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This chapter lays the groundwork for the rest of the text. It motivates the study of object-oriented design and gives examples of software failures that could possibly have been prevented if the software had been designed better. It includes the properties that software should have in order to be called "elegant." It finishes with a summary of the contents of the other chapters in the text.

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This chapter introduces the reader to the topic of design patterns. We present four simple patterns as samples. The discussion of each pattern includes examples from earlier chapters of the book where the pattern was used but not explicitly stated. The succeeding chapters in the text introduce more design patterns in the contexts of their case studies.

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This chapter gives a case study of code manipulators for a subset of the Java language, which provides us with a context in which to introduce more design patterns.

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