



Tornado Tower, © emdelight GmbH

building with and through light lighting architecture from emdelight

Around the world light is assuming a more prominent role in architecture and city planning. The rapid development of innovative lighting technologies is opening the door to ever-growing design potential. Exhausting this potential and advancing it while combining artistic creativity and technical know-how is the goal of artist Thomas Emde and his company emdelight GmbH, which has been successfully doing business in Doha since 2003. In August 2011 emdelight LLC was formally established.

“Our goal is not only to illuminate architecture but to create a real picture of light that makes the structure and philosophy of a building visible at night too. This can only be accomplished if light becomes an integral part of the architecture. For us at emdelight, light is not a fixed element, but an immaterial, dynamic element that can technically, emotionally and ambiently reflect feelings and moods,” says Thomas Emde.

With his 25 employees in the offices in Doha and Frankfurt/Main combined with a network of project-related specialists, emdelight designs and implements not only tailor-made lighting architecture, but also develops innovative technical solutions. For the new Tornado Tower in Doha completed in 2009, the company designed completely new color-controllable lights which were integrated into the characteristic, crossover façade structure and give the building a continually changing face with the interplay of light colors. For the lighting design of the Barwa Commercial Avenue (planned completion 2012), a 8.6 km-long shopping mall along Muntazah Road in Doha, emdelight is working with LED light glass developed and patented by Thomas Emde with color and light intensity that is also dynamically controllable. The result is a glass shell with a continually changing score of light and color. In addition to providing technical solutions, “soft skills” are naturally prominent in many projects.

Bo El Oatib, © emdelight

“Our architecture of light philosophy is too.”



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The ambient lighting design of the Bo El Qabib mosque in the heart of the capital city of Qatar combines enormous aesthetic sensitivity for the structure of the building as well as for the historical, cultural and religious context."

In Thomas Emde's experience designing and implementing innovative light solutions hinge not just on the competence and creativity of the provider. Only when these attributes are paired with the client's willingness to make decisions and a strong innovative capability along with trust and reliable and quick planning processes are extraordinary, trailblazing projects and new developments possible. The Arab world in general and Qatar in particular with its extremely dynamic economy provide ideal conditions for emdelight GmbH. "We really appreciate the business culture and the respectful approach taken with each other in Qatar. The fact that we were able to illuminate significant landmarks in Doha like the Bo El Qabib mosque and the Emiri Diwan government palace is something we gratefully regard as a sign of mutual trust and respect." And with reference to the Qatar Foundation, which has been working to advance science and research, education and social development since 1995, Thomas Emde adds: "Here it is possible to develop visions and implement them, which in Europe, for instance, would be watered down with the involvement of too many decision makers and skeptics."



Bo El Qabib, © emdelight GmbH



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Barwa Commercial Avenue, © emdelight GmbH

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the architecture of light