

3.7 • A diversity of types of street. For a fuller catalogue of street types and sources, see Appendix 3.1.

Street		Civic		All-purpose
Terrace		Commercial		Transit mall
Mews		Residential		Tram street
Close	Road	Industrial		Busway
Court	Lane			Foot street
	Way		Pedestrian precinct	
Parkway	Path			Strategic traffic
Boulevard				Local traffic
Avenue			Primary distributor	High speed
	Barren arterial		District distributor	Medium speed
Square	Arid industrial route		Local distributor	Low speed
Crescent	Chaotic commercial strip		Access road	Very low speed
Circus			Motorway	
Cross	Bypass road			Primary route
				A road
		Nondescript road	Type 1	B road
			Type 2	Unclassified
Grid road			Type 3	
Loop road	Trunk road		Type 4a	National road
Radial road	Local road		Type 4b	State road
Ring road		Arterial	Type 5	County road
		Sub-arterial	Type 6	Private road

STREET TYPE AND CLASSIFICATION

A glance at a city street atlas can reveal a diversity of labels associated with different kinds of street – from the humble lane and place to the grander boulevard and piazza. Overall, a wide variety of street types is observable across a variety of contexts, from architecture to urban morphology (Figure 3.7).

In practice, these street types do not float loosely in typological space, but tend to be systematically recognised and ordered in definite sets. This section reviews a variety of street typologies and classification systems, which will lead to a wider exploration of the ‘problem’ of hierarchy, and provide some insights into how alternatives to conventional hierarchy might be constructed.

Street typologies

Table 3.2 shows a range of typologies, representing an eclectic catalogue based on both historic examples and contemporary advocacy, often proffered by individuals rather than institutions.

Unlike the hierarchies shown in Table 3.1, which tended to be based on the same general spectrum of mobility–access, the selection in Table 3.2 offers a variety of types, shapes and sizes. In other words, ‘urban roads with frontages’ are not necessarily limited to one particular part of the