



Photograph by Jusuck Koh

Figure 8.71 De Resident, The Hague in 2004.

interior park of the complex passes underneath this building (Figure 8.69).

All the architects have stuck to the cube in their individual building designs. All the buildings have similar floor plans with four apartments per floor being served from a central core. The building with the greatest variation is that designed by Hans Holein (see the central images in Figure 8.70). An angled staircase and walls set at an angle in the centre of the façade break the strictly cubical form. The result is a simple, highly unified, internally focused scheme containing 239 apartments.

The rigidity of design guidelines prescribing the aesthetic characteristics of buildings is often challenged by architects (see Scheer

and Preiser, 1994). In this case, however, the individual architects had considerable freedom of aesthetic action within the cube form dictated by Krier. The disposition of apartment units was also a constraint. What the individual architects could not do is have geometric forms that deviated from that cubical form. Critics attack such controls on the grounds that it reduces architectural design to simply the treatment of façades. Krier purposefully set out to achieve a unity in his design in keeping with the tradition of much neighbourhood design. He achieved it.

Financially, it would have made more sense to have increased the total built area on the site. It is a complex well loved by its residents and much visited by architectural tourists. On a small site it displays the work of some prominent architects. The fragmented nature of the adjacent developments means that the streets act as boundaries to the complex rather than seams joining it to the Tiergarten neighbourhood. The scheme is, nevertheless, a good example of all-of-a-piece urban design. It is also a good example of Rob Krier's approach. It is repeated in other very different projects such as the high-density, high-rise De Resident (1989–2001) in The Hague. Architects as famous as those who worked on the Rauchstrasse project designed parts of the overall scheme there. They included Sjoert Soeters, Adolfo Natalini, César Pelli and Michael Graves (Figure 8.71).

Major references

- Broadbent, Geoffrey (1990). *Emerging Concepts in Urban Space Design*. London: Van Nostrand Reinhold (International), 303–5.
- Kleihues, Josef Paul (1987). Stadtvillen an der Rauchstrasse. In *Internationale Bauausstellung Berlin 1987: Projektübersicht*. Berlin: IBA, 30–3.
- Rauchstrasse, Berlin (1980–5). Masterplan, selected buildings. www.krierkohl.de/projects/rauchstrasse.html