Appendix Two: Urban Design Approaches

Table 2.1 Urban design approaches

Approach	Appropriate Elements
Arcadia	• housing laid out according to landscape dominated principles; • creating the illusion of a rural environment in a residential area; • layout allows houses to appear at intervals among trees and landscape features as surprise hidden features in the dominant landscape; • 'leafy' suburbs concealing houses among mature trees so visual appearance is of a landscape setting rather than housing; • typified by layout of parks of great country houses; • front gardens should be enclosed by hedges in order for the landscape to dominate the housing; • most suitable sites are those which already have significant density of mature trees and hedges; • consideration of how to enhance existing tree cover with new planting, and to establishing new patterns of substantial tree and hedge cover where existing vegetation is sparse; • plant material should not be alien to naturally occurring species
Boulevard	• formal plans and geometric patterns, such as boulevards, avenues, crescents, circuses, ovals or rectangles, and common architectural style and detailing; • success depends on abundant and appropriate tree planting; • structural tree and hedge planting reinforces the concept; • trees predominate and enclose public space, but more formal arrangement of housing allows higher densities than the Arcadia approach; • trees provide link between housing, which appears at intervals seen through driveway entrances; • tree lined avenues contain space for motorists, and pedestrians contained within inner space formed by roadside trees and front garden hedges; • layout relying on subtle combination of landscape and buildings; • create the right relationship between the height of buildings and trees and width of spaces between them, where spaces are partly created by trees and hedges and partly reliant on building groupings
Major Entry Point	• housing arranged as a composition centred on junction giving access to the site; • focal feature at junction; • tree planted verges along entrance road into site; • anti-noise bunds if heavily trafficked; • entrances to dwellings onto entrance road, rather than existing main road, to discourage on street or front forecourt parking
Large Landscaped Square	• housing enclosing a large landscaped square; • parking and garaging provided on-plot to the rear, accessed through carriage arches to prevent car-dominated frontages; • front gardens achievable; • generous tree planting around and within square; • possible reduction in private garden provision due to housing facing landscaped square;