

particularly, in the historic preservation of significant buildings. The existence of the trail has indirectly raised the city's profile. It might be regarded as a catalyst for the later Quincy Market redevelopment because it showed what could be done when interested parties rally around a cause. In the year 2000, the Freedom Trail was one of 16 such trails in the United States to receive an award as part of the White House's Save Our National Treasures project.

Places change. As the Freedom Trail winds its way through the city's financial district the fear is that the increasing number of skyscrapers being built along the way will overshadow it. The question then arises:

'What is in the public interest – development and/or preservation?' The French government decided to maintain the scale of buildings of the historic core of Paris and displace development to the periphery of the city. The creation of outlying Amsterdam Zuidas as a business district is preserving the historic core of that city. This tactic has not been pursued in Boston.

### Major references

- Freedom Trail Foundation, The (2002). [www.thefreedomtrail.org](http://www.thefreedomtrail.org)  
 Kanda, Shun and Masami Kobayashi (1991). *Boston by Design – A City in Development*. Tokyo: Process Architecture.

## A NOTE

### The Heritage Walk, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India

Not all heritage walks link iconic monuments nor are they all in the western world. The concern for cultural history is universal. It appears to be especially strong when people see the world around them changing rapidly. The Heritage Walk in Ahmedabad, the major industrial city of the Indian state of Gujarat, was initiated by the Foundation for Conservation and Research of Urban Traditional Architecture (CRUTA). The city, founded by Ahmed Shah in 1411, is rich in historic buildings and places, but the city administration has been unwilling or unable to effectively preserve or exploit them. The city is not on the major tourist circuit of India and many of those who visit are either interested in seeing the Ashram of Mahatma Gandhi or the Modernist architecture of Le Corbusier and Louis Kahn for which the city is renowned.

CRUTA's goal is to preserve the old, walled city of Ahmedabad sadly often rent

by sectarian violence between Hindus and Muslims. The focus of attention in developing the Heritage Walk is not only on the city's major monuments (many Islamic) but also on its *pols*. Pols are tightly knit, self-contained, cul-de-saced, gated neighbourhoods of caste (and occupation) groups (see Figure 5.8c). The walk begins at the Swaminarayan Mandir in Kalupur and ends at the Jamma Masjid (the City's Friday Mosque; see Figure 5.8b). Along the way, it passes through a series of *chowks* (squares), linking a number of pols, mosques and temples. It also includes one of the city's outstanding Modernist buildings – the Calico Shop (1962, a shallow domed building designed by Gautam and Gira Sarabhai who had worked for Frank Lloyd Wright at Taliesen) – and the Fernandez Bridge, an overpass from which the street-life of the city can be seen below.