



Roman grid structure through the period of urban decline in the Dark Ages to be reborn in Medieval times and given its delightful half-timbered two-storey shopping arcade built largely upon its Roman street lines. Chester is a particularly good example of a city which owes its existence and current economic well-being to a living tradition of conserving the best from the past and building intelligently upon this fine legacy (Figures 3.6 to 3.8). Gosling attempted to structure development in the Isle of Dogs, London, using the lay line or axis connecting The Queen's House by Inigo Jones in Greenwich to St Ann's Church by Hawksmoor in Limehouse. The axis so formed was intended to be a structuring line, giving definition to this section of the Dockland's regeneration. Unfortunately, this proposal was never implemented and the opportunity to stamp the area with a discipline generated by a sensitive appreciation of this magnificent location and its history was lost (Figures 3.9 to 3.12).⁵

Development in Nottingham during the 1960s and 1970s illustrates a misdirection of urban structure which resulted in part from an application of principles of architectural and planning design associated with 'modernism'. The almost total disregard for Nottingham's urban form which had developed over a long history has resulted in areas of the city in need of attention and repair, or as Alexander says, 'in need of healing' (Figures 3.13 to 3.16).⁶ The fate of Nottingham mirrors developments of the time in other British and European cities. The main geographical and historic structuring elements of Nottingham remain evident today. Two main factors determined the siting of Nottingham. The River Trent on which the city is sited was navigable and easily fordable. Bunter sandstone coinciding broadly

Figure 3.12 St Ann's Church, Limehouse.