



Figure 10.2 The tomb of architect Colonel John Garston plugged into Park Street Cemetery, Kolkata.

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Plugging-in as an Idea

In urban design, the plug-in concept has emerged from two streams of thought. The first has been the down-to-earth use of the infrastructure of cities as a catalyst for development or for unifying developments; the second is that associated with the Archigram group in the United Kingdom in the 1960s and 1970s. It is the former concern that is of interest here, but the latter cannot be allowed to pass unmentioned because its ideas rather than its designs remain of importance in the development of urban design ideology.

The Archigram group observed that many of us live in throwaway societies. Certainly all kinds of products from tissue paper to automobiles to computers are