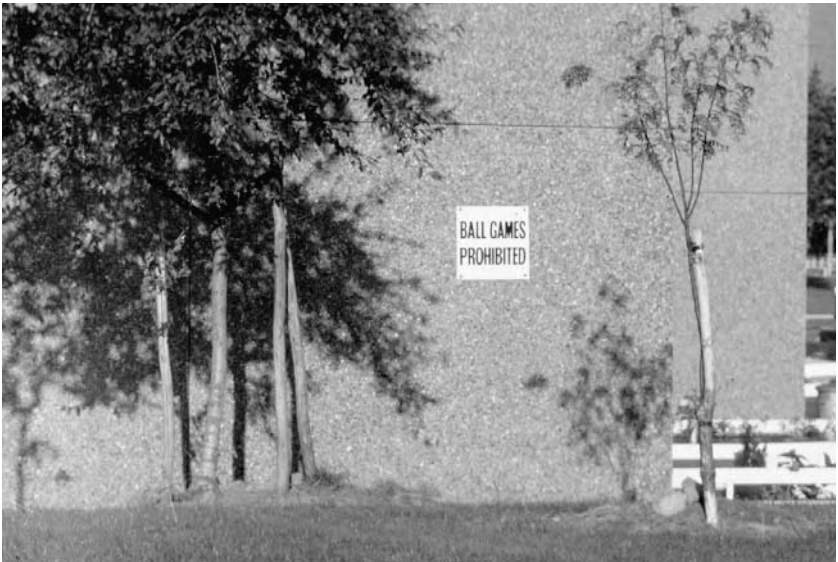


profound in its behavioural outcome than Taylor and others who fail to listen to the language of space have ever appreciated.

Defending the territory and beyond

The defence of territory is a natural tendency that designers can both promote and exploit. Equally, designers can make the defence of territory a veritable nightmare for the occupants by the careless arrangement of boundaries. I know of many heartrending tales of house-proud people who have suffered lives of protracted misery as they battle with neighbours or strangers to defend and maintain what they perceive to be their boundaries and territory. A public sector housing development I studied for quite different reasons for a number of months in Birmingham revealed several examples. The houses here were arranged on a Radburn principle – that is to say, there were a series of spaces between terraces of houses with segregation of pedestrians and vehicles. To one side of the dwellings there were garage courts for parking the residents' cars, and the pedestrian side of the dwellings created an area which was open landscaped with no fences or hedges of substance but generously planted with trees and shrubs.

A woman who described a whole history of territorial problems to me lived in a house at the end of a terrace (Fig. 7.3). She was interested



7.3 A dreadful misunderstanding of territory leads to this silly notice. It has no deterrent effect on children, of course, and actually encourages them to try to hit it with their ball! The trees that it is meant to protect provide convenient goalposts for a game!