settlement, with its low-density, field-like patchwork morphology, offered a strikingly innovative and refreshingly optimistic image of a future of rural communities compared to the rigid, homogeneous, style-driven masterplans that have become accepted in the UK as paradigms for new settlements.

In conclusion, the findings of the above research project offers three contributions to the sustainable development debate. Firstly, the search for convincing place-specific sustainable solutions requires the adaptation of universal notions of sustainability to the specific conditions and value biases, economic, political and environmental, of the local/regional condition. Secondly, and following on from the first point, the inherently multi-dimensional nature of sustainability requires that multi-disciplinary teams work in truly collaborative ways if they are to produce convincing development models for a sustainable future. Lastly, the lack of evidence to substantiate any necessary link between sustainability and urban or architectural forms of the past provides contemporary designers with a new opportunity to *envision* truly progressive sustainable forms for new rural communities and re-address the challenge posed by Paul Ricoeur of 'how to become modern and return to sources' (Ricoeur, 1981).

Notes

1. The Urban Villages concept has been promoted in the UK since the 1980s by a consortium of house builders backed by Prince Charles. Their publicity insists that a return to 'traditional' medieval English village morphologies and typologies will result in sustainable environments. However, the built examples appear little more than dormitory suburbs that look more like stage sets than real villages. Behind the pastiche facades modern families surf the net. For more details see Aldous, T (1992) *Urban Villages*. London, Urban Villages Group.
2. For commentary on the regressive nature 'the heritage industry', see Robert Hewison's *The Heritage Industry* (1987).
3. The obviously 'constructed' nature of the landscape of the Netherlands together with the pressures for expansion in the 1980s and 1990s made the notion of directing environmental both urgent and exciting for Dutch designers. For examples see *Artificial Landscape* (Ibelings, 2000) and *9 + 1 Young Dutch Landscape Architects* (Van Blerck, 1999).
4. These phenomena are commonly known as 'innovation clusters'.
5. The government acknowledged the pressure for growth in the region in the Regional Planning Guidance Note 6 (PRG6) (2000) by setting housing targets for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough at 80,000 new dwellings by 2016.
6. The CMI's declared mission is 'to undertake education and research designed to improve the UK's competitiveness, productivity and entrepreneurship' (CMI, 2003).
7. The proposal was the result of the Cambridge to Huntingdon Multi-Modal Study (CHUMMS) (DTLR, 2001).
8. According to Steinberg (1999) the recognised phases of creative problem solving begin with finding, recognising, defining or refining the problem, move through seeking possible solutions or ways of making progress towards a solution, and end with evaluating the alternatives, settling on the best of them and then further developing or consolidating the best solution.
9. The research might have taken on a different profile if it had been made up of members from different disciplines. The epistemology of Urban Design is currently very hazy and it is very unclear which disciplines should be part of an urban design team.
10. Many organisations, including the UK Government (DETR, 1999), are developing indicators of sustainability in the hope that they might be used as both a design tool by a project team and as an evaluation tool for planners and others keen to assess the sustainability of a proposed development.

11. Most new developments that align with the New Urbanist thesis use building codes ensure that architects work within an architectural style loosely based on a regional 'pastiche'.
12. The Lowry land use model uses spatial interaction models to build a system that claims to predict population and employment distributions. This model was used by the project research teams firstly to estimate how much employment, and of what type, would be generated by the presence of 6000 houses on the Oakington site, and then to generate the associated land-use mix.
13. Wind energy is increasingly regarded as economically feasible; the cost for electricity production from wind power in the UK was 2.88p per kW in 2002 compared to 2p for coal.

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