



A shielded multi storey parking structure



An undercroft parking space



A basement parking space

**Basements and multi-storeys: soften and screen**

The benefit of underground parking is that it allows the street frontage of buildings to be maintained. It may be possible to service ground storey shops and businesses from the underground area. Parking spaces demand a rigid geometry - a 16m wide space accommodates two rows of parking bays, but this geometry should not necessarily dictate the design of the above ground building.

Multi-storey car parks should generally only be considered when they can be designed to incorporate ground level activities such as shops or offices, and then need to be carefully designed to contribute to the street scene. Sensitively designed, multi-storeys integrate with the surrounding urban fabric when they are 'wrapped' by single aspect buildings for other uses.



Multi-storey car parks can be disguised by wrapping single-aspect housing around the perimeter ...

... but do it in a subtle way!

**4.5.4 SERVICING**

**Service from the street**

The ideal form of delivery is from the street directly to the building in the traditional way. Where a delivery/storage yard is required, place it at the rear and frame it with buildings to avoid the invariably unsightly yards and building edge. In largely urban situations basement servicing may be possible and encouraged. Time management regimes can be a very useful device especially where there is not a means of reaching a satisfactory design solution.



Disturbance caused by reversing lorries should be avoided in designs (here in the otherwise impressive Brook Green flats-over-superstore development in Hammersmith, London)