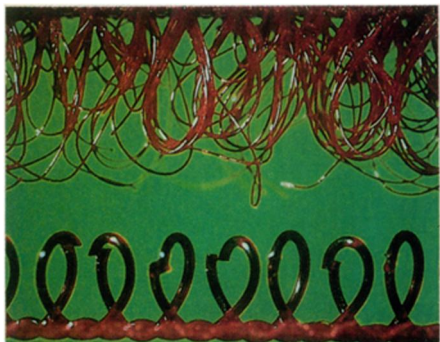
David Bodanis

*“From the alarm clock a spherical shock wave traveling at Mach 1 starts growing outward, spreading and spreading until it hits the wall. Some of the energy it carries causes the curtains over the windows to heat up from the friction of the onslaught; much of the rest rebounds back, enters the ears of two sleepers and finally rouses them awake.”*

*The Secret House* uncovers the astounding physical and biological events that go on while we sleep, eat or brush our teeth; the little hidden dramas happening around us all the time. Much of what is described is invisible to the naked eye or inaudible to the average ear.

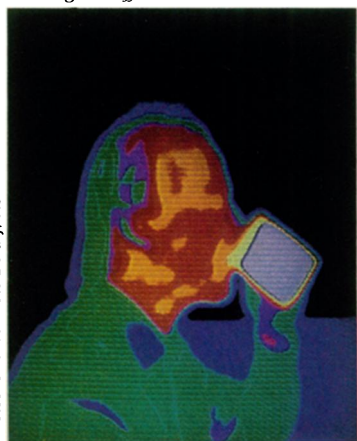
Eighty stunning photographs, many especially commissioned for this book, employing techniques such as electron micrographs, thermographs and computer-enhanced X-rays, reveal the true physical nature of your house. This fascinating and highly original book will make it impossible to look at a house in the same way again.

*— from the publisher*



Macrophotograph of a Velcro strip.

Thermograph of heat variation in the face of a man drinking hot coffee.



Photos: Science Photo Library, Ltd.

- Eggs are quietly breathing in the refrigerator.
- Floorboards engage in splendid harmonious rhythms after you've left the room.
- There is a hidden microscopic war going on in the garden.
- Electric force fields are curling out from the circuitry in the walls.
- Every glass pane in the house is dripping slowly downward.
- In the upstairs closet the hangers are sagging and giving off rumbling low-frequency groans. . . .
- In other words, it's a perfectly ordinary night.

Simon & Schuster, 1986, 9 1/4" x 7 1/4", 223 pages, hardcover, \$19.95

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