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LOGBOOK
ETHIOPIA IN A TIMELINE

THE
SCHOOL



THE
BOOK

THE
TOWN

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This biography of an experiment takes the reader into another world. As if standing before a mirror, everything seems familiar but remains unknown. Such ambiguity is at the heart of the story told in *The School, the Book, the Town*, a story about the unfolding of a research project undertaken in Ethiopia for nearly a decade, starting with the founding of a *school*, setting off a series of investigations assembled in a *book*, and leading to the construction of a *town*. Together, these three moments constitute nodes of an extensive web of relations and transactions between disparate actors, forming an unlikely entanglement of people, things, and places that is as complex as the city itself. In an age of rapid urbanization, the city is everywhere. In the case of Ethiopia, as with so many other developing nations, architecture and urban design are brought face to face with a country undergoing radical, often painful transformations that put longstanding traditions to the test. The burning question here is how to modernize and yet maintain distinct cultural identities, while also trying to accommodate mass migration from rural regions to urban centers. In sum, the route followed here is one marked by a series of trials that leave nothing standing as it was.



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