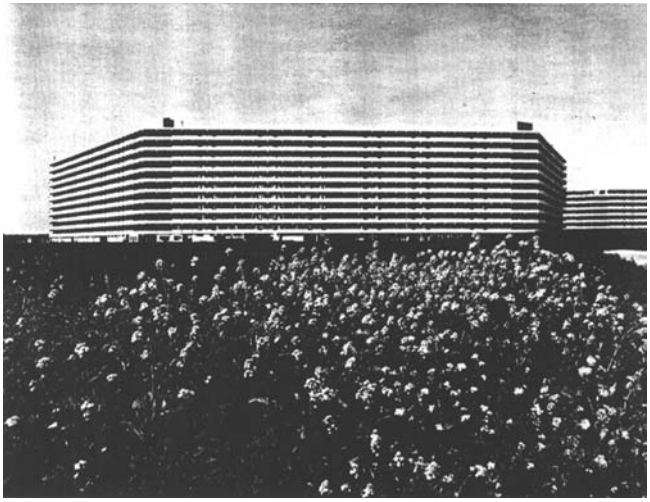
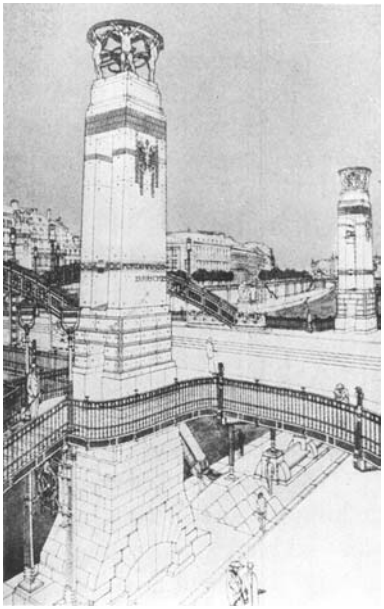


8.21

8.22



8.23

Figure 8.21 Bijlmermeer (Public Works Department, Amsterdam, 1975)
Figure 8.22 Wagner's plan for a District Centre, Vienna (Giedion, 1941)
Figure 8.23 Drawing by Wagner (Giedion, 1941)

inhabitants of a city should govern its planning: 'Wagner's chief interest was the creation of a healthful environment for the man of ordinary means. He was one of the earliest to recognize that a great city embraces many different types of people, each type requiring a different kind of dwelling. He saw too, that the residential needs of the average city-dweller changed with his circumstances' (Giedion, 1954). It is the insights into the needs of people which is Wagner's main contribution to city planning and urban design. Wagner's work on the Vienna subway led him to an interest in movement at different levels with different modes of transport. His drawings of combinations of railroads, streets and bridges presage the complex transport interchanges of the modern city or the multilevel town centres such as Runcorn or Cumbernauld (Figure 8.23).

DOXIADIS AND ISLAMABAD

One of the many ideas contained in *Ekistics* by Doxiadis is the notion that settlements like growing organisms are

composed of cells:

> A study of growing organisms in Nature will show that in most of them the cells remain the same size regardless of the growth of the organism. The cells are the same whether a person is old or young, or whether a tree is at the beginning or prime of its life. Here we can draw an important conclusion: the search for ideal solutions has to be geared towards static cells and the dynamic growth of the organism. (Doxiadis, 1968)

Growth and transformation of settlements according to this theory should be cellular. If the village is regarded as a basic cell, then its growth should be by the addition of another cell or village and not the expansion of its nucleus or centre together with the expansion of its periphery. To save the village from the destruction caused by development pressures leading to its growth and transformation, the roads must be realigned to retain the village intact as a cell. The new functions caused by development pressures should then be transferred to a new centre to form the nucleus of the next cell. According to Doxiadis, the smallest human community is about 2000 families, with 500 and 3000 families being the lower and upper limits, respectively, for this unit. In Islamabad, Doxiadis attempted to arrange

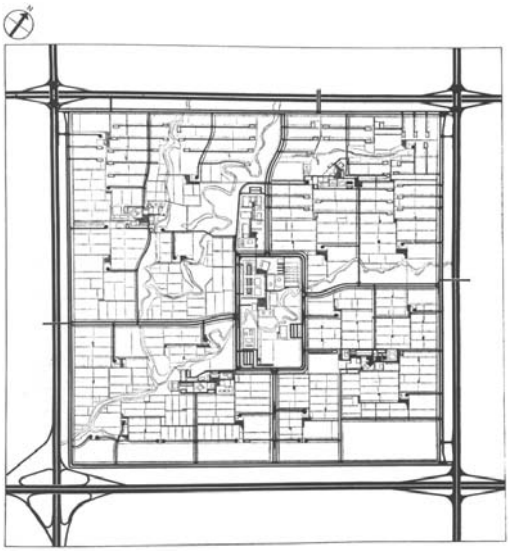


Figure 8.24 The Sector Islamabad (Doxiadis, 1968)

communities of this size, the basic cells of urban structure, into larger districts within the city. In doing this he was concerned to combine the cells according to two scales: the human scale based on walking; and the non-human scale mainly associated with fast-moving vehicles. In Islamabad, the basic cell or community is about 1 kilometre square, and it is not traversed by major roads. Four such cells combine to form a larger community or district surrounded by major highways (Figures 8.24 and 8.25). 'Here (in Islamabad) we

Figure 8.25 Islamabad