



**Figure 1.2** Photograph of a contemporary urban neighborhood.

The shift of population to the South and the suburbs leaves many northern cities with declining populations and tax bases, underutilized infrastructure, and the remains of an industrial past that lasted only 50 years in many places. The recognition of brownfield redevelopment opportunities has been important in the last few years for cities and for designers. The challenges of redeveloping brownfields, however, require site designers to confront the impacts of industrial contamination; we can no longer assume a site to be clean and healthy. This requires a different mindset and more than a few new skills. Consequently, design professionals find themselves working on more diverse project teams. The roles of professional boundaries often blur within the context of projects looking for innovative solutions to complex problems.

### **Sustainable Development Principles**

Our culture context for sustainability is in its infancy, but the dialogue is well underway. There are important voices encouraging us not to go back but forward, to solve problems through design. No single set of guidelines has emerged, but there is a growing recognition of the principles that lead to sustainable design and development. The views of leaders such as William McDonough and Emory Lovins are moving into boardrooms and legislatures and are beginning to change the expectations of design professionals.