Making public

Eutopia #1

What if public buildings as we know them have become obsolete, but public life has not? Churches, town halls, libraries, cinemas and stations once gave form to collective life. Many of their functions have moved into the private sphere: online, at home, onto a screen or into our headphones or simply disappeared behind advertisement. *Eutopia* literally means “a good place”. We will investigate architectural proposals with a eutopian ambition — built and unbuilt — as precedents from which we can learn. Our testing ground is Zürich-West: alongside the backbone of Hardbrücke viaduct we find the Maag Halle, the Welti-Furrer Areal, the former Jumbo DIY, the car wash. The question is not simply what these buildings can become, but what kind of public life they can make possible — and for whom. The future is not waiting to be discovered. It has to be made public.

Eutopia #1 – Making Public

Chair of Affective Architectures
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