



mirrors closely the natural evolution of settlements where a myriad of decisions produce an environment of great complexity, as opposed to the bland and often inhuman imposition of grandly designed housing estates. For the purpose of public participation in urban design, the model at all scales plays a vital role and, together with educational visits to projects of a similar nature, it becomes a powerful tool in the process of empowerment.

THE ECOLOGICAL CITY: CASE STUDIES FROM NORWAY

Norway can, in many ways, be regarded as the birthplace of sustainable development. Clearly, there are other claims to be first in the field for this particular environmental movement. A number could be made with some justification. But when a leading national politician such as Norway's Brundtland puts her name to a seminal international report on the environment, it indicates active national political support for the idea.²⁷ For this reason, it is appropriate for a book whose theme is sustainable development to review current ideas in Norway about environmental protection. The planning concept reviewed in this case study is the concept of an Ecological or Environmental City.

The Ministry of Environment, Norway in 1992-1993 initiated a project to promote environmentally sound development in five cities: Fredrikstad, Kristiansand, Bergen, Tromsø and the part of Oslo known as 'Gamle Oslo', or Old Oslo

Figure 5.42 The Millgate project: large-scale model.