Chapter 11
The Future of Computer-Mediated Briefing

ABSTRACT

The brief is often considered an outdated document that limits design creativity and freedom. However, in the framework of comprehensive computerization, the brief as an information system becomes an integral part of architectural decision taking. This agrees not only with possible emerging architectural roles and services but also with established trends in computerization and information processing. The chapter is a succinct look into the future development of the architectural brief within these trends and services.

I did not intend to write a conclusion or epilogue to this book, as it would merely summarize what has been explained in previous chapters and in particular replicate much of Chapter 2, until a reviewer suggested that I looked ahead to the future of computer-mediated briefing and the editor insisted that I considered the suggestion seriously. I have to admit that, despite my customary reluctance to make projections (probably fuelled by an old failure to realize the potential of the Internet beyond the academic community), the idea did appeal to me. Predicting the future is always a fascinating challenge; it involves informed guesswork and requires insights usually produced by broad literature and market research. It also gives the opportunity to propose directions and themes that may be obscured by methodical preoccupations or technical trivialities, to connect elements from various parts of the subject into a new notion or concept that makes sense of it all. Finally, it helps look critically at what has been happening and what you have been doing yourself beyond short-term priorities, necessities, and limitations, to appraise development in a fundamental and comprehensive manner.

All these considerations are behind my writing this final chapter some six months after completing the rest of the book. In the meantime there have been new versions of the software used in the book (as usually, mostly changes to the interface,