

Harry – gefangen in der Zeit

Culture and society

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Simultaneous to the first democracy, an influential art movement emerged in Germany, with Weimar as its starting point. In 1919, German architect Walter Gropius established the Bauhaus art school there. Dessau followed, and after that Berlin, where the art school was closed in 1933.

Experimentation, interdisciplinary work, and designing for serial production were influential ways of thinking and working. Skyscrapers, plates, and furniture all belonged to a Gesamtkunstwerk in Gropius's eyes. Form follows function, was his adage. Functionality should come first, then beauty. The result was simple, unadorned forms. The Bauhaus design is still quite popular today, which explains the frequent production of retro versions of Bauhaus lamps, chairs, and cups. The art school at the time had instructors who included renowned European artists like Wassily Kandinsky and Lyonel Feininger. In 1996, UNESCO designated the Gropius-designed school building in Dessau a World Heritage Site. In addition to acting as a museum today, it also serves as a gathering place for international designers.