

Figure 9.32 Alban Gate,
London

Figure 9.33 The Barbican,
London

Figure 9.34 The Barbican,
London



9.32



9.33



9.34

and sheltered public spaces within the boundary of the surrounding development (Figures 9.33 and 9.34). In contrast, Alban Gate is a large building standing alone and depending for effect on its three-dimensional qualities: it creates no public space of consequence. The Barbican is quite clearly a work of urban design. Alban Gate illustrates very clearly the difficult dilemma facing the architect working at the scale of urban design. The commercial pressures of the free market, to some extent, favours an urban architecture of single-use, free-standing buildings which maximize internal floor area at the expense of external public space. The architect's role – if he or she accepts it – is to clothe the building mass in the latest

fashionable style. The comprehensive planning of the 1950s and 1960s often resulted in dreary city redevelopments but, as The Barbican illustrates, it also offered the opportunity of urban design incorporating the street block.

HORSELYDOWN SQUARE, LONDON: JULYAN WICKHAM

Horselydown Square by Julyan Wickham, begun in 1987, occupies a site close to Tower Bridge (Figures 9.35 and 9.36). The project is of mixed development comprising housing, commercial and retail space. The architecture, according to Glancey, is cheerful but ‘... owes precious little to

mainstream architectural fads' (Glancey, 1989). The development completes an urban street block, and in doing so creates pleasant, enclosed and protected courts: it is an area of calm amidst the bustle and noise of the surrounding streets. The street block, which is five and six storeys, has a lively and decorative roofline in keeping with its riverside location. Possibly because it owes nothing to current architectural fashion, Horselydown Square is the type of development which in both form and function encapsulates many of the principles expected of sustainable development in a busy city urban street block.

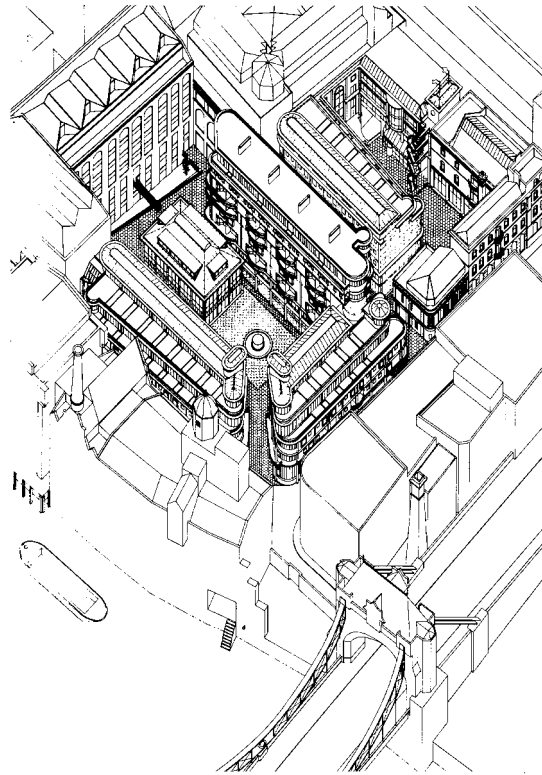


Figure 9.35 Horselydown Square (Glancey, 1989)



9.36a



9.36b



9.36c

Figure 9.36 (a,b,c)
Horselydown Square