

Bauhaus Dessau

Press Release

J u b i l e e 2 0 1 9

The programme of the
Bauhaus Dessau Foundation

P r e s s c o n t a c t

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Dessau-Roßlau,
May 2018

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Dessau is the city most closely associated with the Bauhaus. It is where the school founded by Walter Gropius in Weimar in 1919 was active the longest and where it experienced its heyday from 1925 to 1932. All three Bauhaus directors – Walter Gropius, Hannes Meyer and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe – lived and worked in Dessau. And virtually all the Bauhaus buildings in Dessau, which visitors can still see today, are regarded as modernist icons. Bauhaus in Dessau is a UNESCO World Heritage site, and 100,000 people from all over the world arrive in the city every year to visit the Bauhaus and its buildings.

For visitors to the Bauhaus Dessau, the programme for the Bauhaus Centenary 2019 is as follows:

Bauhaus Museum Dessau

Official opening with the exhibition *Versuchsstätte Bauhaus. The Collection*. Autumn 2019

The Bauhaus Museum Dessau will launch with a comprehensive exhibition of the second-largest Bauhaus collection in the world. Titled *Versuchsstätte Bauhaus. The Collection*, the exhibition will illustrate by way of selected exhibits how the Bauhausers' ideas came to be objects integral to our daily lives.

Bauhaus Buildings Dessau

Icons of modernism – re-curated
From January 2019

Of all the cities in the world, Dessau has the most Bauhaus buildings. The Bauhaus Building, the Masters' Houses, the historic Employment Office and the Dessau-Törten Housing Estate – each one is a modern architectonic prototype. To commemorate the centenary, they will be curated collectively for the very first time. Visitors will discover just how experimental, radical and utopian the Bauhausers' thinking was as regards architecture as applied design for a new, modern way of living.

Bauhaus Festivals Dessau

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| Festival <i>School FUNDAMENTAL</i> | 20–24 March 2019 |
| Festival <i>Architecture RADICAL</i> | 31 May–2 June 2019 |
| Festival <i>Stage TOTAL</i> | 11–15 September 2019 |

Three international festivals, each with a specific theme, present contemporary interpretations of the historic legacy. All the festivals have a scientific-artistic focus which, transferred to the various programme formats, invites visitors to discover the Bauhaus as a field of experimentation.

The series begins with *School FUNDAMENTAL*, a festival of learning. As a school of design, the Bauhaus was less about classical education and more about the all-round development of character. But is there any validity nowadays to the paradigm of "learning by doing", of "overcoming the fragmented individual" (László Moholy-Nagy) by unleashing the individual's creative powers? As a curriculum made manifest in a building with workshops, preliminary course room, auditorium and canteen, the Bauhaus Building in Dessau provides the ideal point of departure for the reflection, practical critique and experimental renewal of the Bauhaus pedagogy.

The festival *Architecture RADICAL* chose Walter Gropius's historic Employment Office because the relatively unknown building models the Bauhausers' grasp of architecture as a manifestation of social change.



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The festival refers to this desire for renewal, to the (seemingly) uncompromising realisation of powerful ideas. Not every experiment was successful, but they were daring, systematic, visionary and controversial. Taking the historic Bauhaus buildings as a starting point, the festival seeks to explore contemporary questions about the social role of architecture and its radical and experimental approaches.

The festival *Stage TOTAL* takes the historic Bauhaus stage as a point of departure and launches the Bauhaus Museum Dessau as a venue with a production of the colour-tone drama *Violet* by Wassily Kandinsky. This will be staged in collaboration with the Anhaltisches Theater, which is situated between the museum and the Bauhaus Building. The departure from traditional, literary theatre was written into every experiment on the Bauhaus stage. These were characterised by the desire for dramatic treatments of the pace and mechanisation of modern cities and the intensity of experience provided by popular forms of entertainment like cinemas and theme parks. The five-day festival will present small, dramatic formats and large-scale performances, celebrations and amusements that offer contemporary interpretations of the historic approach.

Triennial of Modernism
Material and Architecture
4–6 October 2019

Modern architecture comes into focus every three years with the Triennial. The UNESCO World Heritage sites in Berlin, Dessau and Weimar provide the point of departure. Under the title *Material and Architecture*, visitors to Dessau in 2019 will be able to see the exhibition *Transferumbau of White City Center*, from Tel Aviv, which will address the architecture and building materials of the world-famous White City. Concurrently, the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation will open its new permanent exhibition on the building research archive. The October weekend programme will end with tours of modern architecture in Dessau. After all, the city has far more to offer by way of modernism than “just” the Bauhaus buildings.

Collecting Bauhaus / Bauhaus sammeln
Conference
2 – 5 December 2019

International Bauhaus-Collections come to Dessau

At the end of the centenary year, the interdisciplinary conference invites Bauhaus-Collections from all over the world to Dessau, thus painting a global picture of the historic and contemporary reception of the Bauhaus.

The City and the Bauhaus:
Forging Modernity Together
March to October 2019

It was a spirit of departure that attracted the Bauhauslers from Weimar to the industrial city of Dessau. The Bauhaus was active here for eight years and turned the city into an internationally renowned domicile for the modern avant-garde. Together, the city and the Bauhaus shared the vision of shaping the industrial modern age.

For the centenary, the city, in collaboration with the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation, will invite visitors to delve via the exhibition *Unsichtbare Orte* (Invisible places) into the city's public spaces to discover the stories of the Bauhaus, and to immerse themselves in the spirit of the 1920s. The project *Passagen* (Passages), which draws on William Forsythe's “choreographic objects”, will also play out in the public domain.

