



Figure 6.10 The Neighbourhood Unit concept.

CASE STUDY

The Unité d'Habitation, Marseilles, France: a neighbourhood in a building (1946–52)

Le Corbusier produced a number of conceptual designs for cities and apartment blocks during the 1920s and 1930s. Neither he nor others, however, turned his large-scale ideas into built form until the 1950s when the reconstruction of Europe after the devastations of World War II was underway. The Unité d'Habitation is part of one such total urban design scheme that moved from being on the drawing board to

being built in the real world. The Marseilles Unité (see Figure 6.11a), located well out from the centre of the city on Boulevard Michelet, was the first to be built. Others followed: Nantes-Rezé (1952–3), Berlin (1956–8: see Figure 6.11b), Briey en Forêt (1956–8), Meaux (1956–8) and Firminy (1961–8). Most departed from the basic model as built in Marseilles in some respect.