

Exhibition opening

‘Simultaneity of Modernism. The Van Nelle Factory in Rotterdam and the Bauhaus in Dessau’

Friday, 23 September 2016

5 – 8 p.m.

with a Van Nelle bus tour of Dessau

Bauhaus Dessau Foundation

Gropiusallee 38, 06846 Dessau-Roßlau

The Bauhaus Dessau Foundation in cooperation with the Stichting Werelderfgoed Van Nellefabriek, Rotterdam shows an exhibition about the modern dialogue between two UNESCO World Heritage Sites – the Bauhaus Dessau and the Van Nelle Factory, Rotterdam. The project is set up as a bilateral visitation with one exhibition in Dessau and one in Rotterdam.

Modern architecture in dialogue between Dessau and Rotterdam

Rotterdam in Dessau, Dessau in Rotterdam: For the very first time, a joint exhibition project realised in two simultaneous exhibitions sheds light on how the approaches to modern architecture developed in the same direction beyond the national borders.

The simultaneity of the architectural vocabulary is striking. The large Van Nelle Factory and the Bauhaus building, Rotterdam’s villas and the Masters’ Houses and, last but not least, the housing estates in Dessau-Törten and in Kiefhoek, Rotterdam.

Walter Gropius, Director of the Bauhaus Dessau, was in close contact with the Rotterdam-based architects Leendart van der Vlugt, Mart Stam and J.J.P. Oud. They visited one another, exchanged ideas and published together.

While each built for himself in his own city, the buildings in Dessau and Rotterdam demonstrate a shared fundamental understanding of modern architecture as well as the aim to design with each specific building a prototypical architecture for the modern way of living. Dr. Werner Möller, curator of the exhibition at the Bauhaus Dessau, states: ‘The architects of the Bauhaus buildings in Dessau and the buildings in Rotterdam were concerned with far more than just a new architectural style. Their designs were underpinned by a new understanding of the world, which is informed by industrialisation. Modern architecture was supposed to qualitatively redefine the relationship between work and housing, city and life.’



The exhibition is conceived as a programme of reciprocal visits. Rotterdam in Dessau, Dessau in Rotterdam. After 90 years marked by a historic caesura by way of National Socialism, war and Iron Curtain, this is a contemporary coming together, once more with a lighter load. The exhibition marks the joint 90th anniversary in 2016 of the two UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Rotterdam and in Dessau.

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and the Bauhaus in Dessau'

Bauhaus Dessau Foundation: 23 Sept. 2016 – 6 Jan. 2017

Van Nelle Factory Rotterdam: 8 Oct. 2016 – 19 Feb. 2017

Press images to download are available here: www.bauhaus-dessau.de/presse

An exhibition project of the platform 'Stichting Werelderfgoed Van Nelfabriek / Platform Rotterdam 100 jaar Modern!' under the auspices of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

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