



Figure 6.29 Corner types.

Centrifugal and centripetal space, formal and informal squares and streets enclosed by buildings of equally eclectic provenance, when employed collectively, inevitably serve to enrich the visual outcome of the wider urban domain.

7 POSTSCRIPT: A WORKING METHOD

TRADITION v. THE VIRTUAL BUILDING

Our primary concerns have been those aspects of a design programme which most profoundly influence the 'form-making' process in the prosecution of a building design. But having established a 'form' which meets the major design objectives and is capable of development, this process represents in time but a fraction of the entire protracted design period. Nevertheless, it represents by far the most crucial (and arguably, the most problematic) activity for the designer; flawed decisions in form-making cannot be retrieved by subsequent assiduous attention to detail but only appropriate formal responses at this stage can form the basis of meaningful architecture. Moreover, they can be developed to enhance the clarity of that initial concept.

And which techniques are most appropriate for prosecuting and developing the design at

this early conceptual stage? As we enter the twenty-first century, the enormous sophistication of computer software for drafting and three-dimensional modelling has fundamentally altered the traditional view that a soft pencil and tracing paper, supported by physical models in cardboard or balsa wood, are the best tools to facilitate our initial, tentative, form-making excursions.

Design by drawing

Nevertheless, it is axiomatic that a facility for drawing most emphatically assists the design process; 'design by drawing', then, represents by far the most accessible and efficient method for early exploration in design. Moreover, overlays of tracing paper, because of their transparency, allow swift modification of an initial 'form' again and again without having to repeat the whole process from scratch; the results of this process can then be assessed by means of a physical model. Even at this stage, coloured pencils can be used, 'coding' draw-