

Classical revival. The particular concern for those advocating an honest architecture and a unity between interior and exterior is the discrepancy between the highly mannered Classical façade and the functional interior. The comfortable office spaces are fitted with suspended ceilings which drop below the window head, air conditioning and strip lighting: they are little different from any similar office in a 'traditional 1960s' office block. The waterfront, seen from the South bank of the river, or from the bridge is a mixture of new, restored and remodelled Georgian houses, which are used for commercial purposes or as civic buildings. It is difficult for the lay person to see where the new begins and the old ends. It is also obvious

that this is a popular part of Richmond. From this populist viewpoint alone, the development is highly successful. Terry has completed the street block and riverside frontage with buildings of mixed use and which have a clear front and back. The perimeter development encloses a pleasant court of classical proportions which provides semi-private space for circulation, light and air. While not wishing to put the stamp of approval on the idea of pastiche, nevertheless this development, in terms of urban design, is an elegant solution to the problem of a city block in an historically sensitive area. It is also a magnificent setting for a popular parade (Figures 9.28–9.30).

Figure 9.28 Richmond, Riverside Development



ALBAN GATE, LONDON WALL:
TERRY FARRELL
PARTNERSHIP

Alban Gate is a giant, twin-towered office block straddling London Wall. It replaces one of the slab-like, curtain-walled office towers dating from the 1950s that sat along the London Wall. The building, in a Post Modernist style can be compared with the nearby Barbican, an often-underrated example of Modernism (Figures 9.31 and 9.32). The Barbican, despite its faults, has a variety of uses, lavishly landscaped public spaces, water gardens and good quality residential accommodation. It is a good attempt to create an urban environment with enclosed



9.29



9.30



9.31

Figure 9.29 Richmond,
Riverside Development
Figure 9.30 Richmond,
Riverside Development
Figure 9.31 Alban Gate,
London