

These modern thinkers placed much emphasis on the design of everyday objects that could be easily and cheaply mass produced, embracing modern manufacturing techniques, (including those developed during the war itself). Crucially, the Bauhaus did not want to compromise on the way things looked e.g. Marcel Breuer's chairs made using bicycle frames.

The Bauhaus rigorously applied the principle of balancing form with function to produce designs that were minimal in their simplicity and quite austere in their beauty.



Things to look out for:

- Geometric shapes
- New and innovative use of materials
- Clean, simple, hygienic designs
- Bold, primary colour
- Minimalism

Bauhaus innovations we take for granted today:

- Schools separated into subject areas and common social areas.
- Art & design lessons (whoo-hoo!)
- Fitted kitchens
- Simple signs in international airports
- Balancing form and function



Designers' greatest hits:

- Wagenfeld Jucker 1924 Table lamp
- Marcel Breuer 1925 Wassily (B3) Chair
- Le Corbusier 1928 Chaise longue
- Mies van der Rohe 1929 Barcelona Chair
- Anni Albers 1928 textile wall hangings
- Margaret S-Lihitzky 1928 Frankfurt Kitchen

Such radical thinking, like any major attempt at change in society, was viewed with suspicion by the state. The 1918 Socialist revolution that shifted power to Weimar and Gropius' people was quite quickly overtaken in naturally cautious Germany.



Gropius's was forced to distance his school from some of the more radical aspects of Weimar and in 1925 he moved everything to Dessau. Here he put all his principles into practice with the first purpose-built school building. It was the father of all high schools seen since. In 1928 Hannes Meyer, head of architecture, took over the presidency, focusing the school more on architecture.

In 1930 Meyer is succeeded by Mies van der Rohe who moved the school again in 1932, this time to Berlin in line with the city's return to prominence. This move to tap into the hub of the strengthening Germany proved disastrous as the national party grew ever more suspicious of the socialist principles of the school.

The architectural experiments such as the 1928 Weissenhof Estate saw the Bauhaus exert more influence over society than the Nazis felt was desirable. Social control was really their thing, so it was no surprise when, in 1938, Hitler turned his men against the Berlin school and chase the few remaining students and teachers out by setting fire to the campus.

Most of the (male) designers had already predicted this and fled not only Berlin, but Germany itself. Most first to Britain and many onwards to the USA. Here they flourished in the liberal Chicago area, opening an American Bauhaus and taking minimalism to the masses.

