studies?' 'What are the issues being addressed today in urban design and what are they are likely to be in the future?' 'And where do we go from here?' and 'Is urban design a field of professional endeavour or is it a discipline and profession in its own right?' The answer to this last question depends on the willingness of the traditional design professions to engage in serious discussions about the future of cities based on a knowledge of how built forms function rather than a set of beliefs about what makes a good place drawn from their own professional interests or dreams. The fields need to have a sound empirical foundation on which to base their decisions. Case studies can provide an important part of that base.