



Figure 14.10
ECO-town: four collages of
'envisioned' public realm
(the distinctive landscape
infrastructure creates the sense
of place and allows the built
form to be varied in form and
architectural expression).

Figure 14.10
(continued).



development proposal for a case study site, Oakington Barracks, Cambridgeshire. The project results confirmed that (i) students from a variety of disciplines are able, with a little training, to work successfully together; and (ii) multi-disciplinary working increases the likelihood that development proposals address both process and product in an integrated way.

The Oakington project was described fully because of the team's creative approach to both the development process and the urban morphology. The team proposed that the development process for the new community be controlled by a charitable development trust, made up of a number of local stakeholders rather than a single developer, which would be responsible for planning, promoting and monitoring the sustainable development of the new rural community. This radical concept seemed to offer advantages over present development processes for several reasons; it avoided exclusively profit-driven development; its structure was socially inclusive and it had sustainability at the core of its remit. However, the team realised that the degree to which the development trust would be successful in achieving a sustainable rural development was largely dependent on having usable working tools for planning and/or assessing holistic notions sustainability and that these tools were currently not available. This finding pointed to the urgent need for the development of *usable* working tools for assessing *holistic* notions of sustainability.

In addition to considering the development process the project team investigated how concepts of local sustainability might be objectified into physical form. Through the design of the infrastructure and development guidelines for the case study site the project team demonstrated firstly, that the physical infrastructure design of a new development can be key to its lasting environmental sustainability and secondly, that infrastructure design can establish a distinctive yet dynamic sense of place through the subtle synthesis of the new and the old without having to control the aesthetics of the subsequent architectural form (Figure 14.10). The designs for the Oakington