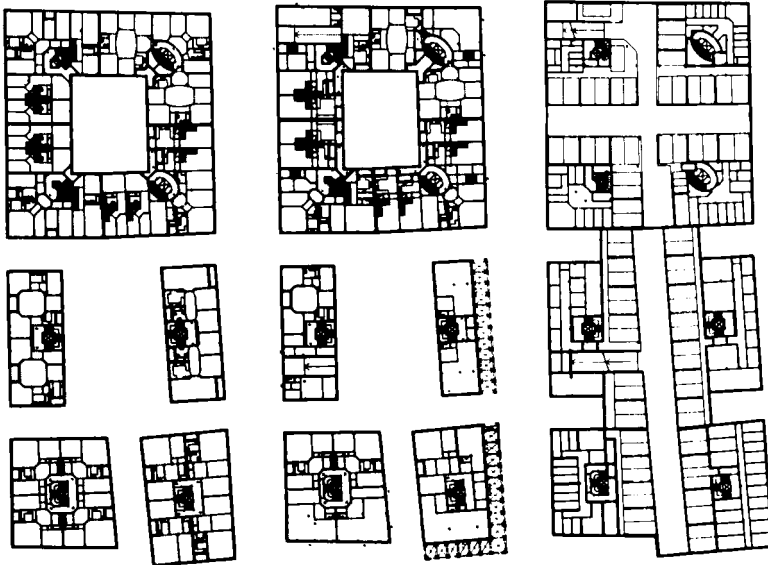


9.43a



9.43b

Figure 9.43 The new quarter of Venta-Berri in San Sebastian

private activities which are pursued within the block. There is general agreement that street blocks of mixed uses result in a more vital and interesting city. There also appears

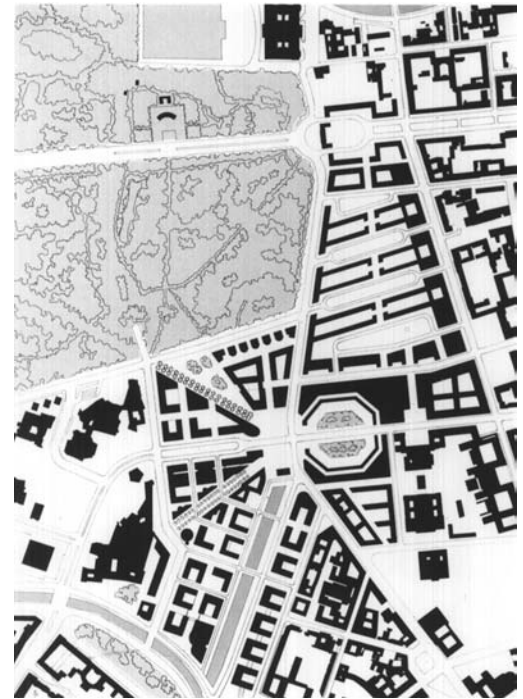


Figure 9.44 Potsdamer Platz by Hilmer and Sattler (Architectural Design, 1993)

to be wide agreement that street blocks should be as small as is reasonably possible in order to maximize the ‘permeability’ of city districts. An alternative view sees the need for street blocks to be large enough to accommodate single large schemes (Bruges, 1992). It would seem, however, that it is possible for large single activities – such as those at the Inland Revenue in Nottingham – to be accommodated within a number of small street blocks. In this case, the result is a fine piece of urban architecture and a canal scene of great quality.

The conclusions derived from the debate on sustainable development support the idea of small-scale city street blocks composed of

compatible mixed activities or mixed land uses, surrounded by a perimeter block of two, three or four storeys. Sustainable forms of this type also provide a framework for the development of a city with vitality but with a friendly human scale: that is, with a scale normally associated with the morphology of a traditional European city (Krier, L., 1984). Furthermore, the perimeter block is very suitable for small-scale residential developments enclosing courtyards of public or private open space, on the model of Unwin's superblock at Letchworth, a form quite compatible with either the compact city or the bio-city models of sustainable development (see Figure 9.25).



Figure 9.45 Potsdamer Platz
by Hilmer and Sattler
(Architectural Design, 1993)