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Art and Design Basics

Don Wightman Papers

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2019

## Bauhaus Handout

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*Sheridan College*

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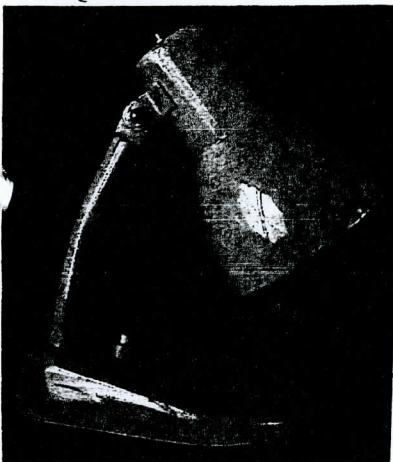
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THE MODERN: BAUHAUS ART SCHOOL IDEAS.  
 THE TECHNOLOGICAL AGE, 20TH c IMAGES.

- Hermann Muthesius (1861-1927). German architect in England. Truth to materials, learning by doing.
- The Bauhaus 1919-1933. Founded as a German School of Design.
- "Circle of Friends" Einstein, Schonberg, Behrens, Chagall. Support & funds.
- First location Weimar (1919-1925) had an arts & crafts emphasis.
- Second location Dessau (1925-1933) had a machine production emphasis.
- Directed by Gropius, Mies Van der Rohe.
- Designed and built their own furnishings and buildings (staff & students)
- Created fitted kitchens, stacking metal chairs, Anglepoise lamps, interiors, architecture, ceramics, paintings, prints, murals, theatre, costume, weaving, glass, graphic design.
- 1933 closed down by Hitler. Considered the most influential 20th century design school.
- Teachers, Feininger, Klee, Kandinsky, Moholy-Nagy, Itten, Breuer, Albers, left to go to America, Switzerland, England. Some formed other schools overseas.
- Worked with industry.
- Their philosophical basis was utopian. Led to the "International Style," of form following function.
- Created the Volkshochschule (the idea of a foundation program), to encourage basic experimentation with materials. Tended to abstraction, geometric shapes (grids & Greek solids).



MARIANNE BRANDT 1928.  
 FOR KORTING AND MATTHIESSEN  
 (KANDEM) BEDSIDE LAMP.



LOGO FOR KANDEM.  
 TRADE NAME OF  
 KORTING AND MATTHIESSEN.  
 HERBERT SHURMAN 1932.



B33 SIDE CHAIR.  
 MARCEL BREUER 1927.

- Using Gestalt psychological theory of perception. From Victorian "content" to "form" (Formalism versus Expressionism).
- Mazdaznan and Theosophical (Madame Blavatski) Mysticism in Fine Art.
- Things reduced to their essence (Mondrian).
- Lowering costs of production by reducing labour intensive design.
- A removal of applied decoration and incorporating intrinsic decoration in the form of texture, repetition, rhythm, composition. natural materials and a lack of cover-up (joints, techniques, etc.).
- Newtonian terms used in art and design discourse with their visual language.
- Simple unadorned pragmatic solutions to design. For machine batch and mass production, minimum labour, low cost/high profit.
- Division of labour, designer distinct from factory worker. Consumerism. Worker buying the products they make.
- An age of mass production. Consumerism, Capitalism, Multinationals.