



(a)



(b)

Figure 6.17 Urban objects. (a) Union Square, New York in 1997 and (b) sculpture by Picasso, Daley Plaza, Chicago in 1993.

Major reference

Robinette, Margaret A. (1976). *Outdoor Sculpture: Object and Environment*. New York: Whitney Library of Design.

Commentary: Are these Architectural Products Urban Design?

Individual buildings are important. The Chrysler Building in New York has shaped people's view of what good urban buildings are as objects and as space making elements. It is a well-fitting design for a city but it was not an urban design project! It is the catalytic effect of the buildings in some of the cases covered here that might make them urban design. Others can be regarded as urban design because they incorporate mixed-uses that are part of the traditional city into a single unit. Most are, however, simply architectural works on an urban scale, as interesting and as important as they may be. Much of the difference comes from the scope of the goals set and the concern or not with their potential multiplier and side effects on their environments.

All the schemes described here have in common a major concern for their geometry, their formal aesthetics. This observation does not mean that the architectural idea has totally led the program rather than come out of it. Kresge College is an example showing a great concern for the development of a coherent behavioural and building program before design began. What all the cases