

Figure 2.7 Church conversion to shops, Stamford



Figure 2.8 Eighteenth-century façade, Stamford



development would make it possible to judge the outcome most likely to accord with the principles of sustainability and be more closely in tune with the public good.

Numerous examples of the re-use of, refurbishment and extension of structures can be cited from the past. In the pre-industrial city a building, however renowned, was remodelled for its new purpose without the sentiment we now attach to this process. An examination of many English parish churches, for example, reveals a mixture of many styles developed over many centuries. Old walls, details and materials were re-used, while extensions in the then latest style were woven into the existing fabric without regard to the destruction of the architectural integrity of the original building. The result is often a fine building that is much loved and admired by succeeding generations. The most common feature of the medieval city, the dwelling, was recycled in a number of ways. Parts of a timber-frame structure from an earlier building were commonly used again when a replacement building was necessary, while in towns such as Stamford whole medieval structures lie buried beneath a later façade dating from the eighteenth century (Figure 2.8). Even in that most classical of structures, the Parthenon, parts meant for an older temple were re-used in the building that presently occupies the site on the Acropolis in Athens (Carpenter, 1970). The lessons that such examples teach is a respect not for the aesthetic form, although the results are often great works of architecture, but a common-sense approach to the idea of the stewardship of property and the good husbanding of scarce resources: in the case of buildings, the scarce resource is the hard-won material from which the structure is made. How different is this attitude from that which underpins some

of today's conservation. Often a façade of questionable aesthetic value is shored up at great expense in terms of time, money and energy inputs (Figures 2.9–2.11). Behind the protected shell the inner building is gutted and remodelled for its new purpose. Such is the sentimental approach to conservation. If energy conservation suggests the external remodelling of a façade – which is often the case for the purpose of installing effective insulation – then this factor would take priority over aesthetic considerations for the purposes of achieving a high degree of sustainability. Sadly, it would appear that



Figure 2.9 Façade conservation, Amsterdam



Figure 2.10 Façade conservation, Nottingham



Figure 2.11 Façade conservation, Nottingham