



## **ON BLACK GLOSS**

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Black gloss is everywhere to be seen in modern-day Britain, and perhaps it is this very ubiquity which means its presence goes largely unnoticed in our day-to-day lives. From the iconic door of 10 Downing Street to those of many a tenement and New Town residence in Edinburgh; from the wrought iron railings which form part of the quintessential British streetscape to the gutters and drainpipes that channel the rainwater from the roofs of our homes; it is even to be found on the ceiling of a certain unnamed Edinburgh public house. In short, although we may be largely unaware of its presence, it is always there, lingering on the periphery of our consciousness. But is there anything whatsoever remarkable about such a seemingly mundane observation? Indeed there is.

*Black: consisting optically of the total absence of colour due to the absence or total absorption of light.* In a country whose winters are wont to leave many of us with little more than a distant memory of