

causing havoc in the USA and Hong Kong. We had just seen terrible atrocities committed by mankind on itself in Kosovo and in Indonesia. It seems almost trivial at such times to talk about our needs being satisfied by space in the way we shall here – although we must also recognize that many disasters, including wars, have direct links to spatial behaviour. However, for those of us lucky enough to live our lives free from violence, hunger, disease and natural disasters, space turns out to be very important indeed. The cultural anthropologist Edward T. Hall claims that: ‘We treat space somewhat the way we treat sex. It is there but we don’t talk about it!’. By the end of the twentieth century we seemed to talk about sex a great deal more than we did; perhaps then in the twenty-first century it is high time to talk more about space too!

### **Spatial needs**

Let us begin then by thinking of the very high level emotional needs we expect space to help us to satisfy. Most of us hate being bored, and want some form of amusement or entertainment. We might see this as a need for stimulation, and we demand that the space around us should provide this. On the whole we also seek to avoid high levels of uncertainty and change, and we require a degree of stability and structure in our lives. We might see this as a need for security, and so we require spaces to keep us secure. Most of us seem to have a strong desire to belong somewhere. Many people I have known who have travelled widely in their lives describe an increasingly strong need to return to their roots in later life. We might see this as a need for identity and to belong somewhere, or in other words a need to be located in space. All these are examples of needs that the space we inhabit can help to satisfy (Fig. 2.2). Robert Ardrey was the first to suggest that not only do we seem to have these three important spatial needs of stimulation, security and identity, but also that this could help to explain the reasons for territorial behaviour. The debate about this notion of territoriality is something we must leave until a later chapter, but for now we shall explore the nature of the three needs.

### **Stimulation**

This is perhaps the most obvious and simplest of the three to understand; however, it turns out to be rather more fundamental and less of a luxury than at first we might think. At its most extreme, boredom is not just dull, it is plain downright dangerous. Experiments in sensory deprivation go to extraordinary lengths to deprive their subjects of receiving any information from the outside world at all. A student once writing an answer to an examination paper I had set for a degree in psychology wrote:

Psychologists achieve sensory deprivation by hanging their subjects in tanks of warm water.