



NEWSLETTER #1

BAUHAUS & BeCom

From modernist heritage to the New European Bauhaus

Design • Materials • Community • Sustainability • Learning

In 2025, Dessau marked 100 years since the Bauhaus moved from Weimar to Dessau. For BeCom, this anniversary is more than a historical milestone: it creates a powerful starting point for discussing how design, materials, learning and community action can contribute to places that are beautiful, sustainable and inclusive.

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BECOM PROJECT MEETING • MAGDEBURG & DESSAU

The BeCom journey began with people, places and shared questions

The first in-person transnational project meeting of Beautiful Communities – Enriching, Sustainable, Inclusive took place in Magdeburg on 13–14 December 2024. Partners used the meeting to introduce their organisations, review the project structure and work packages, distribute tasks and prepare the next activities.



A project grounded in cooperation

The meeting combined organisational planning with direct experience of European design heritage. On the second day, the partnership travelled to Dessau for a visit to the Bauhaus Museum and Bauhaus sites.

This field visit helped establish a common language for later BeCom work: how can historical examples be transformed into practical knowledge for adult learners, local authorities, educators, businesses, communities and environmental actors?

What the meeting set in motion

- A shared understanding of the BeCom objectives and work packages.
- A common task plan for the Reference Guide, educational portfolios and later e-learning work.
- A direct connection between project methodology and real European examples of design, regeneration and learning.
- A practical starting point for the Green Buildings portfolio and the project's NEB-oriented knowledge transformation.

The agenda explicitly included travel to Dessau and a visit to the Bauhaus Museum on 14 December 2024 – turning the first project meeting into both a planning session and a shared learning experience.

BAUHAUS DESSAU ANNIVERSARY

100 years of Bauhaus in Dessau: going 'to the substance'

Jubiläum mit Doppel-Wumms: Zur 100. Wiederkehr der Ansiedlung des Bauhauses in Dessau werden 2025 und 2026 unter dem Motto „An die Substanz“ die historischen Baustoffe gefeiert.

VON CHRISTIAN EGER

DESSAU-ROSSLAU. Das Bauhaus macht immer mit seinem Namen. Die 1919 von Walter Gropius im Geist der mittelalterlichen Bauhütten gegründete Architektur- und Designschule feiert 2025 den 100. Jahrestag ihrer Übersiedlung nach Dessau und 2026 die Vollendung ihres heute ikonischen Lagersgebäudes am Ort. Ein Jubiläum mit Doppel-Wumms. Zwei Jahre wird gefeiert, vom September 2025 an bis ins Frühjahr 2027.

Zu diesem Anlass beugt sich die Stiftung Bauhaus Dessau über die Materialien, mit denen von Dessau aus das neue Bauen vorangetrieben wurde: Zementbeton, Eisen, Stahl, Aluminium, Glas und Ziegel. Alles das wird gleichsam auf den Geburtstagstisch gelegt. Um das Material-Thema herum soll ausgestellt, debattiert und praktisch probiert werden. Motto des Programms: „An die Substanz“.

Unsichtbares zeigen

Es ist auch die kulturelle Substanz des Landes Sachsen-Anhalt. Weshalb es sich auch der Ministerpräsident Reiner Haseloff (CDU) nicht nehmen ließ, das Grußwort zur Programmpresentation am Mittwoch in der – bestens gefüllten – Aula des Bauhausgebäudes in Dessau zu halten. Auf einer abgedunkelten Bühne, über die verteilt worden war, worin es gehen soll: Sand, Ziegel, Glas, Metall.

Insgesamt 1,5 Millionen Euro lässt sich das Land die Feier leisten. Aber auch der jüngst von der AfD unter dem Stichwort „Juryweg der Moderne“ erfolgte Angriff auf das Bauhaus hält nach. Dass der AfD-Auftritt im Landtag für ihn selbst „last nicht auszuhalten“ gewesen sei, sagte Reiner Haseloff. Er hält dagegen: „Wir verdanken dem Bauhaus einen Neubeginn auch im Sinne einer Wohlstandsgesellschaft.“ Denn: „Dass wir heute so leben wie wir leben“, sei auch dem Bauhaus zu verdanken – also bezahlbares Wohnen für alle.

Hinzu komme das am Ort geübte offene Arbeiten, das offene Streiten. Das Bauhaus fordert dazu auf, sagte Haseloff, „jederzeit, jeden Tag um die Demokratie kämpfen“ zu müssen. Der Begrüßungs-Chef als Bauhaus-Patriot. Es stehe für ihn fest, „dass wir stolz sein können, dass das Bauhaus in unserem Bundesland steht und lebt“.

Für letzteres ist die Stiftungschefin Barbara Steiner zuständig. Nach dem Dessauer Oberbürgermeister Robert Reck (parteilos) ergiff die Österreicherin das Wort.



Wir schaffen das! Bauhaus-Stiftungsdirektorin Barbara Steiner und Ministerpräsident Reiner Haseloff. FOTO: WIKIMEDIA

„Dass wir heute so leben, danken wir auch dem Bauhaus.“

Reiner Haseloff (CDU) Ministerpräsident

haus heute und in der Zukunft? Auch wenn vieles beim ersten Hinhören etwas akademisch klingt, könnte hier doch ein Thema gefunden worden sein, das sowohl die historisch als auch fachlich Interessierten erreichen kann. Als eine Art serieller Tag des offenen Podiums reiches Debattendoppelejahr für die anderen. Durchaus auch kritisch solle auf die Moderne und ihre Fortschrittserzählung geschaut werden, sagte Steiner. Gezeigt werde auch „die schmutzige Seite der Materialinnovationen“ und Arbeitsbedingungen damals.

Festival vom 4. bis 7. September 2025, dem Bauhausfest, das sich dann aber vor allem um das Bauhaus-Museum ereignen soll. Am 26. September beginnen die unter dem Motto „Unsichtbares Bauhaus Dessau“ angebotenen Stadtrundgänge, die Bauhaus-Sitten am Ort aufsuchen. Von Ende Oktober an werden Avantgardedfilme gezeigt: 29 Bauhäuser drehten rund 150 Filme. Schenkungen an das Bauhaus aus den Jahren 1919 bis 2025 zeigt das Bauhaus Museum.

Unter dem Titel „Soda / Linsen / Flut“ dokumentiert ab Februar 2026 eine Ausstellung Altkunste und Produktionsstätten von Bauhaus-Materialien – nicht allein in Sachsen-Anhalt, sondern weltweit: 13 Lamellenhallen gerieten in den Blick, die in die Türkei verkauft worden waren, wo sie mit Kamelelen und Maultieren transportiert wurden und noch in Betrieb sind – für die Luftwaffe, wie die Künstlerin Anja Schäfers im Gespräch mit Barbara Steiner berichtete.

Der eigentliche Aufschlag erfolgt im Frühjahr 2026 mit Ausstellungen im Bauhaus, in historischen Arbeitsamt, im Stahlhaus in Tübingen, in der Lamellenhalle und

neue Betonpfeiler. Architekt die Bauhaus Werkstätten err. Die Stadt Dessau-Rosslau die kulturelle und regionale sowie spielerische-festliche Verortung des Jubiläum standig. 1925 – Das Ba kommt nach Dessau! lautet i tel eines Buchs. Ausstellung Lesereiseprojektes, mit de Stadt bespielt werden soll. teen für Walter“ verspricht Schutzprojekt samt Ausstell der Anhaltische Kunstverei dem Gymnasium Philant nun veranstaltet. Der Kakt nicht allein die Lieblings des Bauhausgründers, so auch die der in den 1920er J gefeierten Neuen Sachliche Kaktus die Rose für Ingenie

Und der Schweinestall? Und was wird mit dem Sch stall, den Gropius als buch che Schnapsidee 1967 für de rischen Porzellan-Fabrik Philipp Rosenthal entworfen und der – laut Aussagen vor gust dieses Jahres – eventui Dessauer Tierpark nach werden sollte? „Wir wollen bedingt machen“, sagte B

An die Substanz. Bauhaus Dessau 100

One hundred years after the Bauhaus moved to Dessau, the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation launched the anniversary programme “An die Substanz” (“To the Substance”).

The programme places materials of modernity and the present at the centre. Exhibitions and events examine materials, technologies and the conditions of design – while also asking what these issues mean today.

The official anniversary programme began in September 2025 and extends through 2026, with exhibitions, artistic programmes, conferences and festivals in the Bauhaus Building, Bauhaus Museum Dessau and other locations.

Why this matters to BeCom

BeCom does not treat Bauhaus history as a style catalogue. The project is interested in the questions behind the objects and buildings: How do materials shape daily life? How can design respond to social needs? How can knowledge move from expert environments into communities? And how can contemporary sustainability requirements be combined with quality, accessibility and participation?

The anniversary theme provides a useful bridge from Bauhaus material thinking to today's New European Bauhaus agenda: not copying the past, but examining how design, resources and social purpose can be reinterpreted for current community challenges.

SITE IMPRESSIONS FROM DESSAU

Bauhaus as a learning landscape: architecture, material and everyday life



The Bauhaus Building

The Bauhaus Building in Dessau makes its structure legible. Glass, concrete, steel, circulation and workshop spaces are not hidden behind decoration; they become part of the architectural experience.

For BeCom, this is a useful educational example because the building can be read from several perspectives at once: environmental performance, social use, economic production, institutional policy and education.

The Masters' Houses

The Masters' Houses add another dimension: housing, art, work and everyday life. Their forms and interiors invite discussion about changing standards of comfort, spatial efficiency, materials, preservation and the meaning of modern living.

In a BeCom context, heritage becomes a prompt for future-oriented questions: What should healthy, affordable and resource-conscious housing look like today? What can be preserved, adapted or re-used?



A CONTEMPORARY EUROPEAN CONNECTION

From Bauhaus to the New European Bauhaus

The New European Bauhaus (NEB) is a European initiative built around the idea that the green transition should improve everyday life and create places that are sustainable, inclusive and beautiful. For BeCom, these three dimensions provide a practical lens for analysing projects and developing community learning resources.

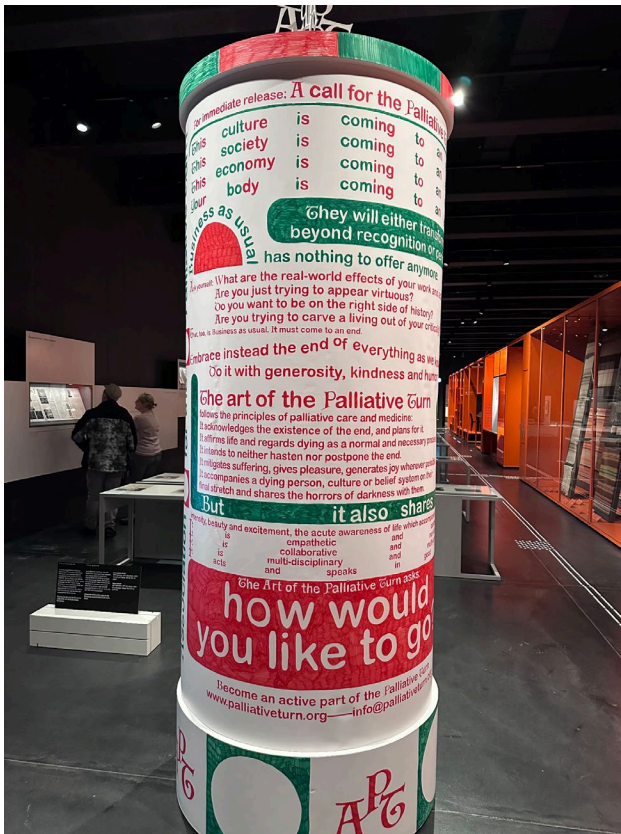
Historical Bauhaus lens	NEB value today	How BeCom applies it
Material and functional experimentation	Sustainability	Resource-efficient buildings, circular practices, climate adaptation, life-cycle thinking
Integration of art, craft, technology and daily life	Aesthetics / quality of experience	Design quality, identity, usability, attractiveness and human-centred places
Education through workshops, making and collaboration	Inclusion / togetherness	Participation, accessible learning, community co-design and shared ownership

This comparison is an educational interpretation used by BeCom. The New European Bauhaus is a contemporary EU initiative, not simply a continuation of the historical Bauhaus.

Three NEB questions for every BeCom example

- Sustainable: Does the example reduce environmental impact and strengthen long-term resilience?
- Beautiful: Does it create quality, identity and a positive experience for users and communities?
- Inclusive: Can different people participate, benefit and feel that the place or solution belongs to them?

Learning through objects, exhibitions and discussion



Museum learning is especially relevant to adult education when objects are not treated only as finished artefacts, but as starting points for inquiry. The BeCom partnership used the Dessau visit to observe how exhibitions connect design history with contemporary questions, and how a physical object can open discussions about materials, production, social values, changing lifestyles and responsibility.

From observation to active learning

Observe	What material, form, technology or social idea is visible?
Interpret	What problem was the designer or community trying to solve?
Connect	Which NEB values and QHM sectors are affected?
Transfer	What could be adapted for another place, learner group or community?

TURNING EXAMPLES INTO KNOWLEDGE

The BeCom methodology: NEB + Quintuple Helix + adult learning

The BeCom Reference Guide combines the New European Bauhaus values with the Quintuple Helix Model (QHM). This means that each practical example is examined not only as a building or local initiative, but as a system involving five connected areas of community life.

QHM sector	Key learning question	Possible BeCom output
Politics / governance	Which rules, institutions and public decisions enable change?	Policy lessons, stakeholder roles, implementation steps
Economy / business	How are resources, costs, jobs and local value affected?	Circular business ideas, resource efficiency, local partnerships
Education / knowledge creation	What should learners understand and practise?	Learning objectives, tasks, quizzes and training activities
Society / media	Who participates, communicates and benefits?	Co-design, inclusion, communication and community engagement
Natural environment	What are the ecological effects and opportunities?	Biodiversity, energy, materials, climate and circularity actions

BeCom adds an adult-learning perspective: knowledge should be applicable, accessible and action-centred. The goal is to help learners move from understanding a good practice to adapting it in their own context.

The six-part lens used in the early BeCom newsletter

- Introduction & NEB
- Knowledge policy sector
- Knowledge economy / business sector
- Knowledge creation sector
- Knowledge media / social sector
- Knowledge environment sector

BECOM EDUCATIONAL OUTPUTS

Green Buildings: the first portfolio connects heritage with present-day action

The BeCom Outputs structure turns practical examples into learning resources for five community sectors. The Green Buildings portfolio was the first thematic portfolio to be developed, followed by Circular Economy and Community Gardening.

What learners should gain

- Recognise the environmental, social, economic, political and educational dimensions of a building or regeneration project.
- Understand how NEB values can be translated into concrete design and community decisions.
- Compare historical solutions with present-day requirements for energy efficiency, circularity, inclusion and affordability.
- Identify transferable steps that can be applied in another building, neighbourhood or organisation.

The BeCom website now brings together the Reference Guide, practical examples, learning materials, innovative visions, learning booklets, the MOOC platform and online toolkits.

Useful BeCom links

- [Reference Guide and Methodology](#)
- [Project Outputs](#)
- [BeCom documents and practical examples](#)
- [Online Toolkits](#)
- [Newsletter #1 online](#)

The educational bridge from Bauhaus to BeCom is therefore practical rather than symbolic: a real place is observed, interpreted through NEB and QHM, transformed into structured learning content, and then connected to tasks, digital tools and community action.

KEY MESSAGES & SOURCES

Looking forward: from heritage to beautiful communities

Bauhaus Dessau offers BeCom a strong point of departure because it makes design, materials, production, education and everyday life visible in one place. The New European Bauhaus adds today's European priorities: sustainability, quality and beauty, inclusion, affordability and participation.

Five messages from Newsletter #1

- Heritage can be a living educational resource when it is connected to today's challenges.
- Materials are not neutral: they influence environmental impact, cost, maintenance, identity and user experience.
- Good design is strongest when environmental, social and aesthetic quality are considered together.
- Community transformation requires cooperation across education, politics, society, economy and the natural environment.
- Adult education can turn inspiring examples into practical knowledge, transferable methods and local action.

Sources and further reading

- [BeCom Newsletter #1 – Bauhaus & BeCom](#)
- [BeCom Reference Guide and Methodology](#)
- [BeCom Outputs](#)
- [Stiftung Bauhaus Dessau – “An die Substanz. Bauhaus Dessau 100”](#)
- [New European Bauhaus – official EU portal](#)

About this newsletter

This expanded Newsletter #1 was prepared from the existing BeCom newsletter, the agenda of the first transnational project meeting, BeCom project webpages, official Bauhaus Dessau anniversary information and photographs provided by the project team. The connection between historical Bauhaus themes and the New European Bauhaus is presented as a BeCom educational interpretation.

BEAUTIFUL COMMUNITIES – ENRICHING, SUSTAINABLE, INCLUSIVE

Project 2024-1-DE02-KA220-ADU-000247531

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