



Figure 8.42 Pariser Platz as developed by 2002.

(4–6 metres from the ground) visually differentiated from the floors above. The goal was to prevent the square becoming a ‘play-ground’ for a set of haphazard architectural ideas. Most of the buildings have complied with the regulations in a direct manner.

Starting in the north western corner, the square is enclosed by Haus Libermann (1996–8), Palais am Pariser Platz, the Eugen-Gutmann-Haus der Dresdner Bank (1996–7), the French Embassy (two-storey in appearance but of more floors in reality) designed by the Christian de Portzamparc Atelier, a residential-cum-commercial building, the Hotel Adlon (the hotel of the past on a new site, designed by Patzcheke, Klotz and Partners), the Akademie der Künste of the Senate of Berlin (2002, designed by

Günter Behnisch that leads through to Behren Strasse to the south) and the Deutsche Genossenschaftsbank (DG Bank) (a pale sandstone building designed by Frank Gehry and completed in 2000). Adjacent to it is the site for the United States Embassy. Haus Sommer and Haus Libermann, both designed by Josef Paul Kleihues have identical façades and with the Brandenburg Gate enclose the western end of the square. Figure 8.42 shows the plaza as reconstructed. The gate remains the centerpiece of the composition.

Gehry negotiated a 10% increase in the allowable area of glass on the façade of the DG Bank Building (see Figure 8.43b). His success shows both the political power that major architects can have and their desire