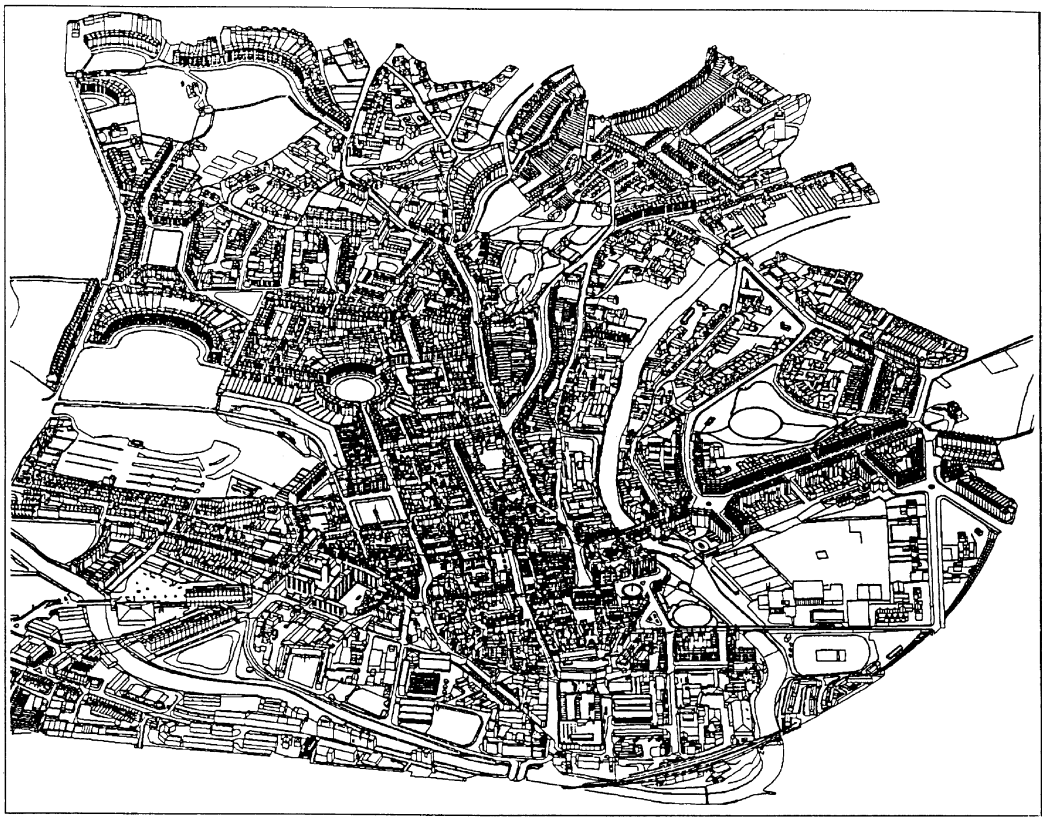

Figure 7.18 Bath computer model.

become difficult and confusing if the information presented is unclear and lacks consistency.

The minimum size of lettering that is required for displays varies according to distance. Research has established that the relationship between letter height and viewing distance is linear. As a general rule, letters and numbers should be at least 10 mm high for every metre of viewing distance. No lettering should be less than 22 mm in height while texts used in overhead projector slides should not be smaller than 18 point. Considerable research into legibility has led to the design of typefaces suitable for presentations. It was found that a mixture of upper and lower case letters can be read more easily and recognized more quickly than words consisting entirely of capital letters. People usually recognize words by their shape, so for example Nottingham can be recognised more easily than NOTTINGHAM. Typefaces such as Helvetica, Arial, Universe and Times are usually considered to be easy to read rather than over-stylized designs. Legibility depends upon text spacing and, where possible, splitting the text around illustrations should be avoided.

Because an estimated 9.3 per cent of the population is colour blind (leading to a particular confusion between red and green), and 8 per cent significantly affected by colour confusion, contrast is more important than colour for achieving legibility.