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Key data

Bauhaus Museum Weimar

Contractor	Klassik Stiftung Weimar
Architect	Prof. Heike Hanada, laboratory for art and architecture, Berlin
Exhibition design	Holzer Kobler Architekturen, Zürich/Berlin
Media concept	Studio TheGreenEyl, Berlin/New York
Exhibition title	The Bauhaus Comes from Weimar
Exhibition space	ca. 2,000 m ²
Displayed objects	ca. 1,000
Construction period	autumn 2015 to spring 2019
Opening	5 April 2019

About the project

In 1995 the Bauhaus finally received a permanent place in Weimar's rich commemorative landscape. Installed in the former Kunsthalle on Theaterplatz, the provisional Bauhaus museum presented visitors with only a small fraction of the extensive Weimar Bauhaus collection. Unfortunately, the museum neither provided sufficient space to display the numerous Bauhaus pieces nor did it meet the museological and conservatorial requirements of today. In 2008 the German federal government and the state of Thuringia commissioned the Klassik Stiftung Weimar to build a new Bauhaus museum. In 2012 the Klassik Stiftung hosted an international architectural design competition for the museum. Out of more than 500 submissions, four were invited to revise and further develop their designs. In this bidding procedure, the jury selected the winning proposal by Prof. Heike Hanada, Berlin, in cooperation with Prof. Benedict Tonon, Berlin. The geometric clarity of its architecture – a minimalistic cube atop a concrete base, illuminated by LED strips at night – features five levels which merge into open, two-story rooms. Construction of the museum began in November 2015, the realisation of which was supervised by Heike Hanada on behalf of the Klassik Stiftung Weimar since 2013.

Construction progress

Ground-breaking: 10 November 2015; cornerstone ceremony: 28 October 2016; start of shell construction: 9 January 2017; completion of the base slab: 16 March 2017; topping out ceremony: 30 November 2017; completion of facade: 13 December 2018;

Cost

With the creation of a federal- and state-funded special investment programme in 2008 (volume: 90 million euros), a total of 22.64 million euros was allocated for the construction of the Bauhaus Museum Weimar. The total cost of the project (cost groups 100 to 700) amounted to 27.04 million euros. The cost overrun of 3.6 million euros (+ 16%) was due to price increases since the calculation of the financial parameters in 2014. In addition, another 0.8 million euros was required for sub-projects (photovoltaic system, facade illumination) which were not accounted for in the original finance plan.

The Klassik Stiftung Weimar was allocated 5.6 million euros to outfit the building, produce the exhibition and develop the museum pedagogical programme. A total of 4 million euros in ERDF funding were provided to cover these costs.

Neues Museum Weimar

Architect	Josef Zitek, Prague (architect), Carl Heinrich Ferdinand Streichhan (Grand Ducal Building Director)
Exhibition design	Whitebox, Dresden
Media concept	Space Interactive, Krefeld
Exhibition title	Van de Velde, Nietzsche and Modernism around 1900
Exhibition space	ca. 1,400 m ²
Displayed objects	ca. 550
Opening	5 April 2019

History of the museum

The Grand Ducal Museum was built between 1863 and 1868 in a historicised architectural style and opened in 1869 as one of Germany's first museums. With respect to the new exhibition "Van de Velde, Nietzsche and Modernism around 1900", the museum itself possesses the character and status of a work of art. The Czech architect Josef Zitek designed the domed central building in a Neo-Renaissance style. The side risalits of the museum are enclosed by glass pavilioned roofs. Several pioneering exhibitions of modern art were presented here in the early 1920s. After suffering war damage in World War II, followed by 45 years of neglect, the vacant museum had completely fallen into ruin by 1989. On the occasion of Weimar's designation as the European Capital of Culture in 1999, the former Grand Ducal Museum was restored to its original appearance and renamed the Neues Museum Weimar. In recent years the Klassik Stiftung Weimar has used the venue to present large-scale temporary exhibitions, such as "A Farewell to Icarus. Images of the GDR - A New Perspective" (2012/13), "Passion, Function and Beauty. Henry van de Velde and his Contribution to European Modernism" (2013), "The Ernestines. A Dynasty Shapes Europe" (2016) and "Winckelmann. Modern Antiquity" (2017). On 5 April 2019 the Neues Museum will also present the original workshop inventory and machinery of Otto Dorfner, the most famous book designer of the 20th century in Weimar.