



Figure 10.3 The Archigram Group's 'Walking City' plugged into Manhattan, New York.

discarded with remarkable ease once their utility or 'use-by' dates are past. The group suggested that components of cities could be considered in the same manner. Precincts of cities could be plugged into the existing framework of a city as needed and moved away to another location as needed (see Figure 10.3). This idea is far fetched for the present except on a small scale for temporary accommodations. What is important, however, is the thinking behind the idea.

The closest design to the Archigram idea is the serviced campground. Vacationers drive up in their camper vans for a stay and then move on to another location or return home. Trailer parks are similar except the trailers once plugged in never move. Temporary townships for pilgrims, such as to the Kumbh Mela in India, are more about infrastructure design than anything else (see Figure 10.4). The design of such settlements is not generally regarded as urban design but it is. Emilio Ambasz's design for the 1992 Seville World's Fair recognized that once such fairs are over the pavilions of exhibitors are 'thrown away' and he designed it accordingly (see below).

Cities are indeed ever changing. Buildings and precincts will be demolished and rebuilt. The cities of Asia and Latin America are going through rapid changes with high rates of rural–urban migration. Others are changing more slowly. Some company towns may be abandoned. Housing areas will continue to be built on a mammoth scale. Traditional residential suburbs of single-family homes catering to the middle class will be built. Many 'suburbs' around the world will be erected by squatters with whatever materials are at hand.