



3.7

Figure 3.7 The flowing corner: Market Street/Upper Parliament Street, Nottingham

Figure 3.8 The wrapped corner: Long Row, Nottingham



3.8

THE CURVED STREET CORNER

The corner types within this broad category arise where the two street-facing façades meeting at the corner do not meet at an angle, but instead the change of direction is negotiated through a curve. There may be strong horizontal elements which suggest that the building flows around the corner, or strong vertical elements which emphasize the corner as a distinct design element in the street frontage.

(i) The Flowing Corner

A flowing corner is one where the whole building frontage forms the corner. The curve is gentle, the corner is almost imperceptible, and can be emphasized using simple decorative features such as projecting eaves, string course or curving shop fascia. Cutaway ground floors within curving corners, unless carefully detailed and integrated with arcading or colonnade, can destroy the sweeping lines of this particular townscape feature (Figure 3.7).

(ii) The Wrapped Corner

The wrapped corner is also a continuous curve but the degree of curvature is much tighter than the last example. Strong fenestration detailing can be repeated from street façade to street façade encompassing the curve without change of rhythm. As a corner type it is most useful with deeply incised arcuated window forms where highly decorative and boldly modelled cornices and string courses subdivide the wall plane into flowing horizontal bands (Figure 3.8).

(iii) The Hinged Corner

The hinge can be a neutral method of linking the two street frontages or it can present an opportunity for embellishment which explicitly



3.9

acknowledges the additional significance of the corner. The hinged corner is similar to the faceted type except that in this instance the corner is negotiated by the insertion of a curved or faceted building element that is quite distinct from the street frontages forming the corner. Ideally the element forming the hinge should start at ground level and continue to the eaves: it is also explicitly differentiated from the neighbouring street elements by vertical setbacks in the wall. Linkage between neighbouring façades may be achieved by carrying cornices and string courses around the corner. The unified effect produced by these linking features however will be undermined if they become so prominent that they conflict with the general verticality of the hinge (Figure 3.9).



3.10

Figure 3.9 The hinged corner: Shakespeare Street, Nottingham

Figure 3.10 The attached tower corner: King Street/Queen Street, Nottingham

THE TOWERED STREET CORNER

The most powerful expression of the corner is the tower. Giving emphasis to the roof line or silhouette of corner buildings is one of the most successful and dramatic ways of turning a corner. Vertical impact at this important point in the urban scene can be achieved by extending the building façade beyond the eaves or parapet to make a strong elevated feature; the round or octagonal turret was a popular feature for this building element during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This corner type is a useful focal point for a district or neighbourhood and is ideal as a city landmark.

(i) The Attached Tower

The attached tower may take two forms. In the first case it is embedded within the building fabric and does not project beyond the building lines of the