

housing design, building regulation, fire prevention
and communication procedures: the basics always
left till last, but needed first. This until
September the following year, her studio
rebuilt for my stay: 'Spring is like a visit to
the country', she said, 'except that you don't
have to go anywhere'. And then, touching the green
that grew from the black, 'Look at these epicornic
shoots: they have the intensity of flags at a festival'.
And I could see in her eye a composition
of Banksia, and Hakea, Eucalypt and sky, done with new brushes,
and oils unopened now for many weeks.

PAUL HETHERINGTON

A TRICK OF LIGHT

In the garden a sudden trick of light
litters with sparks a thousand twigs and leaves,
shocks my sense of what is possible,
the blank acceptance I call "reality" -

shirts on the line like flapping strung-up birds,
dishes stacked like unwanted memories,
and a wooden gate half-smearred with blood-brown paint
that straddles the stonework path of sense and duty,

covered with pods of unrealized desire,
some weeds in the cracks and a pretty cactus.