

Press portfolio

Bauhaus
Centenary 2019

Programme of the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation for the centenary of the founding of the Bauhaus.

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Dessau-Roßlau,
Autumn 2018

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The Bauhaus Dessau in the Centenary Year 2019.

In 2019 the Bauhaus Association will celebrate the centenary of the founding of the Bauhaus as a cultural event across the whole of Germany. Its members are jointly organising an internationally-orientated cultural thematic year on the Bauhaus and modernism, which will also serve to boost Germany's tourism-related development as a home of modernism.

The Bauhaus Dessau Foundation's programme is based on many years of artistic and scientific research by the foundation, which is embedded in international networks of universities and collection and research institutions. The highlight will be the opening of the Bauhaus Museum Dessau on 8 September 2019. Another milestone will be the new performance of the Bauhaus buildings. And the Bauhaus Dessau Festivals with the festivals School FUNDAMENTAL, Architecture RADICAL and Stage TOTAL will also set a clear accent in the anniversary year.

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The Centenary of the Founding of the Bauhaus.

The Bauhaus Association and the structure of the centenary.

In 2019, the Bauhaus Association will celebrate the centenary of the founding of the Bauhaus as a cultural event across the whole of Germany.

The state of Saxony-Anhalt, with the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation as one of the three Bauhaus institutions with collections, is thus one of the three key federal states of the centenary, alongside Thuringia (the Klassik Stiftung Weimar) and Berlin (the Bauhaus-Archiv / Museum für Gestaltung).

Its members are jointly organising an internationally-orientated cultural thematic year on the Bauhaus and modernism. The centenary programme is decentralised and is broadly structured as follows:

The programmes of the federal states (Baden-Württemberg, Berlin, Brandenburg, Hamburg, Hesse, Lower Saxony, North Rhine-Westphalia, Rhineland-Palatinate, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia) form the cornerstones of the centenary celebrations. These are curated by the respective federal states, incorporate the programmes of the cities, and are complemented by the Triennial of Modernism 2019, which is organised by the cities of Berlin, Dessau-Roßlau and Weimar.

The Bauhaus Cooperation Berlin Dessau Weimar, with the aid of the Weimar office, will preside over the conceptualisation and development of the *Eröffnungsfestival* in Berlin, the *Grand Tour der Moderne*, and the international exhibition project *Bauhaus Imaginista* as key features of the centenary programme, in collaboration with diverse partners such as the Goethe-Institut, the HKW Berlin and others.

The programmatic script for the centenary likewise encompasses the programmes of the three Bauhaus institutions with the three new museums, their prolog exhibitions in 2017 and their centenary exhibitions in 2019.

The German Federal Cultural Foundation is widely involved in the centenary with three supporting programmes: the programme *Bauhaus 2019* for the support of exhibition projects, the *Bauhaus Fund* for the support of non-attached projects and the *Bauhaus Agents Programme* for the development of new communication concepts for the new Bauhaus museums in Berlin, Dessau and Weimar. The support also extends to projects of the Bauhaus Cooperation Berlin Dessau Weimar, such as the *Eröffnungsfestival* in Berlin and the international exhibition project *Bauhaus Imaginista*.

The association 100 Years of Bauhaus operates from an own office in Weimar.

bauhaus100.de

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The Bauhaus Dessau Foundation.

A brief description of the Foundation and its work.

Dessau is the city most closely associated with the Bauhaus. The Bauhaus experienced its heyday here from 1925 to 1932. All three Bauhaus directors—Walter Gropius, Hannes Meyer and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe – worked in Dessau and almost all the Bauhaus buildings that may still be seen in Dessau are regarded as modern icons. With its liberal spirit of optimism, from 1925 to 1932 the city of Dessau offered the Bauhauslers a great many opportunities for development as a progressive institute of higher education, a seat of industry for mass production, an experimental site for a new approach to the stage and, of course, as regards architecture and life in the collective as an artists' colony.

The Bauhaus in Dessau and the Bauhaus sites in Weimar and Bernau were awarded UNESCO World Heritage status in 1996.

The Bauhaus Dessau Foundation was established in 1994. It hosts international guests of the Bauhaus as a locus of research and art. Every year, around 100,000 people from all over the world visit the Bauhaus, the Masters' Houses and the Dessau-Törten Housing Estate.

Since 2015, the Foundation has taken a historically reflexive approach to the annual themes Collective, Movement, Substance and Standards, and at the same time explored the present potentials of the Bauhaus legacy for the 21st century.

Today in the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation, the Academy works with the ideas and approaches of the Bauhaus pedagogy. The Bauhaus Open Studios, the Bauhaus Lab and the Bauhaus Master Coop Design Research invite young designers, architects, artists, scientists and curators to enter into research at the Bauhaus in Dessau. Alongside education, the work of the Foundation centres on the collection with its 49,000 objects illustrating the history of everyday school life at the Bauhaus Dessau, and on the building department, its heritage conservation work and Building Research Archive on the Bauhaus buildings. These are complemented by the curator workshop, in which the topics of the Foundation's research are converted into educational formats and exhibition themes. The Bauhaus Residency enables artistic research in the Masters' Houses and the annual Bauhaus Festival and the international university networks for the experimental stage workshops also give the stage an important role in the Foundation's work. The Bauhaus library, a research library, supports the scientific work of the Foundation.

To mark the centenary of the Bauhaus, the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation is building the Bauhaus Museum Dessau. For the very first time, this will allow the Foundation's collection to be shown in a comprehensive exhibition in Dessau. The museum will open on 8 September 2019 with the centenary exhibition *Versuchsstätte Bauhaus. The Collection*. A new curatorial concept for the staging of the Bauhaus buildings will also be realised in the centenary year, which will open on 25 January 2019.

As a member of the Bauhaus Cooperation Berlin Dessau Weimar, in the context of the centenary the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation shares responsibility for the international research and exhibition project *Migrant Bauhaus*.

The Bauhaus Dessau Foundation is a non-profit foundation underpinned by the Federal Government Representative for Culture and Media (BKM), the federal state of Saxony-Anhalt and the municipality of Dessau-Roßlau.

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The Bauhaus Museum Dessau Opening on 8 September 2019.
The architecture and concept of the museum.

The Bauhaus is world-renowned as a modern icon. Founded in Weimar in 1919 by Walter Gropius, the Bauhaus relocated to Dessau in 1925. In the six years thereafter, avant-garde figures from the worlds of art, architecture, theatre, music and design would live and work in the Gropius-designed Bauhaus Building.

With the new Bauhaus Museum Dessau opening in 2019 to mark the centenary of the Bauhaus, visitors from all over the world will be able to see the full history and diversity of the Bauhaus in Dessau for the first time. The museum's work will focus on the presentation of the Foundation's prized collection of ca. 49,000 exhibits, which is the second-largest Bauhaus collection in the world. At the same time, the museum will open up opportunities to explore and discuss the themes and discourses of the Bauhaus in the 21st century in the form of exhibitions and artistic and scientific projects.

The Bauhaus in Dessau was always a place for new ideas and an international hub. It is the duty of the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation to build a Bauhaus museum that upholds the tradition of this singular school of design. But which architecture is best suited to this task, in the 21st century? The Bauhaus Dessau Foundation took a conscious decision to hold an open international competition in 2015, which attracted 831 submissions from all over the world. In a two-stage process, two first prizes were awarded. In November 2015, the commission was awarded to the architecture office addenda architects (previously González Hinz Zabala) from Barcelona, Spain.

The closed Black Box, which floats as a hermetic spatial body in a glass shell, is reserved for the presentation of the collection. Its counterpart is the transparent ground floor, whose spatial concept can be flexibly designed and which, as an open stage, offers a variety of play areas for the current positions - with the intention of having an effect right into the park and urban space.

The construction of the Bauhaus Museum Dessau is funded by the Federal Government Representative for Culture and Media on the basis of a resolution passed by the German Bundestag and the federal state of Saxony-Anhalt. The construction cost of 25 million euros is being borne equally by the German Government and the federal state of Saxony-Anhalt. The site is provided by the municipality of Dessau-Roßlau. The principal is the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation.

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Versuchsstätte Bauhaus. The Collection.
The exhibition and its narrative.

With the opening of the Bauhaus Museum Dessau, it will be possible to highlight the quality and diversity of the collection of the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation, which comprises around 49,000 exhibits, for the first time, and to use the collected works to tell the story of the Bauhaus Dessau as a school of design.

Under the title Versuchsstätte Bauhaus. The Collection, visitors can expect an exhibition dedicated to the nationally and internationally unparalleled Bauhaus collection, which traces the history of the era-defining school in Dessau in a series of interconnected sections on an area of 1,500 square metres. The Dessau school of design especially worked towards an “industrial culture of practical living” and contributed to the fact that Bauhaus things, e.g. typefaces, furniture, textiles, wallpapers and architectures, are now a fixed part of our everyday culture.

The aim of the new presentation of the collection is to express the complex history of the work of the Bauhaus and its global dissemination, based on the extensive inventory of original furniture, documents, photographs, art works and graphics.

One of the distinctive features of the Dessau collection is that it allows us to visualise the day-to-day life of learning and teaching, open-ended design and industrial prototype, artistic experiment and the demands of the market, fellowship and mastership at the school of design. After all, from when the Bauhaus reopened as a scientific-cultural centre in 1976, the varied collecting activities centred on the school as a “laboratory of industry”.

In addition to acquisitions, up to the reunification of Germany in 1990, the basis of the collection was formed mainly by personal bequests and gifts from former Bauhauslers. After 1990 more collections and bequests were made possible thanks to generous federal and state funding. These include some highly personal material testimonies that are capable of communicating the Bauhaus culture in all its scope and diversity.

Building on our everyday familiarity with the Bauhaus, the new presentation of the collection will provide a starting point for a spirited exploration of the post-industrial, 21st century “culture of practical living”, our methods of teaching and learning, and the design of and dealings with the things and buildings around us.

Interludes
Exhibition in the exhibition

Each exhibition is an arena of many-voiced perspectives and interpretations. It is precisely the presentation of a collection that thrives on being repeatedly placed in new relationships and discourses. Whether the collection itself, the individual object or the curatorial narrative. The interludes as an exhibition in the exhibition three times a year invite visitors to take a new perspective on the collection and its objects. Whether guest curators present their own narrative threads, objects from international Bauhaus collections are guests, new acquisitions are exhibited, or the visitors themselves experiment - the interludes always allow new, strange, and different views of the quality of the collection.

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The Bauhaus buildings in Dessau

A new curatorial concept.
Opening on 18 April 2019

Dessau has an unparalleled range of Bauhaus architecture, which models prototypes of modern architecture. Occasioned by the centenary in 2019, the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation is working on the development of a new, cohesive curatorial concept for the main Bauhaus buildings.

The buildings are distributed throughout the city, from the southern periphery to the Elbe. The different building types are grouped together according to location, from housing development and administrative building to the school building, the Masters' Houses and a restaurant: the Bauhaus Building as an architectural manifestation of the curriculum of an institute of higher education, the Masters' Houses as housing for the avant-garde, the Dessau-Törten Housing Estate as a test site for social housing, the Steel House as a materials experiment and the Employment Office as a utilitarian municipal building.

The new concept renders visible the connections between architectonic concept, residents and usage not only in specific buildings, but also between the Bauhaus buildings as a whole. It sheds light on the new design approaches, schools of thought and approaches that were realised in the Bauhaus buildings, ranging from the "large-scale construction kit" to the "people's flat", from thoughts about modularity, flexibility and material experiments to the building process and questions of resources, living patterns and ownership models.

For Walter Gropius, Carl Fieger, Hannes Meyer, Hans Wittwer and their students, the building was central to the requirement of shaping modern life.

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Bauhaus Festivals Dessau: School, Architecture, Stage.
Three festivals to the rhythm of a centenary year.

With the Bauhaus Festivals Dessau, the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation marks a highlight of the many and varied centenary activities in 2019. The festivals are rooted in a long-term artistic-scientific research project of the Foundation, and will in 2019 comprise three multi-day thematic festivals focusing on school (March), architecture (June) and stage (September).

The festivals are intended for a national and international audience and for the university and partner network of the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation. The programme for each festival is designed so that interested members of the public of all ages too are invited to discover for themselves the experimental site of the Bauhaus in Dessau.

Bauhaus Festival School FUNDAMENTAL
20 – 24 March 2019

The Bauhaus was part of a broad educational reform movement that initiated a paradigm shift in art education: away from learning based on a handed-down canon of forms, towards the development of a creativity attributed to every individual. Building on the programme of the Academy of the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation, the festival is a platform for reflection, exchange and the cross-linking of innovative learning models and experiments past and present.

Bauhaus Festival Architecture RADICAL
31 May – 2 June 2019

The Bauhausers sought social change with their architecture. The Bauhaus Festival Architecture RADICAL refers to this desire for renewal, to the (seemingly) uncompromising realisation of major ideas. Not everything worked out – but everything was tried: bold, consistent, visionary and polemic.

Bauhaus Festival Stage TOTAL
11 – 15 September 2019

In Dessau, the stage workshop got its own place to rehearse and perform. All the stage experiments at the Bauhaus sought to address through performance the departure from traditional literary theatre, the will, tempo and mechanisation of modern cities, and the intensity of experience of popular forms of entertainment like the cinema and the amusement park. In cooperation with the Anhaltisches Theater.

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Unseen Spaces

The City and the Bauhaus: Emerging Together into the Modern Era

Exhibition in the urban environment

April – November 2019

When the Bauhaus was forced for political reasons to leave Weimar, a number of major cities like Frankfurt am Main, Darmstadt and Magdeburg vied to attract the school. But the Bauhauslers, represented by their council of masters, chose the small, ambitious and broad-minded industrial city of Dessau. Here, the mayor Fritz Hesse, the engineer Hugo Junkers and State Conservator Ludwig Grote intervened personally on behalf of the Bauhaus and provided the best possible conditions for the Bauhauslers' new start.

But what is now unseen is that the Bauhauslers were welcomed with open arms and quickly gained a foothold in the city. While the Bauhaus masters and their students stood out and caused consternation with their ideas, they were by no means outsiders. Quite the contrary: they shaped the urban landscape and the social life of the city. They created facades and pavilions for parks, designed advertising brochures and arranged shop window displays. The Bauhaus worked closely with at least 100 businesses in Dessau. The Bauhauslers also chose to spend their free time in Dessau: on canoe trips on the rivers Elbe and Mulde, or meeting for coffee at the Residenzcafé. The Bauhaus parties were already legendary in the 1920s. The Bauhauslers took flats throughout the city. And with its furniture and textiles, the Bauhaus also entered into the private lives of many of Dessau's inhabitants.

Almost 100 years later in the centenary year 2019, visitors to Dessau are invited to discover the Bauhaus and its stories in the city in the exhibition *Unseen Spaces*. On Dessau's Marktplatz (market square) visitors will find a kiosk with introductory information and a city map for further orientation. All the *Unseen Spaces* scattered through the city centre are clearly signposted and at each location, visitors will be able to download audio recordings to their smartphones. On these, the protagonists of the Bauhaus itself will tell us the histories and the stories of their days in Dessau.

The exhibition *Unseen Spaces* is a project of the city of Dessau-Roßlau in collaboration with the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation (idea and curatorial concept).

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Triennial of Modernism.

The architecture of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the spotlight.
4 – 6 October 2019

Every three years the *Triennial of Modernism* brings modern architecture into the public eye, the point of departure being the UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the three classical Bauhaus cities Berlin, Dessau and Weimar. In each of these cities on three successive weekends, visitors can expect a specific programme involving varied institutions that are associated with the Bauhaus or modern architecture.

In Dessau, the joint hosts are the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation and the city of Dessau-Roßlau. The Triennial 2019 pursues the theme *Material and Architecture* in its exhibitions and events.

Visitors to Dessau are invited to explore modern architecture and the Bauhaus buildings throughout the city, placing a focus on their materials. Concrete, steel and glass are just a few of the new and modern materials of the 1920s, which had a significant influence on the design vocabulary of modern architecture.

The Bauhaus Dessau Foundation is therefore reconfiguring its permanent exhibition on the Building Research Archive, a unique archive worldwide in which building materials and construction elements of modern architecture are collected and preserved, and will open this exhibition on the weekend of the Triennial.

Another highlight is the exhibition of the partner White City in Tel Aviv, Israel. The exhibition *Transferumbau* at the Bauhaus Center Tel Aviv will offer insights into the history of Tel Aviv's world-famous modern architecture and its materials.

The tour *Architektur der Moderne in Dessau* (Modern architecture in Dessau) promises to be no less interesting. After all, the city has far more modern architecture to offer than "just" the Bauhaus buildings. For the tour of the Triennial, a versatile city map of modern architecture will be drawn up and all buildings, including private residences, will be open to the public.

The official patron of the Triennial 2019 is the Ambassador of the State of Israel in Germany.

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Collecting Bauhaus
Provenances, Contiguities, Methods
International Conference
2 – 5 December 2019

Three new Bauhaus museums are being built in Germany for the centenary of the Bauhaus. These museums in Weimar, Dessau and Berlin are likewise trans-nationally connected with the Bauhaus exhibits that were assembled over the hundred years of global acquisition and collecting activities.

Today the Bauhaus art and objects in the major museums worldwide are mostly found in the classical modern section. In the canonical representation of modern art and design in the twentieth century, the Bauhaus is a must. The provenance of the works produced in the brief but enormously productive period between 1919 and 1933 is inextricably linked with the dramatic history of the Bauhaus in the twentieth century, from closure to expulsion and exile.

At the same time, from the very start the Bauhaus took shape as an international platform for a wide-ranging European and international avant-garde movement in architecture, art and design. As such, the school was in itself a vital, global network. In recent years historians have tried, by way of a synthesis of global perspectives, to move away from restrictive, usually national ideas of identity. The Bauhaus Dessau Foundation too has subscribed to this new approach to historiography. In the Bauhaus Lab for instance, in the spirit of global modernism studies, post-graduate students of diverse disciplines are researching the migration movements and exchange processes of the Bauhaus.

The conference Collecting Bauhaus brings together experts from public and private institutions worldwide with Bauhaus collections. The aim is to discuss the globally dispersed object and collection histories of the Bauhaus, to discuss exhibition and communication strategies and, finally, to consider how these global interconnections might be made productive for a museum in the twenty-first century.

This focus on the provenance, translocation and changing ownership of the Bauhaus objects concludes the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation's centenary year, and will simultaneously serve as a green light for a range of envisaged cooperation projects.

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Bauhaus Agents Programme
Communication in the 21st century.

To commemorate the centenary in 2019 of the founding of the Bauhaus, the Bauhaus-Archiv / Museum für Gestaltung in Berlin, the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation and the Klassik Stiftung Weimar will get new Bauhaus museums.

Together with the three Bauhaus institutions, the German Federal Cultural Foundation created the multi-year *Bauhaus Agents Programme*, the aim of which is to integrate the communication of knowledge in the museum concept and exhibition design from the very start.

In the 2016/2017 academic year, nine Bauhaus Agents began to work on the three museums with up to 36 schools in Weimar, Dessau and Berlin. The project is scheduled to run for four school years and will see the Bauhaus Agents develop innovative and participative communication concepts together with schoolchildren, artists, curators, designers, urban researchers and many other experts.

The Bauhaus Agents Programme is unprecedented in German museums. The communication of knowledge is already being integrated in the museum and exhibition design at the planning stage. The programme thus gains a model character both domestically and internationally. Here, in addition to the innovative form of collaboration with the schools, structures and processes are being developed to enable intercommunication across all museum departments. The Bauhaus Agents Programme is laid out in such a way that its findings will be made available to other institutions, where they may serve an exemplary role.

Sample project *Costume Workshop Colour with Oskar Schlemmer*
Grundschule Ziebigk

Designs and costume sketches made by the children were used to create nine costumes based on the basic forms circle, triangle and square and the basic colours blue, red and yellow. The children explore the colouring and properties of materials and discover different approaches to design and workmanship.

Sample project *Paper Theatre*
Berufsschulzentrum Hugo Junkers

Based on the experiments, materials exercises and folding techniques of Bauhaus master Josef Albers, the schoolchildren developed enactments for a paper theatre, which were then premiered.

Sample project *Törten Animated*
Gymnasium Walter Gropius

Together with the video artist Christoph Lehmann the schoolchildren used the medium of film to investigate the architectonic design and impact of the housing estate designed by Walter Gropius. In their video works, they seek out the special features of the estate, question the rationalisation of living space set out by Gropius and track down the signs of appropriation by the owners.