

## Worksheet 2: The Bauhaus

Founded in 1919, the design philosophy manifested at the Bauhaus — in full, *the Staatliches Bauhaus* — had been widely conceived as one of the greatest forces that shape the twentieth century modern design.

From its foundation, the School's manifesto connoted a pursuit of a radical modernisation of the arts. Amongst other things, it promoted the notion of *Gesamtkunstwerk* (trans. 'a total work of art'). This referred to an idea of uniting all the arts so that there would be no distinction between different kinds of art forms.

Although its influence was particularly prominent within the discipline of architecture, the Bauhaus never was an architecture school. Amongst very many different things, the Bauhaus had taught subjects as far apart as sculpture, photography, cinema, ballet and textiles.

### Tasks:

1. Using the short clip 'Bauhaus design is everywhere, but its roots are political' as an example, what can architectural history tell us about the economy, culture and socio-political reality of the time?
2. Give a detailed explanation of the notion of the 'total work of art'. What was it about? How was it implemented? Who taught it?
3. What are some contemporary Bauhaus-derived products (buildings or furniture) we can see today?

### Written Resources:

1. 'Bauhaus: German School of Design' <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Bauhaus>
2. 'Bauhaus' <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/b/bauhaus>

3. 'History of the Bauhaus Dessau' <https://www.bauhaus-dessau.de/en/history/bauhaus-dessau.html>

### **Video resources**

1. Bauhaus: Design in a Nutshell <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZQa0BajKB4Q>
2. Bauhaus design is everywhere, but its roots are political  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X59FCW3vOIE>
3. Bauhaus Movement [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FQa4\\_uVnNVc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FQa4_uVnNVc)