



1.14

Figure 1.14 The Tuileries at one end of the Avenue de Champs Elysée

Figure 1.15 Decorated front, Regent Street, Nottingham

Figure 1.16 Undecorated back, Regent Street, Nottingham

providing shade, shelter, areas of safety, comfort or information. This category would include street planting, arcades, seating, lighting and signs. The elegant arcades of Bologna combine function - protection from the rain and the sun as well as channelling the pedestrians closer to shop windows - with street decoration (Figure 1.17). The rhythm and unity achieved by the colonnades are enriched by the decorations of the vaults, the detailing of the columns and the arches. Colour and figurines are used to enrich the environment and enhance the pleasure of shopping or promenading. Victorian shopping arcades in many British cities, notably in London, are examples of decorated shopping areas which provide a safe, protected and pleasurable shopping environment enriched with decorative masonry and wrought iron (Figures 1.18 and 1.19).

The design elements dealt with by the urbanist when analysing city ornamentation include the floor plane and enclosed walls of street and square together with the three dimensional objects placed within them. Of particular importance in the analysis of these elements is, for example, the junction of floor and wall plane; the roof line; street corners; changes in pavement level; ownership boundaries



1.15



1.16



1.17

and openings in the wall plane. In a city designed for the pedestrian the floor plane is of major importance for this is the part of the environment that impinges most upon the eye. How often the amateur photographer produces a picture with a large, boring, unadorned foreground: this is the image which is produced on the retina. Like the façades along the road, the pavement should be carefully detailed to enhance the qualities of the street scene. The pavements of many continental streets together with the façades bounding them both define external spaces and decorate them to make the users experience a delight (Figure 1.20).



1.18

In a well-decorated city there are significant decorative changes as the eye moves from floor plane to façades and upwards to the skyline. For example, there may be smaller windows and elaborately decorated details on the ground floor, with the façade getting lighter with larger openings on the higher levels, and an articulated roofline completing the composition or conversely larger windows at basement ground level with upper floor windows becoming progressively smaller with the façade terminated by a simple cornice or balustrade. Where façades meet at street corners the junction is often treated with greater attention to decoration. The

Figure 1.17 Elegantly decorated soffit to street arcade, Bologna

Figure 1.18 Entrance to the Burlington Arcade, London