



**Figure 1.5** The planning process.

urban design method suggested here mirrors the planning process with which it has so much in common. A book, however, is a linear presentation of material. Urban design method is therefore presented here as a simple progression starting with goal formation and ending with techniques of implementation. This ordered and orderly presentation cannot do justice to the richness and complexity of urban design. The linear presentation of the material is adopted for clarity and convenience.

Urban design method like planning method is related to the main theoretical schools of thought which explain the procedures of public action in planning, development and design. According to Hudson there are five major schools of thought within normative planning theory.<sup>28</sup> The five categories are: the synoptic, incremental, transactive, advocacy-orientated and radical traditions. The method advocated here for urban design is very much in the synoptic traditions of planning. It is appropriate at this point to discuss the suitability of this method for the delivery of sustainable development and environmentally sound procedures in urban design.

**Synoptic planning** has its roots in rationalism and utilitarian philosophy. As the method described in this chapter outlines, synoptic planning method proceeds from analysis to target definition followed by a search for alternatives and their comparison. Synoptic planning method in some cases, and followed here, includes the process of implementation with its techniques for the feedback of information. This text adopts a compromise position, following a course described as 'limited rationality' since common sense suggests the impossibility of

elucidating all possible alternative actions in any given situation. It may also be appropriate to follow Lawson's ideas, testing partial answers to the problem in dialectical fashion by confronting problem and answer.

**Incremental planning** has its roots in liberalism and theories about social learning. According to this theory it is not possible to define clear goals based on commonly accepted values. Only a limited number of alternative actions are considered in any development context and these differ little from the *status quo*. A good solution in incremental planning is not defined by the degree of goal achievement, but by how feasible implementation is with the means available and the degree of agreement among key decision makers.

**Transactive planning** places great emphasis on mutual learning and dialogue between those affected by planning. It seeks to build decentralized planning bodies which can give the population more control over the social processes that are affecting their welfare. According to Hudson, transactive planning is just as concerned with planning's effect on people's self esteem, values, behaviour and capacity for growth through co-operation, as with the instrumental consequences of the plan.<sup>29</sup>

**Advocacy planning**, as the name suggests, implies that planners become spokesmen and spokeswoman for various groups. The planner contributes to the development process by creating a situation with many competing plan proposals. The theory postulates that this model of planning provides for minority groups to be heard more clearly and that, as a consequence, the general public receives better information about alternative options.<sup>30</sup>