

Chronology

1919 to 1932 and the move to Dessau in 1925/1926

To the Core.

Bauhaus Dessau 100

Press contact

Domenik Pasemann
T +49 340 6508 – 236
presse@bauhaus-dessau.de

Bauhaus Dessau Foundation
Gropiusallee 38
06846 Dessau-Roßlau
Germany
bauhaus-dessau.de

Dessau-Roßlau,
4 December 2024

1
of
2

Chronology

1919 to 1932 and the move to Dessau in 1925/1926

In 1919, Walter Gropius founds the State Bauhaus in Weimar. With its preliminary course, theory of form and colour, and practical training in its workshops, it relies on a diverse concept of education, creative methods, and individual development of the students' design talents. In the elections in Thuringia in February 1924, the conservative and right-wing parties form an alliance that wins a parliamentary majority. At the end of the year, they massively cut the budget of the Bauhaus, which is unpopular with them. On 26 December 1924, the Bauhaus announces the closing of the school in Weimar.

With its exit from Weimar imminent, the Bauhaus received offers to continue the school from several cities. It chose Dessau: a rising industrial city with a Social Democratic government. One of the most important local companies is the Junkers-Werke. With the change in course to 'Art and technology – a new unity', which Gropius had already proclaimed in Weimar, the Bauhaus underwent a strategic transformation. The school turned away from its orientation around the crafts and concentrated instead on developing prototypes for industrial production in series.

In 1926, the Bauhaus Dessau is granted the official status 'College of Design'. On 4 December of that year, it presents to an international public not only the Bauhaus Building as its own school building but also the Masters' Houses and the first Housing Estate in Dessau-Törten, including the Steel House. By 1932, numerous other Bauhaus Buildings have been constructed, such as the Konsum Building, the Employment Office, and the Kornhaus. Its seven years in Dessau are regarded as the most productive and successful years of the Bauhaus. In 1928, Hannes Meyer takes over as director. Under him, it focused more on social and cooperative design. Along with teaching based on science, systematic calculation of needs, detailed analysis of function, and functional construction, he succeeds in redirecting the workshops around design for industrial production. As the National Socialist Party grows more powerful in Dessau and Anhalt, Hannes Meyer is dismissed without notice on 1 August 1930. The task of depoliticising the school falls to his successor, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, who also reduces the preliminary course and eliminates it completely in 1932. The workshops are limited to doing groundwork for architecture.

On 22 August 1932, the Municipal Council of Dessau, at the request of the National Socialists, votes to close the Bauhaus on 1 October.

After closing the Bauhaus, the building is not, as initially planned, demolished but rather adapted for new use. It serves as, among other things, the Federal School for Women Workers and as an administrators' school for the District of Magdeburg.



Bauhaus Dessau

Chronology

1919 to 1932 and the move to Dessau in 1925/1926

To the Core.

Bauhaus Dessau 100

The Bauhaus is continued as a private institution by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe in a factory building in Berlin-Steglitz. After a staged raid by the Secret State Police (Gestapo), the Bauhaus Building in Berlin is sealed on 11 April 1933. On 20 July, the teaching staff votes to close the Bauhaus.

A detailed chronology can be found at:

<https://bauhaus-dessau.de/en/institution/chronology/>

