



Drawing adapted from Miao (2003) by Thanong Poonteerakul

Figure 7.1 A typical early twenty-first century gated housing scheme in Shanghai.

well and frequently used in practice. No doubt, however, the urban designs qualities that give them critical acclaim in architectural circles will change in a cyclical manner as they have done in the past. Simplicity and boldness will be followed by a demand for complexity and mess followed by . . . !

Major references

- Lang, Jon (1994). The nature of urban design today. In *Urban Design: The American Experience*. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 68–100.
- Moudon, Ann Vernez and Wayne Attoe (1995). *Urban Design: Reshaping Our Cities*. Seattle, WA: Urban Design Program, University of Washington.

The Case Studies

The case studies presented here include a variety of new towns and precincts of cities. The idea of a new town is widely understood although there are debates over how inclusive and independent a development a new town should be in terms of the activities it affords. They are supposed to include all the aspects of a city so that they can exist as semi-independent units within a regional context. They are seldom as self-contained as the accepted definition suggests.

The way precincts are considered here is complex. Some of the examples are located on what were green-field sites (land formerly unused or used for agriculture); others were built on brown-field sites (those previously built-upon and demolished). In this chapter, a somewhat arbitrary distinction is drawn between those precinct developments on totally cleared brown-field sites (or in the case of the Barbican in