

Information for the press

BAUHAUS ▲ AND MODERNISM: FROM THUR- INGI▲ TO THE WORLD

In 2019, Germany will celebrate the centenary of the Bauhaus. This legendary academy for arts and architecture was founded in Thuringia in the heart of Germany in 1919. To the present day, the Bauhaus concepts offer inspiration to architects, designers and artists across the world and continue to influence our everyday lives. To mark the occasion of the Bauhaus anniversary, Thuringia invites visitors on a journey of discovery to the birthplace of this famous movement. It is a place where a revolution of the arts heralded the dawning of a new era, and where the pioneering spirit and joy of experimentation that characterise Bauhaus and modernism are still tangible.

From its humble beginnings in Weimar, the Bauhaus quickly made a name for itself and became the centre of the international avant-garde movement. In 1919, architect Walter Gropius founded the world-famous art and design school under the name of 'Staatliches Bauhaus zu Weimar'. In 1925, the school moved to the town of Dessau, and later to Berlin, where it was closed down as a result of pressure from the National Socialists in 1933. The Bauhaus masters and students went out into the world and the Bauhaus ideas travelled with them – from Tel Aviv and Chicago to Santiago de Chile, Moscow and Tokyo.

Bauhaus concepts were taken up, enhanced, critiqued, discarded and rediscovered. The influence of the Bauhaus movement on the evolution of modern architecture, industrial design and modern art in the 20th century was substantial.

Its ideal was to enable all disciplines of arts and crafts to interact to build the future together and design a better, modern lifestyle. Today, several Bauhaus buildings in Weimar and Dessau have been included on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Bauhaus furniture and other design objects of this style are considered iconic artefacts and are highly sought-after. They are seen as the epitome of timeless, universal and functional design. The joy of experimentation of Bauhaus and its aspiration to completely rethink the world continue to spark the imagination of architects, designers and artists up to the present day.

In 1919, Weimar became not only the birthplace of the Bauhaus movement but also the cradle of the first German democracy (the Weimar Republic, from 1919 to 1933). The early years of Bauhaus art and design in particular were therefore strongly influenced by curiosity and a desire for change. Masters and students experimented with materials, forms and colours, but also with new housing concepts and teaching methods. Artists such as Paul Klee, Wassily Kandinsky, Lyonel Feininger, Marcel Breuer and Marianne Brandt answered the call of founder Walter Gropius and came to Weimar.

Thuringia is home to the origins of Bauhaus. In Weimar, these can be explored as part of the Bauhaus collection, along with the 'Haus Am Horn' – the first architectural manifestation of Bauhaus design – and many other authentic sites. But Bauhaus and modernism can also be experienced in many other places across Thuringia – from Bauhaus

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pottery in Dornburg and innovative textile crafts in Erfurt to modern architecture in Jena and Gera or the 'Haus des Volkes' in Probstzella.

The forerunners, prototypes and icons of modern (life) style, the free thinking and the joy of experimentation of the early years of Bauhaus are vividly brought to life at original sites such as today's Bauhaus University in Weimar, where the Bauhaus spirit is still vibrant, but also in historic workshops, in the new bauhaus museum weimar and in the extensive centenary programme. Exhibitions, performances and many other events staged to celebrate this major anniversary will demonstrate the ongoing inspirational influence of Bauhaus in Thuringia.

bauhaus.visit-thuringia.com

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