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Bauhaus



Synopsis

Designs of the time: The most famous art school of modernity In a fleeting fourteen year period, sandwiched between two world wars, Germany's Bauhaus school of art and design changed the face of modernity. With utopian ideals for the future, the school developed a pioneering fusion of fine art, craftsmanship, and technology to be applied across painting, sculpture, design, architecture, film, photography, textiles, ceramics, theatre, and installation. As much an intense personal community as a publicly minded collective, the Bauhaus was first founded by Walter Gropius (1883–1969), and counted Josef and Anni Albers, Wassily Kandinsky, Paul Klee, Oskar Schlemmer, Gunta Stöbber, Marianne Brandt and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe among its members. Between its three successive locations in Weimar, Dessau and Berlin, the school fostered a charismatic and creative exchange between teachers and students, all varied in their artistic styles and preferences, but united in their idealism and their interest in a total work of art across different practices and media. This book celebrates the adventurous innovation of the Bauhaus movement, both as a trailblazer in the development of modernism, and as a paradigm of art education, where an all-encompassing freedom of creative expression and cutting-edge ideas led to functional and beautiful creations.

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Customer Reviews

Bauhaus was one of the most important movements in design-history. Magdalena Drosta describes the ideas, the people, the work and the spirit of the Bauhaus. The best thing: It is never boring. The book does not only concentrate on the art taught at the Bauhaus but also describes its political problems. A lot of excellent pictures in a good printing quality (especially in relation to the price) make this a book, you always like to look at.

If you want a comprehensive historical information as well as tons of full color photos of all sorts of Bauhaus inspired works -from architecture to practical objects - this is the book you should have. Open it and read a single article, think about it and close the book. Or browse through the photos and marvel at the teapots, the furniture, the architectural style. You can savor this one slowly (and I think you should) rather than trying to read it through all at once. If you do that, you'll start to get a sense of the Bauhaus style and how it fits into the particular period when it came into being - and how it grew and evolved from there.

While this book offers an excellent collection of images related to the Bauhaus, it traces the history and the development of the Bauhaus comprehensively as well. This book, along with Eva Forgacs' Bauhaus Idea and Bauhaus Politics can give you a general idea about what the institution was all about. It's an amazing read.

This book is actually about the Bauhaus school. The author's main thrust is to provide a corrective to the Bauhaus mythology created by Walter Gropius at the time and long after. It gives a nuts and bolts description of how the school actually worked under its three directors. There are a good number of contemporary photographs that are interesting but of course they are in black-and-white and often not very large. There is a fair amount of art theoretical gobbledegook that is probably not much more comprehensible in the original German. On the positive side the book is inexpensive and quite good at what it attempts to do. On the other hand it may disappoint a casual reader who is looking for the usual lavish celebration of Bauhaus's influence on modernist design and architecture.

This book is filled with great information about the Bauhaus movement. The photographs are excellent. I'd say that a person who appreciates the world of design will enjoy this book.

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