bauhaus archiv museum



Photo: Catrin Schmitt

Press Information
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New Campus
Bauhaus-Archiv / Museum für Gestaltung

The Bauhaus-Archiv / Museum für Gestaltung owns the world's largest collection of Bauhaus works and is an international research centre dedicated to studying the history and influence of this famous school of art and design (1919–1933). The museum, designed by Bauhaus founder Walter Gropius, first opened its doors in 1979. Since 2018 the museum building from the 1970s has undergone extensive renovation in accordance with its status as a listed landmark. A new museum annex, designed by Berlin-based Staab Architekten, will provide spacious exhibition areas and includes a visually striking glass tower, which will be primarily used for educational purposes.

The new Bauhaus-Archiv will continue studying and presenting the most influential school of architecture, design and art of the 20th century, and become a place where visitors can learn, discover, relax and discuss the challenges facing society today and in the future.

"Our new premises form a campus – a convergence of a research centre, museum, meeting point, discussion forum, place of welcome and university for all. Where contemporary culture meets history, and memory meets the future."
Prof Dr Brigitte Franzen, Director
Bauhaus-Archiv / Museum für Gestaltung

Programme for the urban community with international appeal

Experimentation and openness not only characterise the architectural style, but also the programme of the Bauhaus-Archiv. Its exhibition spanning 2,000 m2 offers insights into the vast holdings of the museum and conveys countless stories surrounding the Bauhaus. Its collection includes some of the central design classics of the 20th century, such as the famous tubular furniture, the "Wagenfeld lamp", the tea infuser, as well as lesser known or never-before-shown works produced in connection with the famous school. In so-called "discourse rooms", selected objects and themes shed light on historical and current debates.

Since its founding, the Bauhaus-Archiv / Museum für Gestaltung has always fostered close ties to those who studied, taught and worked at the Bauhaus. The museum is deeply grateful to them and their families for helping build its renowned collection. From now on, these individuals and their personal stories as related to the Bauhaus will be even more visible in the exhibition. A media guide and other digital services, as well as inclusive and participative modes of accessibility will offer visitors additional perspectives and new facets.

Famous and lesser-known members of the Bauhaus (selection)

Josef Albers, Gertrud Arndt, Herbert Bayer, Otti Berger, Marianne Brandt, Marcel Breuer, Erich Consemüller, Friedl Dicker, Ilse Fehling, Lyonel Feininger, Hermann Fischer, Hildegard Geyer-Raack, Walter Gropius, Florence Henri, Margarete Heymann-Marks, Wassily Kandinsky, Paul Klee, Otto Lindig, Hannes Meyer, Wera

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Meyer-Waldeck, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Lucia Moholy, László Moholy-Nagy, Georg Muche, Max Peiffer Watenpfuhl, Lilly Reich, Franz Scala, Oskar Schlemmer, Alma Siedhoff-Buscher, Gunta Stölzl, Elsa Thiemann, Kitty Van der Mijll Dekker, Wilhelm Wagenfeld

Taking the Bauhaus Further

For the new Bauhaus-Archiv, the public is central to its concepts and activities: The tower will be used exclusively to stage the museum's multifaceted programme of educational activities. In the studios on four levels overlooking the foyer, visitors will be able to engage in discussions and express themselves creatively. Digital applications will provide insight into the museum's extensive collection of more than one million objects. A top-floor lounge will offer visitors a 360° view.

Diversity and accessibility characterise the museum's entire programme at every level. A new auditorium has been integrated into the shed-roofed halls designed by Walter Gropius. An extensive public library and study centre can also be used as a place to conduct research.

The Café and Shop will be located inside a separate building that complements the newly designed outdoor space. Close to Berlin's Tiergarten park, the new Bauhaus-Archiv / Museum für Gestaltung promises to become a popular attraction – for Berliners and the world.

Experimental and contemporary architecture

The striking shed roofs of Gropius's building, inspired by industrial architecture, characterise the museum's silhouette and have become a true trademark. With the newly constructed annex, the Bauhaus-Archiv has gained another striking architectural symbol: a 20-metre glass-encased tower, supported by lightweight struts.

"The tower is the most complex building element in our entire project and symbolises several things – it's a lighthouse, an emblem but also an address."
Volker Staab, Architekt

Staab Architekten designed the facade using an innovative steel structure of 693 slightly tilted, filigree supports. The interior is fashioned as a wooden construction. Were it not for modern digital calculation methods, such a complex structure would have been inconceivable. The architects – also known for their award-winning museum designs like the Jewish Museum in Frankfurt, the Richard Wagner Museum in Bayreuth and the Kunstmuseum Ahrenshoop – fully embraced the ideas of the Bauhaus for this project: while industrialisation posed a challenge to the building industry in the early 20th century, nowadays artistic expression is required more than ever in light of increasing digitalisation in architecture.

Preview

Construction work on the new building and renovation of the existing building are expected to be completed by the end of 2026. This will be followed by the final inspection, handover to the Bauhaus-Archiv, start-up and calibration of air conditioning, furnishing of the exhibition spaces and other building parts (tower, study center and library, Bauhaus Shop and Bauhaus Café). We anticipate an opening in the winter of 2027/28.

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Press Images



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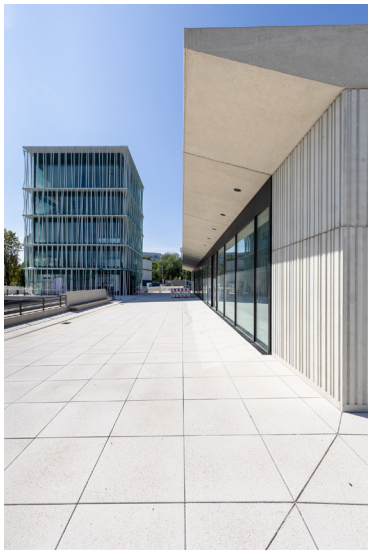


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