Bauhaus
Dessau:
Festival
!Architecture!
!Radical!
30 May – 2 June 2019
radical contemporary inventive radical original radical setting!!
The historic Bauhaus moved among the realms of radical utopia, social vision and reality. Its goal was to develop timely designs for everyday life in the modern industrial age. This idea was most consistently and most emblematically actualised and inscribed into the fabric of everyday life with the Bauhaus buildings in Dessau. The buildings, holistic design offered real-life prototypes for modern living. The Bauhaus astonished and in some cases horrified contemporaries. Though some ideas did not stand the test of time, many would later be further developed. Many of the questions Bauhaus architects were interested in 100 years ago are considered standard today, and they are more relevant than ever.

Yet, Bauhaus architecture is most often considered an example of pure form.

There is, however, more to it: The Bauhaus buildings are manifestations of a socially motivated idea, which is where the Festival Architecture Radical comes in. The idea behind the festival is to connect the experiments of the Bauhaus with future ways of living, community and humans’ relationship to the environment as well as pressing questions of building and planning today.

For the festival, Walter Gropius’ Employment Office serves as headquarters, becoming and office of sorts for radically contemporary building practices. The Open Stage at the Bauhaus Museum Dessau will be a space for negotiating new design ideas, while the urban environment is an experimental space for action and discovery at the intersection of past, present and future.
radical original

The festival resonates with the character of the original Bauhaus buildings in Dessau. What are the radical design philosophies, theories and attitudes evident in the Bauhaus buildings? What prompts astonishment today or a mere shake of the head? What is the impact – past, present and future – of Bauhaus architecture on Dessau’s image, on life in the city and on the world at large? A series of guided tours takes visitors through the Bauhaus buildings and their surroundings on the festival weekend.

radical inventive

Each of the ten architects design and realise a temporary installation – part of the Signature Architectures – as a statement on their own position for the festival. These objects are not only thematically and symbolically connected to the festival, they also embody a functional relationship to it and provide real use value. At the end of the festival, the objects will be presented in a non-monetary auction to determine the best idea for re-use.

radical setting

The Bauhaus always knew how to set the stage for the appearance of one of its projects, increasing public exposure and the dissemination of its ideas and work. The festival picks up on this legacy with its programming. Highights include the opening and closing of the festival, architecture film night, Stadtsummer100 and cooperation with the Werkleitz Festival Model and Ruin and the Kulturstiftung Dessau-Wörlitz.
Festival

Programme
umschichten [Stuttgart]
Infobridge
Osthang Project
Darmstadt Mathildenhöhe, 2014
Fri, 31 May 2019

11 am – 4 pm
¿ Opening symposium ¿
Architecture Radical
RSVP via e-mail:
festivalarchitektur@bauhaus-dessau.de
→ Bauhaus Museum Dessau
(en)

Greetings and introduction
w/ Claudia Perren,
Director Bauhaus Dessau Foundation, and Kathrin Luz, Curator

{ Keynotes }
Statements by the architects
w/ Anupama Kundoo [Madrid/Pondicherry],
Andrej Bernik, Fieldwork [Paris],
atelier le balto Landschaftsarchitekten [Berlin],
Bruno Fioretti Marquez [Berlin],
Frida Escobedo [Mexico City],
Andrés Jaque, OFFICE FOR POLITICAL INNOVATION [Madrid],
Jürgen Mayer H., Founding Partner J. MAYER H. und Partner Architekten mbB [Berlin] and
Philip Ursprung [ETH Zürich],
Ippolito Pestellini Laparelli, OMA [Rotterdam],
Sam Chermayeff Office [Berlin],
Umschichten [Stuttgart]

Followed by a public discussion
from 8 pm
… Public Opening …
Welcome
Everyone is invited to the first Bauhaus Architecture Festival.
→ Employment Office parking area
(de)

8 – 9 pm
»!« Artist talk »!«
Is radicality relevant today?
w/ Welcoming: Claudia Perren,
Artists: Mischa Leinkauf and Matthias Wermke [Wermke/Leinkauf, Berlin],
Moderation: Werner Möller, Curator

from 9 pm
!!! Party !!!
w/ DJ Daniel W. Best
[XJazz, Best Works/Berlin] and
DJ Sash Moustache [Berlin]
Sat, 1 June 2019

Radical Tours
11 am–4 pm
⇒ Start at the Employment Office

Themed Tours

Bauhaus Buildings in Dessau
Tour 1: Atmospheres and Forms – Balances and Tensions: from the Historic Employment Office to the Bauhaus buildings and the Masters’ Houses
Tour 2: Laubenpieper to Laubengang: from the historic Employment Office to the Dessau-Törten Housing Estate
Tour 3: Circle-Triangle-Square: from the historic Employment Office to the Bauhaus Museum Dessau

Themed Walking Tour

Invisible Bauhaus Places
w/ Marketing Office of the City of Dessau-Roßlau

Guided Bus Tour

In the Castle’s Mezzanine from Dessau to Wörlitz, bringing together classical modernism and the classicist modernism of the Garden Kingdom w/ Werkleitz Festival Model and Ruin in cooperation with Kulturstiftung Dessau-Wörlitz

RSVP at info@werkleitz.de
Opening of Stadtsommer100, City of Dessau-Roßlau
To kick off the 100-day countdown to the opening of the Bauhaus Museum Dessau, the Kavalierstraße is transformed into a giant banquet table. One hundred patrons will generously host festival participants and residents, providing food and drinks for a convivial meal. The banquet is an initiative by the Marketing Office of the City of Dessau-Roßlau.

→ Kavalierstraße and Mies-van-der-Rohe-Platz

6–8 pm
¶ Book fair ¶
Radically reduced Publications of the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation for sale

→ Bauhaus Museum Dessau

8 pm – midnight
◆ Film ◆
Architecture Film Night
ARTE Film Night in cooperation with Bauhaus Dessau Foundation.
A screening of historic and contemporary films are presented on the open stage of the Bauhaus Museum Dessau. The films initiate conversation on international cinematic discourses on modernist architecture. The evening is divided into two themes: The first theme is the question of how male and female notions of building differ from one another and how the system works to privilege male achievements. The second theme concerns the discourse within modern architecture and planning about the tension between celebrated individual buildings and urban problems.

→ Bauhaus Museum Dessau (de)

8 – 10 pm
◆ Film ◆
Domus and Domains: Against an Architecture as a Man’s Thing

w/ Kathrin Luz [Moderator]

10 pm – midnight
◆ Film ◆
Heritage of Modernity: Celebrated Icons, Urban Problem Areas
Mies on scene: Barcelona in Two Acts + Die Van-Nelle Fabrik in Rotterdam + Van Nelle Factory in Rotterdam + Für eine offene Stadt! / For an Open City!

w/ Werner Möller [Moderator]

The following films will play on separate screens in a loop:
Anupama Kundoo [Madrid/Pondicherry]
Fulfill home
Chennai, India, 2015
Radical Tours
10 am – 12 pm
→ Starts at the Employment Office

9 am (de)
Guided Bus Tour
In the Rock’s Caldera
from Dessau to Wörlitz,
bringing together classical modernism and the classicist modernism of the Garden Kingdom.
With Werkleitz Festival Model and Ruin in cooperation with Kulturstiftung Dessau-Wörlitz
RSVP at info@werkleitz.de

10 am (de)
12 am (en)
Themed Tours
Bauhaus Buildings in Dessau
Tour 1: Atmospheres and Forms – Balances and Tensions:
from the Historic Employment Office to the Bauhaus buildings and the Masters’ Houses
Tour 2: Laubenpieper to Laubengang: from the historic Employment Office to the Dessau-Törten Housing Estate

10 am (de)
12 pm (en)
Themed Walking Tour
Invisible Bauhaus Places
With Marketing Office of the City of Dessau-Roßlau
1–2 pm

*Tour*

**Festive Procession**

Theatrical encounter in front of the historic Employment Office, followed by a festive procession of all participants, guests and interested residents to the location of the closing events at the Bauhaus Museum Dessau → Starts at the historic Employment Office

1–8 pm

¶ Book fair ¶

Radically reduced Publications of the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation for sale → Bauhaus Museum Dessau

2–6 pm

«Battle»

**A Competition of Ideas**

Workshop participants present their results

w/ Jury:

Roger Bundschuh, Architect [Berlin],
Matthias Sauerbruch, Architect [Berlin],
Stephan Becker, Architecture-Journalist, BauNetz [Berlin],
Jolanthe Kugler, Curator Vitra Design-Museum [Weil am Rhein]
Claudia Perren, Director and CEO, Bauhaus Dessau Foundation [Dessau-Roßlau]
→ Bauhaus Museum Dessau

6–8 pm

Auction :-)

**Best Idea for Re-use**

Signature Architectures non-monetary Auction

w/ Auctioneer: Lena Winter, Auktionshaus Villa Grisebach, [Berlin]
→ Bauhaus Museum Dessau (de)
Frida Escobedo [Mexico City]
Civic Stage installation
3rd Lisbon Architecture Triennale, 2013
Architects
Is radicalism contemporary?

The architects gave brief statements on the question and their contributions to the festival.

Anupama Kundoo
[Madrid/Pondicherry]

Towards a built environment that is in sync with the natural world, we address real concerns through knowledge-based processes, extensive material research and experimentation, in the spirit of “REDUCE TO MAX”, to deliver maximum beauty with minimum resources, and radically redefine everything we know, rethink everything we see, make and use.

Andrés Jaque
[Madrid]

Architecture As More-Than-Human Societies Made Fair.

Frida Escobedo
[Mexico City]

It is our conviction that an architectural project is never really complete, but rather that the act of designing merely sets the stage for the opening act of a longer narrative, the outcome of which cannot be predicted by the architect, but is dictated by those who will occupy and use the space.

Bruno Fioretti Marquez
[Berlin]

“To be radical is to grasp the root of the matter. But, for man, the root is man himself”. Karl Marx, Critique of Hegel’s Philosophy of Right, 1843–1844

Ippolito Pestellini Laparelli
[Rotterdam]

What could be a 21st-century institution of humans and machines and what would be its architecture?
Jürgen Mayer H.
[Berlin]
METROPOL PARASOL
Plaza de la Encarnacion,
Seville, 2011
“Creating awareness of the city’s time strata”

Interview with Kathrin Luz + Werner Möller

Question: What is the Festival Architecture Radical?

WM!: The Festival Architecture Radical is part of the Bauhaus Dessau Festivals. The first festival was the Festival School Fundamental, the third will be the Festival Stage Total. We selected these topics because they speak to what Dessau is like. As far as architecture is concerned, a majority of Bauhaus buildings were built here in Dessau. It was in these buildings that the Bauhaus saw its ideas for a new kind of society come to fruition for the first time and on a larger scale.

Question: What was radical about Bauhaus architecture?

WM!: It was radical, first of all, as far as the construction industry is concerned. Walter Gropius wanted to industrialise the entire construction industry, which had until then been very craft oriented. On a thoroughly practical level, the Dessau-Törten Housing Estate was about creating affordable housing in order to cope with the housing shortage. The Masters’ Houses were about a certain vision. Here, Gropius tried to use the modular principle and standardised parts to create the greatest possible variability for standardisation - and to show what the new building was capable of. The last radical attempt of the Bauhaus, the Houses with Balcony Access, goes back to Hannes Meyer’s time. Because of the Great Depression, it was increasingly difficult to maintain any kind of equilibrium between construction costs and quality of living in Germany in 1929. The Bauhaus introduced drastic rationalisation measures, everything was reduced to the minimum; with features like heated floors, private bathrooms and kitchens and so on – they still managed to offer quality housing though.

KL!: During the festival, we also want to reflect on the term “radical” in terms of its broader meaning, as an important criterion of the avant-garde and of modernism. We want to ask to what extent this attitude of challenging the
status quo, of overcoming conventions and turning towards extreme solutions and completely new ideas, still points to relevant criteria or whether there aren’t other, much more important and relevant criteria today, for example when it comes to environmental issues.

?: Why did you choose the Employment Office of all places as the festival headquarters?

WM!: In many ways, the historic Employment Office is ideally suited as festival headquarters. On the one hand, it is quite a central building of classical modernism. Walter Gropius’ Employment Office is one of the first employment offices ever. Its spatial efficiency and layout are ideal. It’s clear that there’s a new conception of architecture at work here, according to which architecture doesn’t dominate and mark a space but rather integrates into different patterns of movement and administrative processes while creating a new aesthetic. On the other hand, the Employment Office is located in a special place. Not only is it the closest Bauhaus building to our second festival headquarters, the Bauhaus Museum Dessau, the Employment Office was also originally located on the edge of town and on a diagonal street. As regards urban planning, the building, in its shape and dimensions, refers to the historic Enlightenment-era cemetery behind it, where Wilhelm Erdmannsdorff is buried. Today, this reference is interrupted by the placement of a prefabricated high-rise from GDR times, between the cemetery and the Employment Office. This prefabricated building visualises the breaks between the dawn of modernism in the 1920s and the re-emergence, on different terms, of modern architecture after the Second World War.

KL!: The festival takes another look at the entire ensemble of the city. We want to create a broader awareness of these different time strata that coexist in the city, and in the best case, this will revive the wonderful Employment Office, which has lain dormant for too long.

?: You will also be able to see the festival itself very clearly between the Bauhaus Museum Dessau and the Employment Office.

KL!: We were able to get ten internationally renowned architects for our festival, whom we also asked to create a kind of presentation for the festival in the city. The Signature Architectures, as we call them, are ten objects located in one specific area similar to a parcours. At the same time, they meet certain functional needs of the festival. Some of them are located outdoors and thus mark public space. Some are located inside the buildings and support lectures or create seating and sleeping arrangements. In typical Bauhaus fashion, the hedonistic aspects were also given consideration.

WM!: It’s not just about visualisation though. The area between the Bauhaus Museum Dessau and the Employment Office borders on a central inner-city living area with some experimental buildings of GDR modernism, such as the Y-houses and other prefabricated buildings. We want to bring the general public and the people in the neighbourhood along with us and enter into dialogue with them. Everyone is invited to the opening party, to the Radical Tours, to the Tafel100 and many other events. In doing so, we are building on a Bauhaus tradition by stating that building, architecture and planning are fundamentally social tasks.

The Festival Architecture Radical was curated by Kathrin Luz and Werner Möller.

Interviewed by Ute König
Festival location:
The Employment Office

Architect:
Walter Gropius
1928/1929

Walter Gropius designed the Employment Office on behalf of the City of Dessau and the Reich’s Department for Employment Services and Unemployment Benefits. The structure represented a new type of administration building. Gropius translated the new requirements for state-regulated labour administration into a radically functional architectural model. Jobseekers entered the building through multiple entrances separated by occupation and sex, passing first through waiting rooms to then arrive at the employment agencies and finally at unemployment benefits. The exit was accessible via the central cash register so that different processes in the building ran smoothly without crossing paths. Today the building is used by the City of Dessau-Roßlau as the Office of Public Order and Safety.
Festival location:
The Bauhaus Museum Dessau

Architects:
addenda architects
2016–2019

To celebrate the centenary of the founding of the Bauhaus, the Bauhaus Dessau Museum – designed by the young firm addenda architects [Gonzalez Hinz Zabala] Barcelona – opens in the centre of Dessau in 2019. For the first time, the collection of the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation will be comprehensively shown. It’s the second largest Bauhaus collection in the world, with around 49,000 objects. The upper level houses the exhibition Versuchsstätte Bauhaus. The Collection telling the story of Dessau’s famous Design University. The ground floor offers an Open Stage for contemporary art and events, thus creating new cultural centre for the Bauhaus in the middle of the city. The Bauhaus Museum Dessau opens its doors to the public on 8 September 2019.
Participation
All programmes are open to the public except the workshops. Participation is free of charge.

Accessibility
The Bauhaus Museum Dessau and the historic Employment Office are barrier free. Unfortunately, the Bauhaus Building, the Masters’ Houses and the Bauhaus buildings in the Dessau-Törten Housing Estate are not barrier free due to the historic nature of the buildings. Wheelchair-accessible bathrooms and an elevator are provided in the Bauhaus Building and the Gropius House. A wheelchair is also available on site.

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Employment Office by Walter Gropius, 2018 / Stiftung Bauhaus Dessau / Photo: Thomas Meyer / OSTKREUZ

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addenda architects, Bauhaus Museum Dessau, 2018 / Bauhaus Foundation Dessau
See!

you!
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bauhaus - dessau.de
20–24 March
Festival School
Fundamental

31 May–2 June
Festival Architecture
Radical!

11–15 Sept
Festival Stage

Total

#architectureradical