



## Nick Waplington

Nick Waplington hails from the English “council estates” that provide the setting for his first book of photographs, *Living Room* (Aperture). That country’s genteel term for low-income housing, the council estates are crowded with big families like the two portrayed in Waplington’s book. The families were, in fact, neighbors of Waplington’s grandfather’s. Turning his antic eye on his own origins was the inevitable result of Waplington’s feeling that photographers “should concentrate on what’s around them.

“I’m not interested in scouring the Third World for things to shoot,” says the 26-year-old Waplington. “Focusing your work on your own life is just as valid as finding a worthy issue overseas.” Indeed, Waplington’s inside track on his subject helped him avoid the grim stereotypes that middle-class photographers often impose on the poor. His families are high-spirited, fun-loving, and clearly tight-knit, their apartments beehives of constant activity. “They have a good time,” says Waplington. “There’s an optimism about the way they live.”

*Living Room* represents almost four years of work, but Waplington says the project will continue “until the children grow up.” Meanwhile, Waplington has been searching the globe for locations in which to shoot panoramic self-portraits. “I don’t want to get stuck with a style for the next 25 years,” he explains.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY NICK WAPLINGTON. COURTESY APERTURE







*This page and overleaf: Life in the council estate*







