



Figure 11.4
The roof terrace of 'Bamboo
Summit City'. (Source: Hulshof
Architects.)

Shanghai. The Dutch Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment (VROM), through the government's architect, also supported the project in order to investigate the space use of the roof and safe public access to it. While it took a year for the project team to complete the project, the actual construction took the Chinese scaffolders only 10 weeks. The construction started with a Chinese ceremony and an opening festival involved Chinese rituals and a dragon ceremony (Figures 11.5 and 11.6).

Before dismantling the 'Bamboo Summit City', the Foundation ended the project with a conference on the subject of 'Air-Bound Building' (as opposed to earth-bound building).² This was a new beginning for the Foundation as a society to initiate and stimulate the development of the space in the air. Thus, 'Bamboo Summit City' as a functional sculpture acted as a catalyst to focus attention on the possibilities offered by flat roofs in an increasingly compact urban environment.

Figure 11.5
 Building the bamboo structure:
 starting ceremony.
 (Source: Hulshof Architects.)



Theoretical survey of opportunities in the Netherlands

Urban development, according to the Dutch programme the fifth National Memorandum (VROM, 2001), is still not decided. Nevertheless VROM point to the possible development of existing urban areas. The national planning programme for neighbourhoods with houses built from 1945 to 1980 includes the following figures:

	Number of houses
Demolish old stock and build new houses	210,000
Transforming and enlarging spaces	85,000
Increase density by adding more houses	155,000
Total	450,000