even former settlements occurred widely. Municipal attention about physical improvement frequently turned away from matters of sheer supply to issues of increased local amenity, variety, creation of a particular identity, and rising competition for residents and businesses. Unfortunately, problems of equity and social justice remained, despite demonstrable rises in productivity, civic attention to local assets, less encumbered lifestyles, and greater access to communication and political participation.

Another episode, implying a further shift in outlook, may be in the making, depending on how one interprets recent events. The emergence of populist antiglobal blocs; increased concern for global warming, underdevelopment, and the alleged culpability of corporate interests; September 11, its aftermath, and the rising specter of global terrorism; renewed confrontations over basic cultural values; financial scandals; mooted clashes of civilizations; recent strides toward unification in Europe; and so on—if taken together, these have the hallmarks of yet another broad sociocultural and political reaction to what is in place. Only time will tell how significant this reaction has been. In essence, what has transpired in the West over the past fifty or so years is a profound reshaping of collective and urban experience of the strict time line. It is not the case that each period of collective

Grande Arche and Plaza, Paris, 1995. "The 'global city'—a node in a network of communication and productive capacity extending well beyond national borders. . . ." Photograph by Owen Franken/Corbis.