

can be expected with an increase in precipitation. Coastal communities may experience an increase in flooding and beach erosion. Flood-prone areas may increase in size as the sea levels rise. Public health officials and communities may become more sensitive to areas of standing water as subtropical and tropical diseases expand their range. Design strategies in impacted coastal communities may provide significant opportunities for innovation and problem solving.

Site planners and designers will have to respond to these climate changes by retrofitting existing facilities and designing new projects. While infiltration will continue to be an important element of site planning, perhaps the wet pond will be less desirable with the spread of the West Nile virus or malaria. Clearly, in their designs and planning, site planners will have to account for the life cycle and habitat preferences of the mosquitoes that transmit such diseases.

Anticipated warming in most places will result in increasing cooling costs for all buildings, including homes. Properly locating a building and plantings on a given site so as to lower energy costs will become even more important. As temperatures increase, plants growing in the extremes of their southern range may be subject to significant heat- and drought-related stresses. Some places may see a shift in species considered to be “native,” particularly those living at the margins of their tolerance.



Figure 1.1 Photograph of a traditional street and neighborhood.