



**Figure 3.16** Photograph of interlocking walls.

ment and perhaps seasonal movement can be tolerated in flexible walls. Rigid walls of concrete or masonry construction are used where greater changes in elevation are necessary, where flexibility cannot be tolerated, or where the mass of the wall is used to retain the earth.

The use of gabions to stabilize slopes has become a more common and cost-effective solution (Figs. 3.21 through 3.25). *Gabions* are manufactured wire-mesh baskets that are assembled on the construction site and filled with stone. The gabion is a flexible and permeable structure that can be used to construct retaining walls, toe of slope buttresses, and stream bank protection revetments, and it can be used as a weir in storm water and erosion control. Gabions are installed on a surface that has been leveled and compacted.