

Press Release

Bauhaus Centenary in 2019: Weimar's new Bauhaus Museum

New building scheduled to open at the end of 2018

Weimar. Almost 100 years ago, the State Bauhaus was founded by Walter Gropius in Weimar, launching a new chapter in international design history. Architecture, furniture and the concept of design and functionality have since changed fundamentally. For the centenary in 2019, Weimar will have a new Bauhaus Museum and exhibit a major collection. Designed by Professor Heike Hanada (Berlin), the winner of an international architectural competition, the building is currently under construction.

In the direct vicinity of the former Gauforum on the edge of the Weimarhallen Park, a geometrically clear-cut building opens up the northern part of the town in a new form and represents a distinct contrast to the neighbouring Nazi architecture. The Weimar Classicist Foundation's Bauhaus collection and purchases will in future be exhibited in a way fitting to their significance, on five levels with open transition, and replace the present restricted exhibition in the Kulissenhaus on Theatre Square. The Museum is scheduled to open at the end of 2018. Exhibitions, symposia and other accompanying events are planned for the 2019 centenary year.

The history of the Bauhaus began in Weimar in 1919 and ended in 1925 with the politically coerced move to Dessau. The Bauhaus gained international significance not least as a result of the emigration of most of the Bauhaus masters in the Thirties. Walter Gropius' ability to found the State Bauhaus in Weimar in 1919 is rooted in the then already eventful cultural history of the town, which was an intellectual and cultural centre of Germany. Since the period of Weimar Classicism, new momentum for literature, music and theatre had repeatedly been generated here. With his Grand Ducal School of Arts and Crafts, the Belgian designer and Gropius' predecessor Henry van de Velde had created the best possible conditions and then recommended Walter Gropius as his successor. In addition, in the year in which the Bauhaus was founded, Weimar became a crystallisation point in the history of German democracy. The first German republic bears the name of the place where it was constituted, namely Weimar. At the same time, a large proportion of the avant-garde of European artists had assembled in the town. Alongside Walter Gropius, it was Lyonel Feininger, Oskar Schlemmer, Johannes Itten, Paul Klee, Wassily Kandinsky and Georg Muche who influenced the most important of design colleges.

In 1996, the Bauhaus venues in Weimar and Dessau became World Cultural Heritage Sites. Currently available for viewing are the Am Horn model house and the present Bauhaus Museum. Today's Weimar Bauhaus University buildings are also open to the public. You are recommended to take part in a Bauhaus Walk or enjoy "The Early Bauhaus in Weimar" guided tour.

More information at: www.weimar.de; www.bauhaus-2019.de