



Photograph by George Turnbull

Figure 11.8 False Creek, Vancouver in 2004.

two forms. Buildings are either constructed of extensive amounts of glass, steel and expensive polished stones (even if slippery when underfoot), or they incorporate classical architectural elements of columns and pediments in a variety of ways. Some buildings are a mixture of the two. Others strive to be *glocal* – international with local referents in siting or in appearance (Lim, 2004). Much such architecture is extremely well executed. It pays little heed, however, to local climatic conditions or ways of life or architectural traditions in the way buildings meet the streets and create places. The architecture does, nevertheless, help in creating a sense of pride, of progress in the minds of many local people. It gets away from what are perceived to be parochial attitudes. This was the goal of many of the schemes discussed in this book. Breaking from traditions has been part of almost all architectural ideologies of the cognoscenti since the beginning of the twentieth century. People accommodate to many but not all changes. Much-loved areas of New York were once seen as outlandish but much new architecture fails to do more than shock.

Several hundred large-scale urban design projects are being built in the Asia-Pacific area alone. Lujiazui is not unique (see Figure 11.7). False Creek (see Figure 11.8) and Concord Pacific Plaza in Vancouver, Canada are a pair; Rinkai Funu-Toishin (Rainbow Town) Tokyo is another (Marshall, 2003). Canary Wharf in London is moving towards completion. Berlin is now seeing a number of mega-projects that are transforming the city. The Potsdamer Platz development (see Chapter 8) is an example. On a large or small scale many recent urban design projects respond to the global market and the aesthetics it demands.