thought cannot blossom in a gridiron. From the start, this has been a place with no chance of time, where all traders and types rubbed shoulders, from the curate gallants and women of Tom King's Coffee House to Eliza Doolittle and Professor Higgins. This atmosphere must be reinforced—a mélange of theatres, cafes, studios, shops with their owners living over them, restaurants, students, lodges, etc. A phantom Latin quarter would make nonsense, but here it would be right with the grain; for instance:

The Royal Opera House must stay and needs room to expand. It is chronically short of space for ballet and opera rehearsals and for paint shops and wardrobe. It has no recording studios and at present scenery is stored either at the Dohes or at Malvern 53 miles away.

The Royal Academy is dispersed at Richmond and Hampstead and the London Opera House is down the Commercial Road, Concentrate them here.

At the Flower Market could stay, in fact there are marketing advantages in the Metropolitan area for it to do so (unlike the smaller fruit and vegetables which should be near railways and docks). Traders want to stay.

There is a great shortage of student accommodation and this park area is well placed to provide it in flats, hostels and studios round the square and running back from it.

This form of thought is developed into a sketch scheme in the following pages. The plan and section are below, and sketches 7 to 10 show how it might look.

* London University Survey for 1961-64 showed 15,000 student and 7,000 student in lodgings.

The main points of the scheme are:

**The Strand**

- Arches cut right round the main square (to plan below) beneath buildings of even height, capturing the last space of extension. The scheme is made as complete as possible by restricting vehicle entry to King Street and Henrietta Street, which could even, perhaps, be bridged over to enclose the space still further. Lord Archer's house (Old 18th century) Bedford Chambers, and the Floral Hall, are retained on the north side. Otherwise there is a complete rebuild on the north, east and south sides matching Bedford Chambers for height. Any tall new buildings are towered out so they are set back from the square (see section) so that they appear to be looking over the wall without breaking its continuity.

**The Royal Opera House**

- It is given much-needed show room and allowed to expand, as shown on the plan, to include the present Floral Hall, which could be brought back to the Metropolitan level on two levels to provide a church and overlook the square, an exhibition gallery and perhaps a new and better entrance to the Opera House from the square (through the opening at the south). South of this is a rehearsal room and ballet school block, etc., which could be made accessible also to the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, etc., by a first floor link (on a colonnade) so the latter should never join forces with the Opera House as some have urged.

...Numbers refer to the sketch; before figures and small to the plan below.