

Figure 4.22 Castle
Howard, Yorkshire

Figure 4.23 Queen's
House, Greenwich



4.22

statues and large ornate vases (Figure 4.22). The scheme of ascending heights leading to the dominant central feature on the main axis of the composition lends itself to the celebration of power, whether it is the power of the state individual or of religion. Wren in his design for Greenwich was defeated in his main purpose. The earlier placing of the small scale Queen's House at the head of the axis prevented Wren from placing there a structure dominant enough to act as a climax to the roofline of the hospital buildings with their twin domes (Figure 4.23). As a celebration of power, the use of this roofstyle by Lutyens in New Delhi was quite apposite. Again the design was frustrated. The dome of the Capitol at the head of the axis and the climax of the composition sits uneasily in the background. The foreground, on the ridge, is usurped by Baker's twin domes over the less important secretariat.



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CONCLUSION

The skyline, roofscape and roofline are prime locations for decoration. The skyline, which is appreciated from a distance, is dependent upon large scale buildings and towers dominating an otherwise generally lower and visually monolithic roofline. The main decorative effect of such buildings is the form of their profile. The buildings which thrust themselves through the general building mass should have interesting silhouettes. In the past, buildings with domes, minarets and towers have been the main decorative features of the traditional city skyline. Grouped towers in New York

also have a romantic and attractive skyline reminiscent of the medieval town such as the multi-towered San Gimignano.

The roofscape is the sea of roofs that can be seen from high buildings or from other vantage points in the city. Such roofscapes present an opportunity for decorative treatment as landscape features in their own right. The detailed roofline is that outline of buildings seen from the pavements in the city. The roofline presents a changing profile of the city as the citizen moves around below. As such, they should be highly decorative and bring interest into the street scene. It is at this point between building and sky that ornament and decoration can be most effective.