



Photograph by Deepti Nijhawan

Figure 11.12 Quincy Market, Boston in 1993.

Powerful, high-ego individuals with visions of their own often lead urban design efforts. Paul Reichmann of Olympia and York disregarded the advice of his most trusted lieutenants in the pursuit of his own dream for Canary Wharf. In the case of Glendale it was a couple of public officials who possessed a vision of what that suburban downtown could be; in Singapore it was originally consultants who produced ideas but then the civil service took over.

Citizens groups have been powerful advocates for specific types of urban development. Politicians clearly play an important role. Consider the role of President Kubitschek in pushing Brasilia ahead, Nelson Rockefeller at Battery Park City and, particularly, in the development of the State University of New York, Mayor Lindsay and the work of the Urban Design Group in New York, the presidents of France in the development of La Défense and the Parc de la Villette in Paris, Zhu Rongji in Lujiazui, Pierre Mauroy in Lille and Margaret Thatcher in the promotion of Canary Wharf. Politicians were dabbling in the development of the Barbican in London every step of the way. Particularly important have been groups in the business sector in pushing for downtown renewal projects. Such groups strove hard for the San Antonio River to be revitalized and for various the Lower Manhattan schemes. They, like residential neighbourhood organizations, have also led the way in fighting to prevent urban design projects that they perceive not to be in their own interests.

The public sector has had the primary responsibility in much urban design. It has traditionally been the initiator of infrastructure development, either in shaping urban development or catching up with it. Players in the public sector have