



Figure 3.3 The planning of Rome by Sixtus V.

the actions of countless individuals and groups: it is, therefore incumbent on all engaged in this long communal process of urban design to appreciate and understand the forces which have formed the environment and to distinguish clearly those structures which give direction to future development. A basic survey of the history of the site is a standard procedure for any urban design project. These standard procedures have already been outlined; following them gives a sensitive designer much to stimulate the thought process. However, an understanding of the design forces, the almost natural and self-evident structuring components, requires greater effort than the automatic implementation of a set of standard survey procedures. It requires the understanding of the historic forces which continue to pattern development. Understanding these forces enables each designer to perform effectively the critical role of the 'second person'.

Completing the items on the basic check list of studies for site history outlined earlier is fundamental for any urban design project. A rational analysis should go further: it would include an examination of the main form-giving components of city development. These studies involve the examination of the



Figure 3.4 S. Maria Maggiore, Rome.

fundamental geographical reasons for settlement formation, including topography, geology, soils and drainage; the dominant axes of development, including lay lines and vistas of symbolic importance; dominant buildings of historic significance; focal points of activity; movement patterns of ancient origin, including processional routes; changing seats of power and influence; changing economic patterns as evidenced by the ebb and flow of land values, the density of development, building conditions and their occupation; the patterns of population intrusion, invasion and succession; and finally, the developing patterns of functional areas in relation to changing modes of transport.

An example of urban development structured by ancient lines of movement is the transformation of Rome by Pope Sixtus V and his architect Fontana



Figure 3.5 The Spanish Steps, Rome.



Figure 3.6 Chester.