

edges do give clarity to the boundaries of districts, or precincts. The projects in many of the case studies included here are bounded islands of development. Being also integrated into their surroundings would probably be a good idea. Battery Park City clearly has edges to it making it a unit, but on the landward side it is also clearly linked to the Lower Manhattan by streets patterns and view corridors. Urban design is particularly concerned with, in Lynch's terms, districts and paths. Good districts will almost certainly contain nodes and landmarks. They may be well defined with edges but it is the core area that matters most.

Urban design is thus project based, dealing with the public realm of human settlements and the buildings or landscape elements that define it. Specific projects take a number of forms depending on the type of process they involve, the type of product they are and the intellectual paradigm within which they are designed. The range of concern of urban designers is clearly broad and the project types varied, in terms of both procedures and products, as the case studies show. The questions are: 'If it can be defined in terms of its areas of concern, is there a body of knowledge that is unique to doing urban design well – in putting together projects?' and thus 'Is it a discipline in its own right or simply a field of professional design work?'

### **Urban Design, A Discipline?**

The hallmark of a discipline is a body of unique literature, journals and its own processes of socializing new members into its ranks – into its norms of behaviour. The question then arises: 'How large does a unique body of knowledge and how exclusive do its norms of behaviour have to be for a sphere of activity to be regarded as an independent, if not exclusively so, discipline?' What evidence do we have?

Most of the items listed in the 'References and further reading' fall within the domain of a variety of existing disciplines. The list also includes part of an increasing number of books devoted to urban design. There are now a number of intellectually challenging journals, relatively young, devoted to urban design. Some have 'urban design' in their names, but the leading North American journal on urban design is called *Planning* because it also includes material on social and economic concerns, land-use planning as well as urban design! Europe has many journals dealing with 'urbanism' that cover urban design concerns. At the same time the number of journals devoted to urban design is considerably outnumbered by journals in the traditional design fields that include articles on urban design projects. True, many of these journals cover projects superficially and purely from their own professional viewpoint but they do bring attention to urban design projects being developed around the world.

The next question is: 'How are professionals inculcated with the norms of professional action and behaviour?' There are a few institutes and professional societies devoted to urban design but anybody can join them. The Urban Design Group in the United Kingdom is a loosely knit coterie of people with a common