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## Plug-in urban design

Infrastructure design concerns in urban development vary in extent from the regional scale to the city, to the neighbourhood and to the complex of buildings scale. Regional and urban planning concerns are beyond what one generally regards as urban design. The destructive effect that much highway design has had on the neighbourhoods and lives of inner city residents in many cities of the world (see Figure 10.1 for an example) has led to much more careful analysis of the impacts of new infrastructure components on their environments and the employment of urban designers to deal with them.

Plug-in urban design focuses on the strategic building of infrastructure components of a city. In the case of new towns it is the whole capital web of infrastructure that is important. How this web of capital investment decisions affects



**Figure 10.1** A highway plugged into a neighbourhood, Baltimore as existing in 1993.