



Figure 6.18 Roscommon, Ireland: former jail

example, a boundary wall or privet hedge with garden gate still encircles the Englishman's semi-detached castle, forbidding entry to unwelcome guests. Less urbanely, the high-income residential complex in the United States of America is surrounded by a strong protective wall and entered through a guarded gateway. The parade route is still important for British pageantry: the Queen on state occasions takes possession of her capital city, processing from Buckingham Palace to Parliament or St. Paul's Cathedral. The annual parade in Moscow of the Red Army, together with its lethal firepower,

Figure 6.19 Protestant March, Belfast



is a blatant exercise in control. In Northern Ireland during the 'marching season' in July, the Orange Lodges with pipe band and fearful Lambeg drum reassert the Protestant right to city territory. Provocatively, the Orange march is always planned to invade or skirt sensitive Catholic areas: the route is festooned with arches and banners proclaiming the Protestant ascendancy (Figure 6.19). The landmark is a symbol of possession: the possession of the land.

The landmark of the modern city is the tall building, which dominates its surroundings. Business corporations have been competing to build the tallest skyscraper, following the example set by the powerful Medieval families in cities like San Gimignano (Figures 6.20 and 6.21). The sheer size and scale of some recent urban developments dominate and are meant to dominate the city and its citizens (Figure 6.22). Bilateral symmetry and elevation are key formal cues which are still used to emphasize position and power. The high table at College is an example in the use of physical cues to reinforce status. Staff and honoured guests sit elevated above the rest of the College while the Dean, Director or Warden sits at the head of the table on the axis dominating the occasion.

The distribution of land uses, together with the condition and density of the buildings which give the land uses three-dimensional form, graphically illustrate the disparities in wealth and power of the groups occupying city space. Harvey (1973) documented this particular phenomenon, showing how spatial use in a city is organized to favour those with wealth, while the powerless members of society are located in the least



6.20a



6.21



6.20b



6.22

Figure 6.20 San Gimignano**Figure 6.21** New York:
roofscape**Figure 6.22** Romania, Palace
of the People. (Photograph by
Neil Leach)