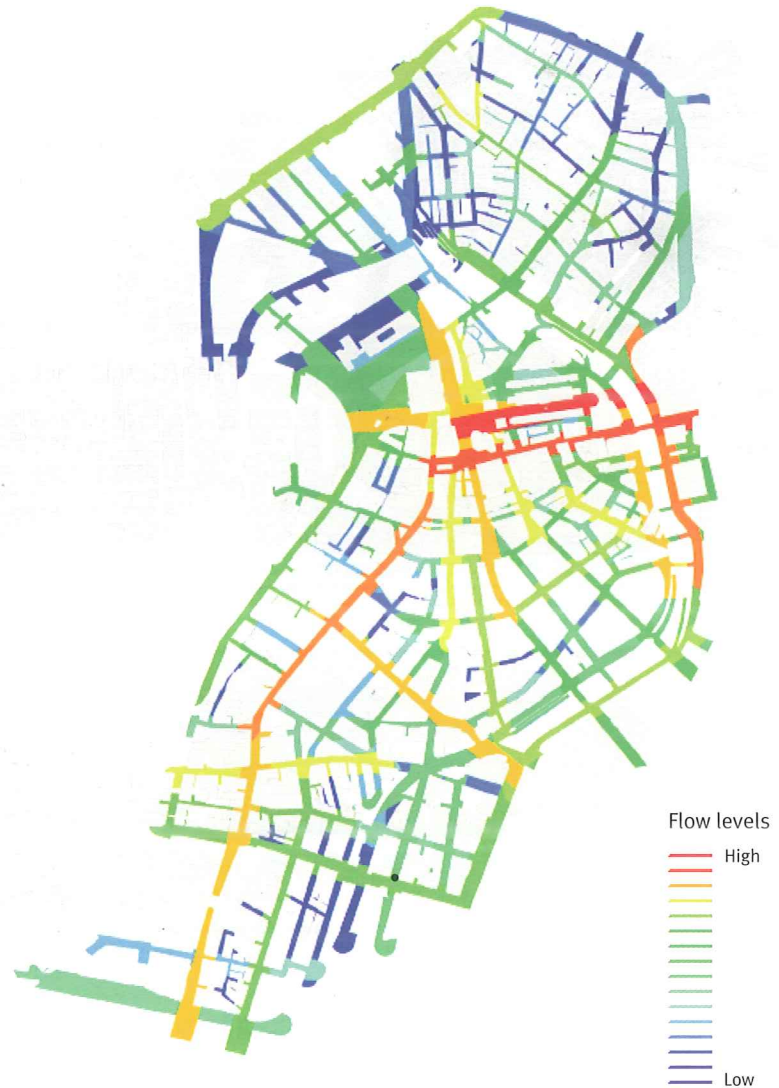## 1.1.2 Analytical techniques

Graphic representation can help identify the nature of problems and possible solutions. Techniques can display patterns of behaviour and activity that are influenced by spatial layout. The image illustrated here shows how complex patterns of activity are more easily discerned when portrayed graphically rather than in data or text. The implications of such patterns for urban design can be communicated in a logical and understandable manner.

Flow levels

High

Low

Pedestrian flows in central Boston

What it shows:

- patterns of spatial accessibility in central Boston: knowing these patterns helps us to understand and estimate how pedestrians use the area
- a probable hierarchy of pedestrian intensification: further analysis (land use, figure ground and connectivity) would tell us why the intensification is where it is and why some areas expected to be intense are not.

Why it is good graphically:

- displays high intensity values in the hottest colour (red) and low intensity values in the coldest colour (blue)
- neutral base-map allows the analytical information to stand out
- all extraneous map data has been removed, leaving only the necessary detail to orientate the viewer
- the key clearly indicates the levels of pedestrian flow.