

Figure 5.9 Hazard warning
by textured paving

Figure 5.10 Edging to
lawn



5.9



5.10

while having a similar function, compares unfavourably with the traditional and more subtle arrangement of two or three rows of cobbles between paved footpath and lawn (Figure 5.10). A change of paving material can be used to indicate a change of ownership letting the pedestrian know where the public realm ends and private property is being entered. This device is often used where a restaurant spills over, with its chairs and tables, onto a street or square. It is also used in front of hotels, banks and shops as a way of making the public realize that they are now on private property which is for the use of private clients. Devices for changing the floor pattern introduce a necessary element of decoration into the floor plane,

furthermore if that patterning attains a consistency over large areas of the city then it contributes effectively to its imageability.

Paving can be designed to provide a sense of direction or to give a feeling of repose. Both are aspects of the same function which is to guide and give meaning to the rhythm, pace and pattern of movement. At a very basic level paving can be designed to guide pedestrians or vehicles through an area where there may be few other indications of the route to be taken. There are many fine examples of stone slab footpaths set within a sea of cobbles: the stone slabs, for example, may indicate the route for visitors or strangers to traverse a semi-private courtyard (Figure 5.11). Paving slabs sunk



5.11

deep within a carpet of lawn play a similar directional role. A diagonal across a monolithic surface, particularly if the line of paving is edged and augmented with cobbles or setts laid parallel to it, introduces an essential element of decorative patterning, the fundamental basis of an environment with human scale. Directional paving may have a purely aesthetic function with no pretence at utility. It may simply be used within a street to reinforce the linear form of the space and so enhance the sense of movement.

The junction between the horizontal plane of the pavement and the vertical plane of the street façade is a line which in the past has been exploited for decoration. It is one of those important places in the



5.12

built environment which can be celebrated by the repetition of parallel lines - the plinth, lines of parallel paving, the kerb and the street gutter. Parallel lines following the length of the street reinforce the insistent movement and carry the eye along the path to its termination. Unfortunately many recent pedestrianization schemes ignore this linear theme: the paving often running in an undifferentiated manner from one side of the street to the other without kerbstone or memory of sidewalk. Where patterning is used, as in the Broadway, Lace Market, Nottingham the result can look awkward and clumsy if the edging to the street paving follows a geometrical form other than the insistent line of the street frontage (Figure 5.12). Broadway is a sinuous street - the finest spatial experience in Nottingham. Unfortunately the recent insensitive paving has, both in design and execution, detracted from this space. The opportunity of repeating, in the paving pattern, the sinuous forms of the street plan has been missed, together with the opportunity of retaining the proportion and scale of the street by using raised pavements on both sides of the space.

Figure 5.11 Directional paving, Boston, Lincolnshire
Figure 5.12 Broadway, Lace Market, Nottingham