CLAIMS

1. A drainage module comprising:

a first generally planar member, the module having four side edges extending around the perimeter of the first planar member and wherein the planar member defines an ordered array of apertures; and wherein

one or more male interlocking means which are integral with the module project from each of the side edges; and

one or more female interlocking means are defined each of the side edges adapted to receive a male interlocking means so that two modules can be secured together in a side edge to side edge relation;

wherein each side defines the same arrangement of male and female interlocking means each side defining two spaced apart interlocking means of a first type, being male or female, and three or more spaced apart locking means of the opposite type to the first, the male and female interlocking means being located such that the modules can be secured together in a side edge to side edge relation, with no overlap, in which relation the male locking means from a first module engages in a female locking means of a second module, with any of the four sides of the first module being engageable with any of the four sides of the second module when the modules are in the same orientation and wherein the additional female interlocking means on each side allow the module to also be assembled in a stepped pattern where the side edges of the two modules are offset.

2. A drainage module as claimed in claim 1 wherein the second type are female interlocking means which comprise elongate slots defined in side edges of the module and the slots are open at both ends.

3. A drainage module as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein the first type are male interlocking means which comprise two arms which are generally L shaped in planar cross section whose distal ends locate behind the side edges adjacent the elongate slot when two modules are interlocked in side edge to side edge relation.

4. A drainage module as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein there are four or more spaced apart locking means of the opposite type on each side.

5. A drainage module as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein there are four interlocking means of the second type and two interlocking means of the first type and the spacing between the two of the first type of interlocking means is twice the spacing between two adjacent female locking means.

6. A drainage module as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the apertures are generally circular and the perimeter of the male locking means is also generally circular.

7. A drainage module as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the area of the apertures comprise at least 50% of the surface area of the first and second planar members.

8. A drainage module as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the size and configuration of the male interlocking means relative to the size and configuration of the apertures, is such that a first module may also be inter-engaged with a second module, with the first module oriented generally normally to the second module with a side edge of the first module abutting a planar member of the second module and with each male interlocking means defined along said side edge of the first member extending into one of the apertures defined in one of the planar members in a close or interference type fit with the aperture.

9. A drainage module as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the apertures in the planar members are arranged substantially regularly and uniformly.

10. A drainage module as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein a series of gaps or cells are also disposed along the side edge of the modules between the interlocking means, the gaps/cells being wider than the male members.

11. A drainage module as claimed in any one of the preceding claims further comprising a second generally planar member retained in a fixed spaced relationship from the first generally planar member by a plurality of spacers extending between the first and second planar members, and wherein the second planar member also defines an ordered array of apertures.