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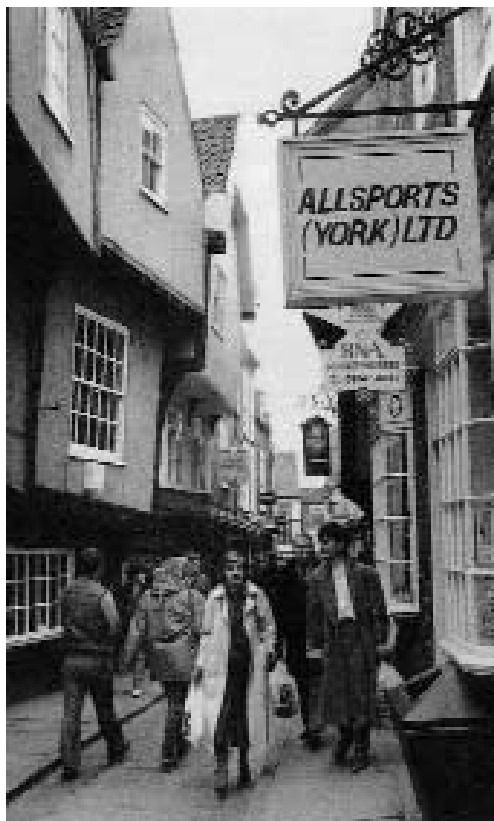
Figure 2.14 Piazza Maggiore, Bologna

Figure 2.15 Canal scene, Amsterdam



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rich urban scene. The vertical emphasis of the architecture is a result of the medieval ownership pattern and taxation. The streets of narrow gabled fronts are reflected in the canals extending their apparent height and increasing the effect of verticality. The buildings show great respect for context: window shapes, details, materials, gable and colours blend to form a highly decorative and unified street scene (Figure 2.15). A similar form of gabled street elevation can be found in those areas of European cities where medieval sections of the city survive. A particularly good, though small, example is The Shambles in York (Figure 2.16). The ownership boundaries are narrow, the frontage vertical and the distance between street walls narrow, decreasing in width with each successive cantilevered floor. The small scale of the architecture and the sense of tight enclosure maximize the decorative effect of shop



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window, signs, paving and half timbered structure. This is a charming street in which to shop, a decorative gem in York, a city of many fine streets.

RESIDENTIAL STREETS

London and Paris are cities which are well endowed with decorative and decorated streets. Streets in Belgravia, Mayfair and Sloane Square use both neo-classical and Georgian decorative features to achieve a human and distinctive environment. The same can be said of the streets of Paris, especially north of



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the river in the Eighth Arrondissement. Stone and stucco are used throughout to create small unified areas of great identity in an environment of fine grain and rich texture.

Prague and some parts of Vienna in contrast have streets which are decorated with fine examples of Baroque and Art Nouveau façades. The rich ornament, curves and elliptical shapes decorate the Baroque street with profuse detailing and disturbing movement. Art Nouveau buildings contribute to ornament and movement in a similar fashion to their more ponderous neighbours but with lightness and less gravitas (Figures 2.17 and 2.18).

Figure 2.16 The Shambles, York

Figure 2.17 Baroque façade, Vienna