WEIMAR: RALLY

BAUHAUS

STATIONEN STOPS
/ BAUHAUS-UNIVERSITÄT
/ MÄRZGEFALLENEN-DENKMAL
/ TEMPELHERRENHAUS / HAUS AM HORN
ANDERE TOUREN OTHER TOURS

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Denkmal Monument

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Find out something about the Bauhaus in Weimar!

How did the Bauhaus movement influence art, culture and politics?

Think about what kind of impression the Art School students made on the citizens of Weimar!

Have a look at the city map and start your tour! Your first stop is the main building of the University.

Later, tell the others about the school of art and design! Think about why the Bauhaus was forced to leave Weimar in 1925!
Find out what tour stop this detail belongs to!
The architect Walter Gropius founded the Bauhaus in Weimar in 1919. He wanted to unite art and technology in the education of his students. That is why he hired both master craftsmen and visual artists to teach at this school. In order to complete their studies, the students had to pass the journeymen’s examination of the craftsmen’s chamber. The Bauhaus was forced to leave Weimar in 1925 for political reasons. However, it later achieved worldwide prominence as a school of design.
This building was constructed to accommodate the art school that Grand Duke Carl Alexander had already founded in 1860. The architect was Henry van de Velde from Belgium, who was a modernist Art Nouveau designer at that time. Beginning in 1904, he planned the building to exactly suit the needs of an art school. The large atelier windows, for example, let in plenty of light for drawing. In 1919 the Bauhaus moved into this building. It is worth paying attention to details like light switches and door handles. Today, these buildings belong to the UNESCO World Heritage.
Bauhaus survey on the 3 basic colours and forms, 1922/23

In the side staircase of the main building, look for Herbert Bayer’s murals dating from 1923. Compare them with the survey!
BAUHAUS UNIVERSITY Main building
GESCHWISTER-SCHOLL-STRASSE 8

1908–1915:
Grand Ducal Saxon School of Applied Arts Weimar

1919–1925:
Bauhaus Weimar

1930’s–1945:
State College for Building, Visual Arts (and Craftsmanship) in Weimar

Match the logos with the dates. Think about what the logos reveal about the respective schools.
Behind the main building you will find a little detached house with a glass dome. It was originally built as an atelier, was then transformed into an infirmary kitchen during World War I, and was finally used as a “dining institution” by the Bauhaus students. Needy students received their food here for free. In return, a student “kitchen helper service” took turns tending the fire, shopping for supplies and washing dishes.
Walk through the second entrance gate of the Historischer Friedhof (Historical Cemetery). Follow the main path uphill along the outer cemetery wall for about 10 minutes. 150 metres behind the chapel and the cemetery office, you will find the Märzgefallenen-Denkmal (Monument for the “March Heroes”).
This monument is one of the first abstract monuments in Germany. It was erected in memory of the victims of the radical right-wing putsch against the democratic Weimar Republic that took place in 1920. It was designed by Walter Gropius, the director of the Bauhaus. He called the monument a “thunderbolt from the grave’s ground”. The National Socialists destroyed it in 1936; after World War II it was rebuilt. So even today it stands for the diverse political forces in Weimar.

INFO

Look at the monument from different angles. Write down what you find notable.
Compare the form and material of the monument with the painting. What forces of nature do you associate with the monument?
“As though struck by lightening, the German Republic was assaulted by the reaction and for a short time suppressed by the power of fire. In a flash, the proletariat rose up in defence, and with it, all the republicans. These are two poles that Gropius masterfully and pointedly expresses. No lightening comes out of the earth – but not out of a clear blue sky either. [...] In a sharp-edged way, like the stones of the monument, the proletariat will fight against all those who threaten the republic.”
"There is no question that this sort of structure no longer fits into our present day [...]. On its own initiative and upon requests of the citizens, the National Socialist faction of the city council has been working on ways of getting rid of it. [...] We would like to offer a suggestion. The monument was built by the Bauhaus. How about having the National Socialist School of Visual Arts re-design this area?"

Newspaper article in the THÜRINGISCHE STAATSZEITUNG, 1934
Alfred Ahner: Demolition of the Monument for the “March Heroes” (secretly drawn sketch), 1936
Nowadays the so-called Tempelherrenhaus (Templar House) is a ruin. It was named after the Knights Templar figures, whose remains can still be seen on the walls. The building was destroyed during World War II. Before that, it had served very diverse purposes: it was used as a concert hall, and in the 19th century it served primarily as a salon for the ducal family. Finally, the Bauhaus moved in. The Bauhaus master Johannes Itten had his atelier here and used it as a venue for spirited festivities.
The Swiss artist and art pedagogue Itten taught at the Bauhaus from 1919 until 1923. As a follower of a religious movement that combined several different teachings, he was met with scepticism on the part of the Weimar citizens.
Every day on his way to work the painter and Bauhaus master Paul Klee walked by the Templar House. His impressions of the Park on the Ilm River were the inspiration for many garden- and dream-landscapes.
The dazzlingly white “experimental house” was built for the Bauhaus exhibition in 1923. The plans are based on the principle that “form follows function”. The arrangement of the windows, for instance, results from the room layout. The Bauhaus master Georg Muche developed the design of the building. It was the subject of controversial public debate. Originally, a whole residential estate of similar houses was to be built here. However, the Bauhaus was not able to realise this plan, since it had to move to Dessau two years later.
“With its matter-of-fact bleakness the tiny residential house that has been built in Weimar resembles a well-solved mathematical problem. Around a large, cambered central room a couple of tiny chambers are distributed, the floor space of which – like a ship’s cabin – is used to its full potential. One has to pity those forced to live in these narrow boxes; they are dispossessed of every remnant of personal living culture by a stiff system of forms.”

ARNO MÜLLER Berliner Börsen Courir (Stock Market Courier), 1924
Georg Muche
Floor plan of the House am Horn, 1923
Compare the “House am Horn” with the way the other houses in Weimar looked at that time. Write down the similarities and differences.
Walk through the residential estate “New Living am Horn” that was built beginning in 1999. Compare the plan from 1922 with your impressions! The residential estate is located behind the gardeners’ complex on Otto-Bartning-Straße.
YOUR STOPS:

1. Bauhaus-University Main building  
   G.-Scholl-Str. 8

2. Monument for the “March Heroes”  
   Main Cemetery  
   Berkaer Straße 4

3. Tempelherrenhaus  
   Park on the Ilm River

4. House am Horn  
   Am Horn 61