(a)

Boulevard

Street

Lane

Bd.   St.   La.

(b)

Boule-
vard

Street

Lane

Bd.   St.   La.

(c)

Boule-
vard

Street

Lane

Bd.   St.   La.

9.11 • Examples of archetypes for different kinds of constitution. (a) Mosaic. (b) Conjoint. (c) Dendritic.

shows an interpretation of the urban streetspace constitution of Chapter 8, in which contiguity of the combined urban street–urban place system is guaranteed.

Intersection type

In addition to expressing necessary and allowable connections between types of route, a constitutional code can also express the *type* of connection or intersection. This could be a purely engineering consideration of allowable intersections between different route types. Figure 9.15, for example, demonstrates allowable junction types, among other things suggesting that crossroads are only permitted either for very slow speed streets, or must be signalised. Intersection type can also be expressed in terms of land use (e.g. high-intensity development at a public transport node) or urban design treatment (e.g. use of squares or '*rond-points*' at major intersections) (Figure 9.16).

Overall, the constitutional archetype therefore represents a concise graphical depiction of a possible basis for design guidance, essentially combining allowable street type, allowable connections and allowable type of junction; with the possibility of also expressing dimensions, frontage uses and building forms.

Application to design guidance

The constitutional archetype can be used as a basis for design guidance. Indeed, the diagrams in the *Essex Design Guide* shown in Figures 2.11 and 2.12 may be interpreted as *de facto* constitutional archetypes, albeit without explicit articulation of arteriality. The archetypes presented in this chapter therefore can be seen to build on an existing tradition, but introducing new elements to systematically generate alternatives. They therefore combine a degree of novelty with a degree of continuity.

In other words, the kinds of constitutional archetype expressed here can be seen to be evolvable from existing conventional road hierarchy. The graphic form and logic of the archetype are simply an expressive tool that could represent any kind of constitutional structure, from a conventional road hierarchy like that in *Traffic in Towns* to some onward evolution from it (Figure 9.17).

Since the 'constitutional' or 'archetypal' approach can accommodate and contain the conventional approaches within it, it could even be adopted in principle prior to making any changes to the individual design rules or recommendations. In other words, a 'constitutional code' with 'archetypal' graphic format could be introduced to design guidance first – prior to