Figure 12.1 The traditional view (a) and the present state, (b) of the field of urban design in relation to the other design fields.

and designing. In whatever way urban design may or may not develop as a discipline, in action it will remain a collaborative task.

It will draw on the expertise of the three traditional design fields but it differs from them in that it has become more development oriented, more socially oriented and more conscious of the politically volatile nature of decision-making at the urban level. Professionals with a committed interest in urban design are, because no one else is doing it, slowly developing their own empirical knowledge base, their own organizations and their own journals. This book has focused on their professional efforts and has sought to outline, for the moment at least, the scope of concern of those who have made a commitment to urban design as one vehicle for improving city life as it evolves.

Conclusion

Urban design encompasses much. The objective of this book has been to display and understand its range of activities through the provision of a typology for classifying design projects. It has also presented a number of descriptive case studies that illuminate the typology. Case studies are probably the easiest way to display the work subsumed under the rubric 'urban design'. They have been categorized here by the process by which they have been carried out and by the type of product they are. Classification by type of product has been the tradition in architecture, but classifying by process gets closer to the essence of the nature of urban