



Bauhaus

The birth of modern architecture and design

10–15 August 2027 (MN 445)

6 days

Lecturer: Tom Abbott

The art, design and architecture of the 20th century's most influential art school.

See all the most important Bauhaus sites, some by special arrangement.

Visits the new museums in Weimar and Dessau, opened in honour of the Bauhaus centenary in 2019.

Includes the Bauhaus college buildings and several pioneering examples of modernism.

The Bauhaus was unquestionably the most influential art school of the 20th century. Much of the look of the modern world has been shaped by its principles and practices. The artists, architects and designers associated with it have exerted an enormous influence in many parts of the world. Chief among them were Walter Gropius and Mies van der Rohe (both directors of the school), Josef Albers, Marcel Breuer, Lyonel Feininger, Wassily Kandinsky, Paul Klee, Oskar Schlemmer and László Moholy-Nagy.

The influence of the Bauhaus is all the more astonishing given its brief life – it lasted only 14 years – and its turbulent and tragic history. Though widely admired internationally from the outset, the school was subjected to constant pressures, from ideological and political opponents, economic crises and governmental interference. Founded in Weimar in 1919, it was forced to relocate first to Dessau in 1925 and then to Berlin, where, in 1933, it met an ignominious end at the hands of Nazi stormtroopers. Ironically, its closure rapidly sped up the world-wide dissemination of its ideas and designs, as many of its masters and students fled abroad.

The Bauhaus wanted to eradicate the distinction between artist and craftsman, to stimulate the natural creativity of its students, to understand and exploit fully the inherent qualities of natural and man-made materials, and, above all, to design objects for industrial mass production in a way that took account of both aesthetics and economy. There were constant debates: between the Expressionists and the Constructivists; the craftsmen and the industrial designers; between the apolitical and the politically engaged. The intellectual energy generated by these debates contributed to an



Bauhaus-Archiv in Berlin-Tiergarten. Copyright: visitBerlin, Foto: Wolfgang Scholven

enormously creative atmosphere.

This tour visits all the most important sites, some by special arrangement, of the Bauhaus schools and of buildings designed and furnished by the school's workshops. By studying the surviving work produced at this educational hothouse, in the places in which it was made, unique insights can be gained into the nature of our own man-made environment and the development of modernism.

Itinerary

Day 1: Weimar. Fly mid-morning from London Heathrow to Berlin (BA). Drive to Weimar, the lovely small court city which as home to Goethe, Schiller, Liszt and other luminaries was a centre of the German enlightenment; the constitution of 1919 was drawn up in the town which gave its name to the ill-fated Republic whose dates coincide with those of the Bauhaus. Visit the Haus am Horn, built and furnished by the Bauhaus workshops. First of two nights in Weimar.

Day 2: Weimar. Visit the original Bauhaus Building by the Belgian Henry van de Velde (1904–5), then director of the school of arts and crafts which was predecessor to the Bauhaus; this contains reconstructed Bauhaus work destroyed by the Nazis (murals and reliefs by Schlemmer, Herbert Bayer and Joost Schmidt). Visit the Bauhaus Museum and

Gropius's Expressionist, abstract Trades Union Monument. Overnight Weimar.

Day 3: Weimar, Dessau. Visit the Neues Bauhaus Museum, which opened to critical acclaim in 2019. Drive to Dessau, whose mayor succeeded in securing the Bauhaus in 1925 after nationalist forces evicted it from Weimar. See the Törten Estate (Gropius, Meyer and Muche) by special arrangement before driving on to the hotel. First of two nights in Dessau.

Day 4: Dessau. Visit the restored Bauhaus Building (1926), designed by Walter Gropius, incorporating student accommodation, a workshop wing with a spectacular glass wall, a theatre and a canteen, alongside commemorative exhibitions. View other Bauhaus buildings in Dessau, among them the Master's Houses (Gropius), and the Labour Exchange (Gropius). Overnight Dessau.

Day 5: Dessau, Luckenwalde, Berlin. See the New Bauhaus Museum in Dessau, another opening in 2019 to coincide with the centenary year. En route to Berlin, visit Luckenwalde, where architects such as Erich Mendelsohn and Richard Neutra created much of the town's centre between 1919–33. In the Berlin suburb Zehlendorf, see Bruno Taut's *Onkel Toms Hütte* estate and some early works of Mies van der Rohe. Overnight Berlin.

Bauhaus continued

Day 6: Berlin. The Bauhaus was closed in 1932 by the Dessau authorities and moved to Berlin, where it survived only six months. There are two major post-war buildings by Bauhaus exiles, the Bauhaus Museum designed by Gropius, and the Neue Nationalgalerie by Mies van der Rohe. See the exteriors of both of these, alongside other architecture with Bauhaus connections. Fly from Berlin to Heathrow (British Airways), arriving late afternoon.

Please note: because the itinerary is dependent on a number of appointments with private owners, the order and even the content of the tour may vary.

Lecturer

Tom Abbott. Specialist in architectural history from the Baroque to the 20th century, with a wide knowledge of the performing arts. He graduated in Psychology and Art History from Carleton College, Minnesota and studied at the Louvre School of Art History in Paris. Since 1987 he has lived in Berlin and has organised and led many academic tours in Germany. Tom has a particular interest in the German and American architectural and artistic modern, including the Bauhaus and Expressionism.

Practicalities

Included: travel by private coach throughout; hotel accommodation; breakfasts, 1 lunch and 4 dinners with wine, water, coffee; all admissions; all tips for waiters; all state and airport taxes; the services of the lecturer and tour manager.

Accommodation. **Dorint Am Goethepark**, Weimar (hotel-weimar.dorint.com): a modern 4-star hotel, situated by the park and on the edge of the town centre. **Radisson Blu Fürst Leopold Hotel**, Dessau (radissonblu.com/hotel-dessau): a 4-star hotel with spacious, modern rooms. **Westin Grand**, Berlin (marriott.com): a 5-star hotel built in the 1980s and renovated in a classicist style, located on the corner of Unter den Linden and Friedrichstraße.

Single rooms throughout are doubles for sole use.

How strenuous? Quite a lot of walking is required and standing around is unavoidable. Average distance by coach per day: 47 miles.

Group size: between 10 and 22 participants.