



Photograph by Susannah Lang

**Figure 2.7** Battery Park City, New York as seen from South Cove in 2003.

are generic to the whole development and sometimes they are applied to each site to be developed. One of the best-known examples of an all-of-a-piece urban design scheme is Battery Park City in Lower Manhattan, New York (see Figure 2.7). Dating back to the early 1960s the project was all but completed in 2004. A number of illustrative site designs for the project were developed under different political and economic conditions over a period of almost 30 years. Finally, what is generally, but by no means universally, regarded as a fine urban precinct has resulted from the work of several developers and their architects. What is important is that the guidelines are adopted legally as public policy. In New York's World Trade Center site development proposal they do not seem to have been (see Chapter 8).

### ***Piece-by-piece Urban Design***

All cities have a design. It is created by thousands of individual design decisions within a framework of capital investment decisions and within a legal code. If total urban designs tend to be comprised of large-scale architecture projects, piece-by-piece urban design tends to be city planning. While piece-by-piece urban design is precinct, or neighbourhood, based, it is in contrast to all-of-a-piece design not site-by-site, building-by-building, based. The process involves first setting the objectives for an area and then the development/design policies for achieving them. The creation of the objectives is a highly political act ideally, but often only