

Designing with climate in mind rather than in opposition is a necessary component of the effort to reduce energy costs. Much is understood about the differences in designing for tropical, temperate and cold climate cities, but the application of the principles (except in extreme climatic conditions) has to compete for attention with aesthetic concerns and the price of land as populations swell. In tropical areas, for instance, buildings should be set apart to allow breezes to waft through them, but economic forces push land values up and denser environments result. In hot arid climates such environments are necessary but cars take up considerable space.

There are some tentative examples of urban designs that address these concerns. Amongst the case studies, Potsdamer Platz recycles water and Battery Park City has attempted to respond to a number of concerns. For better examples one has to look farther afield. Davis in California has neighbourhoods in which ecological design has played a major part (see Figure 11.9a). The Olympic Village (Newington) for the Sydney 2000 Games shows what can be done in a typical suburban development although it is at a higher density than most (see

Photograph by Mark Francis



(a)

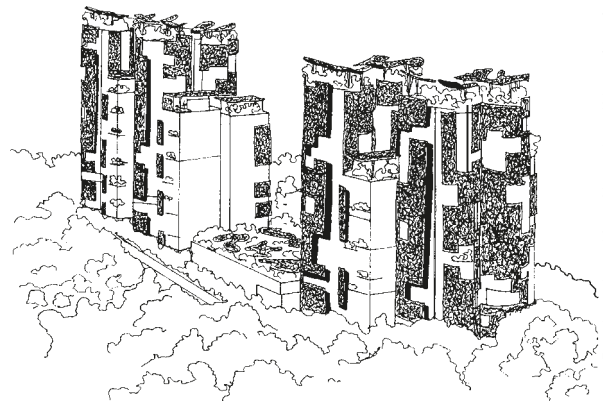


(b)

Source Johnson (2003); courtesy of Chris Johnson



(c)



(d)

Drawing adapted from Hamzah and Yeang (1998) by Munir Vahanvati; courtesy of Ken Yeang

**Figure 11.9** Images of sustainable environments. (a) Village Homes, Davis, California in 1993, (b) Newington, Sydney in 2005, (c) a green Sydney and (d) Ken Yeang's proposed towers for a tropical city.