

Figure 20.2
A private sector housing block.



Guangdong investment) (Hong Kong Trade Development Council, 2002). Similarly, international manufacturing organizations are looking to source materials and products from around the world, where costs are substantially lower (Hang Seng Bank, 1998). Moreover, this trend is exacerbated by the continued rise of environmental standards set by governments in mature developed economies like the European Union, the consequence of which is now forcing manufacturers to either clean up their manufacturing operations or to look for new manufacturing bases elsewhere with lower labour costs and less-stringent environmental standards.

At present, China still lacks an adequately robust system to regulate the environmental burdens caused by its manufacturing industries, and this continues to allow serious pollution to

Figure 20.3
The Integer Concept Tower.



occur (Dasgupta *et al.*, 1995). However China is taking environmental issues very seriously, as evidenced by China's ratification of the Kyoto Protocol at the Earth Summit in South Africa in September 2002. Nevertheless the size of the country and its population, together with the need to balance economic growth and social stability with environmental improvement means that time is required before significant results can be achieved (China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, 2000).

The situation in Hong Kong, although a little different, leads to a similar conclusion. Hong Kong has operated under a strictly '*laissez faire*' system and remains one of the most (if not the most) competitive economies in the world (Country Reports Organisation, 2002). Again the desire to reduce environmental burdens without clearly demonstrating the economic implications of any mooted 'greener' construction practice is regarded as 'dreaming'.