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CONCLUSION

10

INTRODUCTION

There is growing evidence that an environmental crisis of global proportions is inevitable. The extent of that crisis is not clear, nor is its effects on any particular region of the world apparent. What can be expected is major climatic change, including an increasing frequency of extreme weather events, a rising sea level with flooding in some areas, growing pressures on fresh water supplies, food shortages, famine and drought in some regions, growing levels of air, land and sea pollution with fierce competition for a dwindling supply of oil. This litany of hazards we may face on this small planet poses a great political challenge for human society. The professions engaged in city building and restructuring are deeply involved in the efforts to prevent and mitigate the effects of environmental damage caused by a seemingly, irreversible engine of growth. The role that can be played by urban design, in the efforts to achieve development, without causing

lasting environmental damage is the theme of this book.

Sustainable development is the strategy which is generally advocated by those who wish to see human society advance without incurring the unacceptable side effects usually accompanying untrammelled economic growth. There is, however, a great danger that 'sustainable development' may come to mean 'all things to all men', and in the process lose all meaning. The previous chapters have demonstrated that there are a number of national and international documents which identify a specific set of requirements for sustainable development. There are also a number of successful experiments in sustainable development at a local level both in land use/transport planning and in architecture and the built environment. Clearly, it is necessary to develop a method and sets of policies for sustainable development which are easily implemented and effective. The results of such methods and policies should be immediately apparent and quantifiable. This chapter will concentrate on the