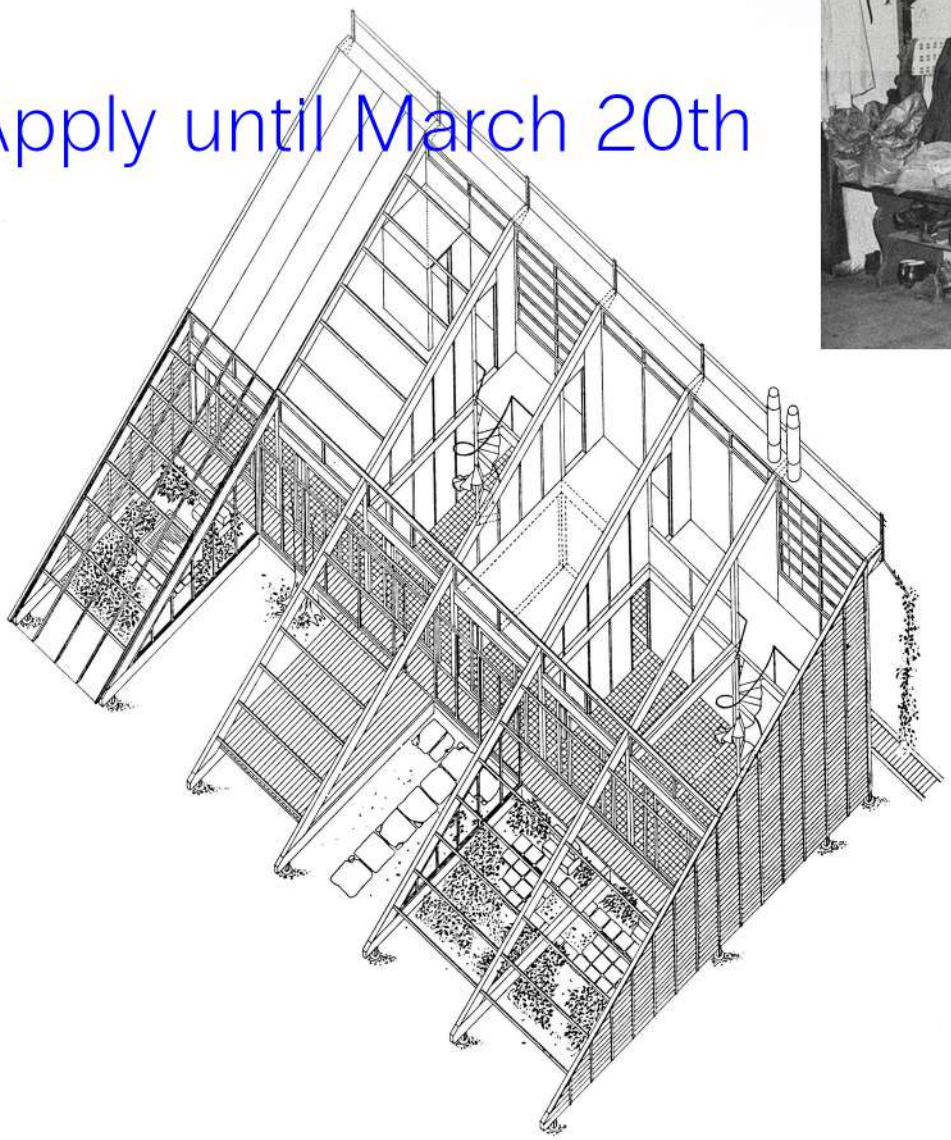
DESS ARC 2026

June 1st - July 10th



Apply until March 20th





Dessau Summer School of Architecture

CONTENT

(0)

(1) About

(2) Studio

(3) Art Class

(4) Lecture Series

(5) Information

(6) History

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ABOUT

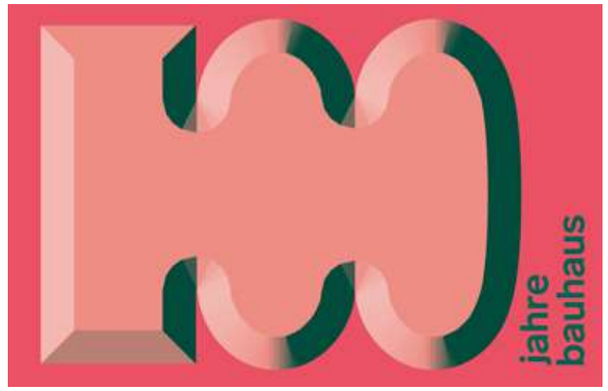
(1)

In 2026, the Bauhaus in Dessau celebrates its 100th anniversary, providing a unique setting for the Dessau Summer School of Architecture. Embedded in this context, the summer school uses Dessau and the Bauhaus building as an active place of learning, discussion, and experimentation rather than as a historical backdrop.

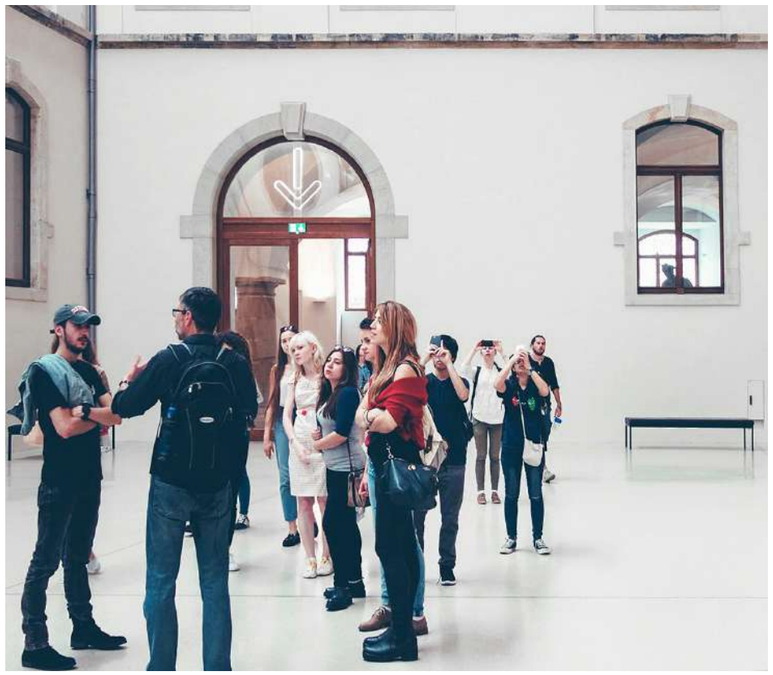
The Dessau Summer School of Architecture brings together participants from different countries and backgrounds to engage in an intensive architectural exchange.Through studio projects, workshops, and excursions, students explore how architectural typologies shape everyday life and how they can be transformed under contemporary climatic and social conditions. Climate is approached not as a technical problem, but as a shared spatial condition that influences how architecture is used, negotiated, and occupied collectively.

The program begins with a workshop in cooperation with the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation in the Bauhaus Aula, focusing on the relationship between education and design. This sets the ground for the subsequent studio with complementary formats such as the Art Class, the Architecture and Society Class—including introduction to German language and a series of invited lecturers—and excursions to architectural sites in Dessau, Berlin, and Munich expand the studio into a broader field of exchange, experimentation, and shared learning.

Start: June 1st, 2026. End: July 10th, 2026
ECTS: 12



100 Years Bauhaus Dessau, Source: © Stiftung Bauhaus Dessau


Students of Dessau Summer School of Architecture on an excursion.

DESS ARC 2026



Students of Dessau Summer School of Architecture
participating in a workshop by the Bauhaus Foundation.

STUDIO

(2)

Inspired by the Bauhaus idea of architecture as a social and cultural practice, *Common Ground* examines how small-scale architectural transformations can generate shared spaces and public facilities within the existing city.

The studio Common Ground explores how architecture can produce shared spaces by transforming existing buildings through climatic and typological strategies. Focusing on rooftops and facades, the studio treats climate not as a technical problem, but as a spatial and social condition that shapes collective use. Through minimal architectural add-ons, students investigate how environmental mediation—such as shading, enclosure, ventilation, and seasonal adaptability—can generate shared atmospheres.

Working with existing building typologies, projects are developed as extensions that operate between private and collective, interior and exterior. These interventions support both experimental forms of housing and public facilities, proposing new spaces for everyday communal use within the city. Rather than designing isolated objects, the studio aims to produce a collective atlas of repeatable architectural figures that demonstrate how small, precise transformations can create new common ground.

Form of final exam: presentation
Start: June 1st, 2026. End: July 10th, 2026
ECTS: 6



Rooftop as a common ground - office in Sanno by Studio Velocity



The climatic extension house in Berlin from Supertype Group, © Supertype Group



A buffer zone in the Solar house from Rolf Schoch, from the book © Aesthetik der Technik from Christina Köchling

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ART CLASS

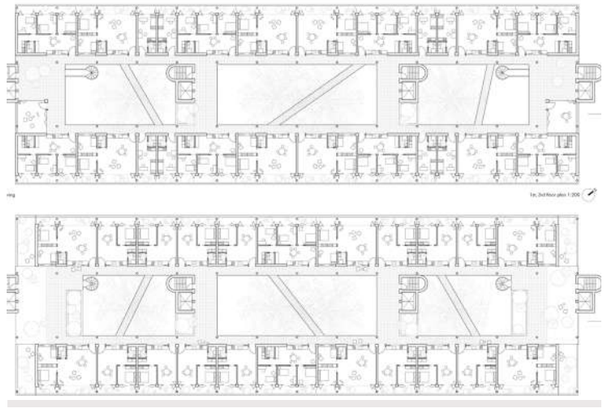
The Art Class operates as a laboratory for representation, where drawing, modeling, collage, and diagrammatic techniques are used to test how architectural ideas can be constructed, distorted, and re-framed through media.

Rather than illustrating finished projects, students will use representational tools as a form of inquiry—probing scale, atmosphere, sequence, and abstraction. The class encourages speculative formats and non-standard modes of presentation, understanding representation as an active design instrument and a site of experimentation.

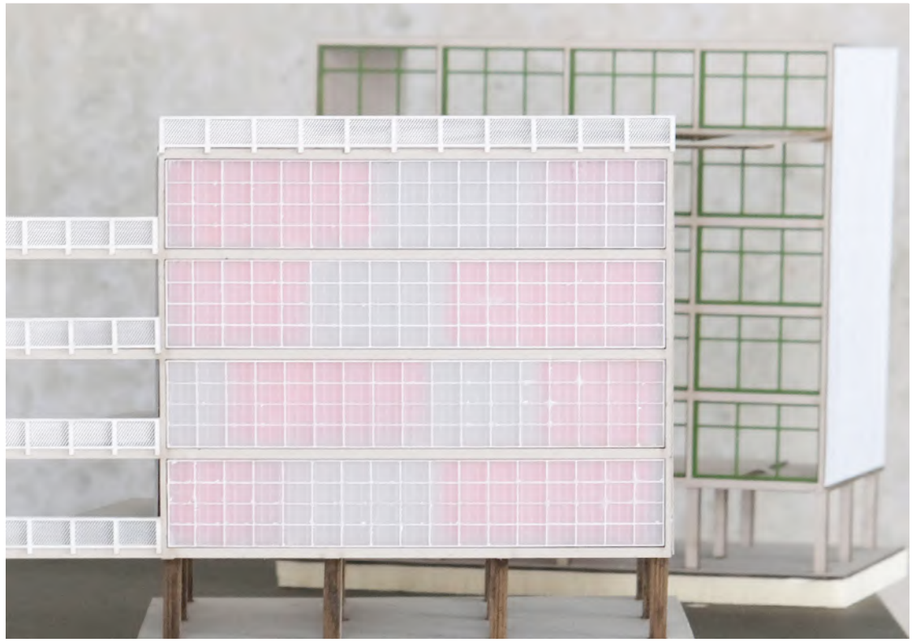
The Art Class is led by Prof. Jonas Tratz (FAKT). According to the examination regulations, successful completion of this module requires a written or drawn work. The final examination takes the form of a presentation.

(3)

Form of final exam: presentation
Start: June 1st, 2026. End: July 10th, 2026
ECTS: 2



Drawings from the Dessau Institute of Architecture MA work



Models from the Dessau Institute of Architecture Master Student work

DESS ARC 2026

LECTURE SERIES

(4)

The Architecture and Society class explores the cultural, social, and professional contexts in which architecture operates today. The course is divided into two complementary parts.

The first part consists of German language classes that introduce students not only to basic linguistic skills but also to everyday cultural practices, social conventions, and rituals that shape life and work in Germany.

The second part takes the form of a public lecture series, featuring young Berlin-based architects who present their work and research. Each Thursday, a different guest discusses their practice through the lens of climate and/or typology, addressing how architectural positions emerge from specific social, cultural, and environmental conditions.

Together, both components aim to situate architectural design within a broader societal framework and to connect local cultural knowledge with contemporary architectural discourse.

Form of final exam: presentation
Start: June 1st, 2026. End: July 10th, 2026
ECTS: 2



Rooftop terrace as a community space in Berlin, designed by LNCL; photo by Leonhard Clemens, who will join DESS ARC 2026 as a guest lecturer.



The Wintergarden House in Berlin, designed by © Supertype Group, will be presented by the office as guest lecturers at DESS ARC 2026.



The New Architecture School Siegen (NAS) by Gustav Düsing and FAKT employs climatic principles as a core architectural strategy; FAKT will be guest lecturers at DESS ARC 2026.

INFO

(5)

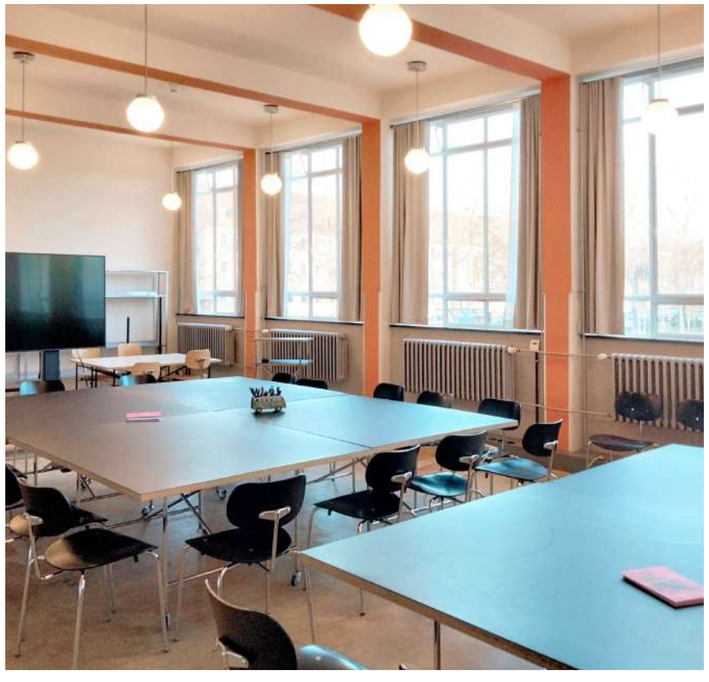
Accommodation for the Dessau Summer School of Architecture is provided in shared, furnished rooms, with two students sharing one room for the full duration of the program from June 1 to July 10, 2026. Meals are flexible and largely self-organized. Anhalt University offers a campus cafeteria with affordable lunch options, as well as a student café open throughout the day. Additional dining options are available at the Bauhaus Cafeteria and the Bauhaus Club. A shared kitchen allows for self-catering, and students should plan for average daily food expenses of approximately 10 euros, combining self-supply with occasional cafeteria meals. Grocery stores and shopping facilities are located near the accommodation.

The studio spaces are located in the building of the architecture department and are equipped with internet access and printing facilities. All participants are expected to bring their own laptops. The program includes multi-day excursions with overnight stays, featuring guided architectural tours, site visits, and visits to architectural practices.

The participation fee is 1,050 euros and includes tuition fees, accommodation for the full program duration, and all excursions. Exchange students as well as individual applicants are warmly invited to apply. Anhalt University, with campuses in Bernburg, Dessau, and Köthen, offers an international academic environment rooted in long-standing traditions of research, innovation, and cultural exchange. Small study groups, close connections to research institutions and industry, and progressive teaching formats provide an ideal setting for architectural education within an international context.



Reinigungskraft im Werkstattflügel, Bauhausgebäude, 2021 © Stiftung Bauhaus Dessau / © (Gropius, Walter) VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2023 / Foto: Meyer, Thomas, 2021 / OSTKREUZ



The lecture series are held in room E.44 in the Bauhaus building.

DESS ARC 2026

HISTORY

(6)

Since 2004, the Dessau Summer School of Architecture (DESS ARC) has served as an experimental platform for architectural research, design, and cultural exchange, closely embedded in the context of Dessau and its Bauhaus heritage. Each edition addresses a contemporary architectural and societal question through site-specific design studios, workshops, and lectures, often working with existing buildings, urban fragments, or landscapes in transformation.

Over the years, the summer school has explored themes such as participation, collective living, cultural exchange, adaptive reuse, and the revitalization of historical structures. Projects have ranged from interventions in Bauhaus buildings and modernist housing estates to monasteries, river landscapes, industrial halls, schools, and public institutions. A recurring focus lies on working within existing contexts and negotiating between historical layers, present needs, and future possibilities.

The Dessau Summer School has repeatedly engaged with moments of transition—social, cultural, and spatial—addressing issues such as migration, shrinking cities, cooperative housing, public space, and cultural infrastructure. Design work is regularly developed in dialogue with local stakeholders, institutions, and city representatives, reinforcing the school's commitment to architecture as a socially embedded practice.

After a pause during the COVID-19 pandemic, recent editions have continued this trajectory by addressing contemporary questions of reuse, living, culture, and public life in Dessau. Rooted in Bauhaus pedagogical traditions while remaining open to experimentation, DESS ARC positions architecture as a critical and operative discipline—capable of shaping everyday life through precise, contextual, and forward-looking design interventions.



Prof. Stephan Pinkau with the first Dess Arc Summer School in 2004



One of the most recent Dessau Summer Schools held under the direction of Prof. Stephan Pinkau.

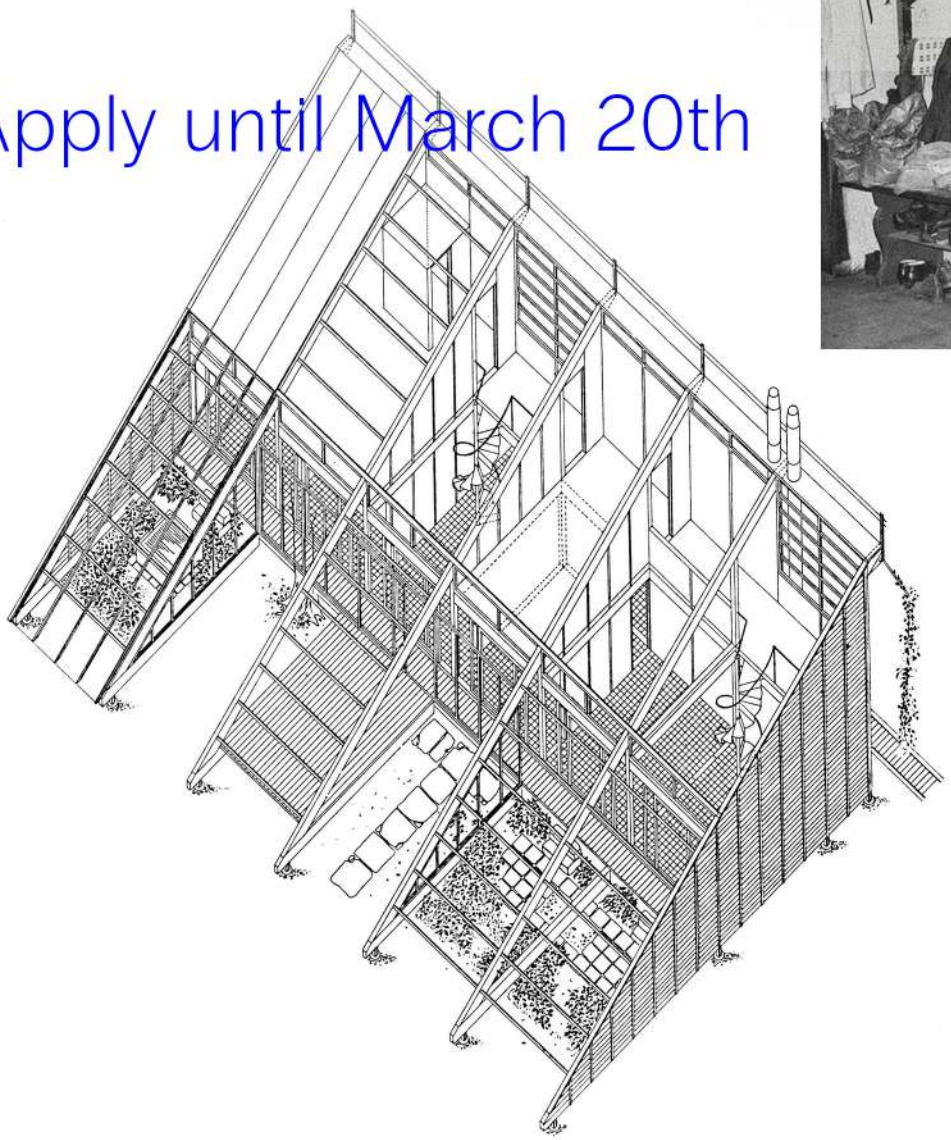
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