



Kramm & Strigl – Buildings and Projects / Bauten und Projekte

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Rüdiger Kramm is one of the most prominent representatives of that generation of architects having stepped out, in the late seventies, of the shadow of their predecessors, who had refounded and developed further Modern architecture in Germany in the three decades after the war. Kramm, with his constantly independent interpretation of brief and spatial context, avoids both the dogma of rigid functionalism and the random qualities of Post-Modern aesthetics in order to find an astonishing range of design concepts for the functional quality of buildings, which is a central question for him.

Kramm studied at the Technische Hochschule Darmstadt from 1966 to 1972, where the architecture faculty largely bore the stamp of Günter Behnisch at the time. After gaining his diploma he went on to the University College in London, where he subsequently worked on urban renewal projects with D. W. Insall. He opened his own office in Darmstadt in 1977. In 1990 he was appointed Professor of building construction and design at Karlsruhe University; in the same year he made Axel Strigl his office partner.

After projects for refurbishing historical building stock and early residential buildings, in which he tried out concepts for energy- and resource-saving construction, Kramm acquired a reputation outside the immediate vicinity with the residential complex in Bes-sunger Straße in Darmstadt. This estate, with its sophisticated floor-plan typology and open-space design is still considered an exemplary piece of housing design, in which changing household types and lifestyles are appropriately expressed in terms of design. In 1988 the estate won the German Urban-Development Prize, and in 1989 it was commended as a model building in Hesse. Housing remains the main focus of the office's work, but it has also been responsible for numerous commercial, administrative and retail buildings, including the Zeilgalerie shopping complex in Frankfurt.

Werner Durth is Director of the Institut für Grundlagen moderner Architektur und Entwerfen in Stuttgart University and is known for his publications on post-war architecture and town planning. He has followed Rüdiger Kramm's career closely since his student time at the Technische Hochschule Darmstadt. Klaus Honold studied literature and theatre at the Freie Universität Berlin. He is on the editorial staff of the daily *Darmstädter Echo* and works as a freelance writer.

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