

us to the wonderfully efficient and clinically sterile hospital that treats the body and yet numbs the spirit! Another mistake is to copy the traditions of the past when they are no longer appropriate, but have become stereotypes. The great Victorian law courts built in so many British cities were designed to dwarf the individual and remind us of the power and majesty of the law (Fig. 2.14) – it was not our identity that was to be expressed, but that of the legal system. Today many new court buildings ape this intention when those involved in the legal system wish to see a more humane and sympathetic setting involving all the participants, including perhaps the victims who must also appear.

In the English language we have two words with overlapping but distinct meanings referring to our place of residence; ‘house’ and ‘home’. The first seems to be a purely architectural concept, while the second includes overtones of humanity. One way of thinking about the purpose of this book is to see it as exploring the relationship between these two ideas of the physicality and humanity of space.

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