



# EM2N – City Factory

## Advocating for a City of Tolerant Co-Existence

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- First monograph on Zurich-based architecture firm EM2N
- Documents EM2N's achievements of 25 years through texts and a wealth of photographs, plans, drawings, and visualisations, most of them published in this book for the first time
- Highlights EM2N's profound engagement with the city as an evolving and productive space of human life
- EM2N enjoy wide international recognition for their building and urban designs, their conversions of existing buildings, as well as for their contributions to architectural discourse

How do our cities evolve, what forces drive their evolution, and how exactly do they change as a result? Zurich-based architecture firm EM2N has been working on urban transformation processes ever since its establishment in 1997. Initially, the firm's main focus was on the greater Zurich area, yet in recent years they have also developed and realised projects in Berlin, Brussels, and Hamburg. Over time, a diverse body of work has grown, more than half of which consists of conversions of existing buildings, resulting in numerous successes and a few failures, small structures and large-scale complexes, quick decisions and slow processes. What unites the designs, projects, and texts featured in this first monograph on EM2N is a profound interest in the concept of the city as an exciting, contradictory, and above all productive space of human life that the founding partners Mathias Müller and Daniel Niggli have maintained throughout their 25 years of collaboration.

In **EM2N — City Factory** they offer a self-critical review of their achievements and also speak about learning processes, personal interests, and conceptual approaches to future tasks in ever-changing cities. This is supplemented with contributions from fellow architects and friends as well as with a wealth of photographs, plans, drawings, and other illustrations.

**Medine Altiok** is an architect who runs her own practice with offices in Zurich and Aachen. She is a lecturer at various universities and schools, such as ETH Zurich, BILGI University Istanbul, and the AA School of Architecture in London.

**Mathias Müller** and **Daniel Niggli** established their firm EM2N in Zurich in 1997, which nowadays also includes offices in Berlin and Brussels. They have taught as visiting professors at EPFL in Lausanne and ETH Zurich.

**Caspar Schärer** is a Zurich-based architect, publicist, and architecture critic.