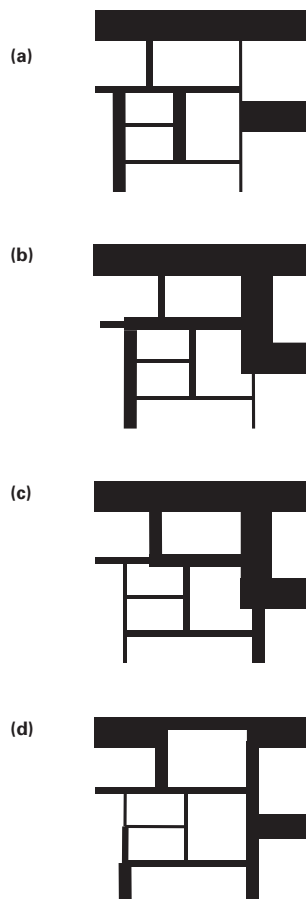Table 7.5 Interpretation of desired properties related to constitutional structure

Constitution		Coherent pattern	Legibility	Clear typology	Clear hierarchy	Less rigid hierarchy
Mosaic	👍	👍	☒	👍	☒	👍
Conjoint	👍	👍	👍	👍	👍	👍
Dendritic	👍	👍	👍	👍	👍	☒
Serial	👍	👍	☒	👍	👍	👍

(a)

(b)

(c)

(d)

7.12 • The independence of constitution and configuration. Four different constitutions are illustrated using the same configuration. (a) Mosaic. (b) Conjoint. (c) Dendritic. (d) Serial.

Constitution and configuration

Although tree-like configurations and tree-like hierarchies may often be associated (and often confused, Chapter 2), constitution is conceptually independent of configuration. This can be demonstrated by using a single configuration to illustrate each of the four distinct kinds of constitution (Figure 7.12).

This means that a given configuration could have its routes classified according to a wide variety of constitutions. This reflects the ability of road classification to turn any jumbled mass of urban streetspace on the town plan into a discrete set of coloured lines on the road atlas. Conversely, this flexibility also means that constitution can be used to proactively *generate* a wide variety of configurations (as will be seen in Chapter 9).

The independent nature of constitution also means that, although the dendritic constitution is most immediately recognised as the structure of modern 'distributory' road layouts (Figure 7.13(a)), it does not inevitably lead to them, but might be applied to form grids or other patterns. This is seen in the classic case of the Craig Plan, which despite being a pedestrian-friendly 'urbanistic grid', employs a dendritic constitution (Figure 7.13(b)). In such a kind of 'hierarchical network', the minor routes need not necessarily be any more discontinuous than those higher in the hierarchy.