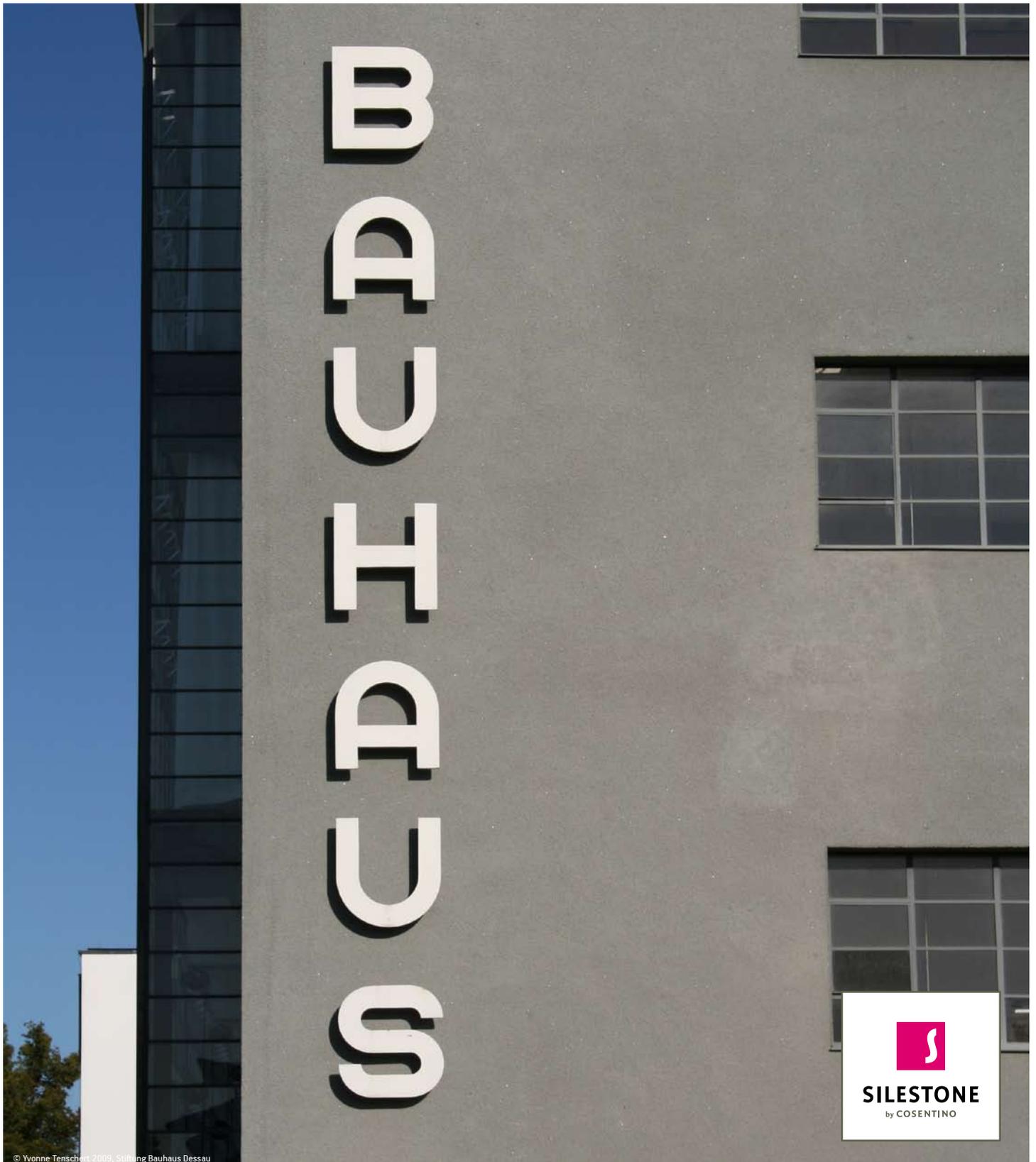


Silestone®: function meets design

The historic Bauhaus Building in Dessau
with Silestone®





The Bauhaus Building: symbol of a design era

Project

Restaurant in the historic Bauhaus Building, Dessau

Address

Gropiusallee 38, 06846 Dessau, Germany

Building

Built 1925-26 to plans by Walter Gropius

Restaurant

Klub im Bauhaus

Material used

Silestone®

Colours

Negro Tebas, surface Leather

Number of slabs

5

Thickness

1,2 cm

Dessau, July 2010 – 1926 was the year of the topping-out ceremony for the Bauhaus Building. It was built at the time, to plans by Walter Gropius, as a college building to be shared by Bauhaus Dessau Design School and the Technische Lehranstalten, a craft college. Much has happened since then. The Bauhaus Building has been converted, expanded and renovated after a fire. It is included on the UNESCO World Heritage List of cultural and natural treasures. It is now the headquarters of the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation, formed in 1994, and attracts about 100,000 tourists every year.

From its foundation by Walter Gropius in Weimar in 1919, the Bauhaus played a special role in the history of culture, architecture, design, art and new media of the twentieth century. As one of the first design colleges, it attracted a series of the most prominent architects and artists of the time. In addition to its role as a place of education, with innovative teaching methods, it was also a centre of production and focal point of international discussion.

The present-day work of the Bauhaus Foundation in Dessau consists of three core areas. Dessau is now home to the second-largest collection on the history of the original Bauhaus, with around 26,000 objects. Some of these can be seen on permanent exhibition in the Bauhaus Building. The Academy, as a centre of learning, offers a one-year interdisciplinary course at the International „Bauhaus Kolleg.“ The program is aimed at architects and town planners from all over the world. Finally the Workshop focuses on contemporary projects.



Mediating between past, present and future

The Bauhaus Dessau Foundation constantly provides a platform for experimental events, stage presentations and festivals which, to this day, continue to disseminate the Bauhaus idea far and wide. „We now have an accumulated heritage of nearly a century of Bauhaus thinking. It is important not to preserve that here, but to make it available as an inspiration and source of ideas for new art and design movements. We must deliberately foster and promote these new developments,“ explains Professor Philipp Oswald, Director of the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation.

Present meets style: Silestone® for the Klub im Bauhaus

So the Bauhaus is the scene of a living inter-cultural exchange which is far from desk-bound. The Klub im Bauhaus is a central meeting-point for employees and tourists alike. Most people start their day at the Bauhaus right here. Many meet again here at lunchtime or in the evenings. The Klub im Bauhaus has opened daily, and continues to cater for guests until late evening. So it did not take long to catch on as a venue for the inhabitants of the town of Dessau.

The Klub was created over a two-year period, 1988-1990, on the initiative of the staff and of the first Bauhaus Director in modern times, Rolf Kuhn. The Klub proved a major hit at once, though this popularity later

left its mark in wear and tear at the facility. As part of a general renovation of the Bauhaus in 2005, the Klub and all its fittings were completely rebuilt. Bauhaus employees handled most of the design and building work. One of them was Martin Brück, responsible for the architecture: „The challenge was to re-use as many existing features as possible,“ he reminisces. Of course, the Klub also had to harmonise with its historic Bauhaus surroundings. If new materials were used, they had to be as functional, rational and ecological as possible - in line with the Bauhaus objectives from the 1920s.

Quartz-surfaced oasis of calm and ideas

The L-shaped bar counter in the Klub is a popular meeting point and an oasis of calm, even amid the bustling Bauhaus Dessau. The body of the bar consists of solid bamboo boards, which have since proved near-indestructible. This is where Silestone® comes in, as the material for the bar surfaces. „We were looking for a material which was more flexible and durable than the ceramic bar top previously used here. We quickly came across Silestone®“ recounts Brück. „We also particularly liked the Negro Tebas shade of colour, which is a close match with the historic terrazzo in the Bauhaus.“ A total of five Silestone® slabs were installed at the Klub im Bauhaus. The material consists of 93% quartz. This is exceptionally load-resistant - not surprising given that, like diamond, quartz is one of the hardest minerals there is. Silestone® also boasts special hygienic properties.

Ongoing cultural program in Dessau

The Bauhaus Foundation Dessau and Dessau Town Council together ensure that neither locals nor visitors ever get bored. Especially in the summer months and in the autumn, the town offers culture lovers a versatile range of exhibitions and theatrical and musical performances. The town's annual Festival of Colours has become a wonderful tradition, carried on in co-operation between the town of Dessau-Rosslau and the Bauhaus Foundation Dessau. The festival takes place in late summer. Each year the town is decked out in a different colour, with many more exciting cultural projects taking place on the fringe. In past years, for example, Dessau and the Bauhaus have been resplendent in white, green, blue, red, silver, orange or violet. Visitor numbers have risen year on year. At the heart of all this, one place is always open for digesting new impressions alone, or sharing them in conversation with like-minded people: the bar in the Klub im Bauhaus. However, the Negro Tebas colour is permanent here.



About Cosentino Group

Cosentino Group is currently represented in more than 50 countries. It maintains six factories, 14 quarries and 17 processing works. Group headquarters in Macael (Almería) manages and administers also international branches: Cosentino Austria, Cosentino Belgium, Cosentino Brazil, Cosentino France, Cosentino Germany, Cosentino Ireland, Cosentino Italy, Cosentino Mexico, Cosentino North America, Cosentino The Netherlands, Cosentino Portugal, Cosentino Switzerland and Cosentino UK. Nearly 70% of total turnover are generated on international markets.

About Silestone®

As creator of a new product category which is a world first, the Cosentino group of companies has recorded steady growth. Its quartz surface has forged ahead to become a world market leader. Silestone® is obtainable in over 50 colours with a matt or high-polish glossy surface. Grease and vinegar cannot penetrate the material, and stains simply wipe clean. Coatings and impregnation are not necessary.

In Spain nowadays, one kitchen in four is fitted with Silestone®. In the USA, the product holds 75% of the quartz surface market and accounts for 7% of all kitchen tops.

Silestone® is also present in special construction projects worldwide. Mention can be made here of the Hotel Burj Al Arab in Dubai, the Wembley Stadium in London, the Carousel du Louvre in Paris, the Torre Agbar in Barcelona, and the Telefónica Flagship in Madrid. Silestone® was the first Spanish brand to advertise at the world's biggest advertising event, the US SuperBowl and, since 2008, has been personal sponsor of Fernando Alonso, twice Formula 1 world champion.



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