

**Information for the press**

# **WEIMAR: WORLD HERITAGE BAUHAUS**

Weimar – birthplace of Bauhaus, engine house of creativity, testing ground for experimentation. Visiting the Bauhaus sites in the city, it is easy to see how the school of design became a centre for the international avant-garde, setting new standards in art, design and architecture. In 1996, this collection of buildings, comprising the former art school with its Bauhaus workshop, the former School of Arts and Crafts and the 'Haus Am Horn', became a UNESCO World Heritage site.

## Former art school with workshop building

Constructed between 1904 and 1911 to plans by distinguished Belgian architect and designer Henry van de Velde, this building was initially an art school. Today, it serves as the main building of the Bauhaus University of Weimar. Visitors on the trail of Bauhaus will find themselves caught up in the hustle and bustle of campus life here. The art nouveau construction is not only one of the most influential art school buildings of the early 20th century, but also where Walter Gropius established the Bauhaus Weimar in April 1919 and where he taught until the school moved to Dessau in 1925. On the occasion of the first major exhibition of Bauhaus works in 1923, the building was redesigned by the school's artists and designers. Gropius himself decorated the director's room, and Herbert Bayer and Joost Schmidt created wall murals. Following extensive renovations, the building has largely been restored to its original condition.

Another gem from the Bauhaus legacy can be found behind the main building, namely the former workshop building, now known as Bauhaus Atelier. It was built in 1886 and during the Bauhaus years it was used as a canteen, serving affordable food to the students, many of whom were very poor. This former workshop building now houses the Bauhaus University of Weimar's visitor and information centre. It is also the starting point of the Bauhaus Walks, which give visitors insights into the work of the early Bauhaus pioneers as well as an opportunity to meet with the artists and designers of tomorrow. Students from the Bauhaus University of Weimar conduct these guided tours of the city, offering a blend of historical and contemporary perspectives on the world-famous school of ideas.

### At a glance:

It was inside the art school building, designed by Van de Velde, that Walter Gropius established the Bauhaus Weimar in 1919. Today, it is the main building of the Bauhaus University of Weimar. The workshop building was a canteen in Gropius's day – now the Bauhaus walking tours start from here.

## Former School of Arts and Crafts

Also part of the UNESCO World Heritage site is the former School of Arts and Crafts. It was built between 1905 and 1906 to plans by Henry van de Velde, who remained the school's director until it closed in 1915. From 1919 to 1925 the Bauhaus school of arts made use of the premises, turning some of the rooms into workshops for the metalworkers and the stone sculptors. The building also contains traces of the 1923 Bauhaus exhibition, with three reconstructed murals still showing part of the famous staircase design by Bauhaus master Oskar Schlemmer, who taught in Weimar from 1921. The building is currently used by the Bauhaus University of Weimar's faculty of design.

### At a glance:

The former School of Arts and Crafts was home to various workshops of the Bauhaus school of design between 1919 and 1925.

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### 'Haus Am Horn'

'Haus Am Horn' is widely regarded as a prototype of the modern home. It was here that some of the revolutionary Bauhaus ideas first materialised, ideas that would influence generations of architects and designers. The house was also built to coincide with the 1923 Bauhaus exhibition. It was the very first Bauhaus house, the culmination of years of experimentation, and just a stone's throw from the neo-baroque mansions and Goethe's famous summer house. The design was the work of painter Georg Muche, the youngest of the Bauhaus masters. The construction itself was brought to fruition by Gropius's architectural office and managed by Adolf Meyer. The furniture and homeware inside came from the workshops of Bauhaus artists, including Marcel Breuer, Theodor Bogler and Alma Siedhoff-Buscher. The 'Haus Am Horn' was the first step towards the realisation of an idea conceived in 1920 for a Bauhaus housing estate. In 1999, the house underwent extensive reconstruction and now conveys an impressive ensemble of Bauhaus ideas for modern life – from the kitchen right through to the children's bedroom.

[bauhaus.visit-thuringia.com](https://bauhaus.visit-thuringia.com)

#### At a glance:

The 'Haus Am Horn' was the first realisation of the revolutionary ideas of the Bauhaus school of design. It was built in 1923 as a prototype house and can today be visited as part of a Bauhaus walking tour.

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