

Bauhaus Boulevard

It is weird how sometimes art can literally grab you, making you see that, “Wow, that’s so sweet.” Sometimes its paintings, like maybe the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel done by Michelangelo, or maybe hand-drawn portraits done by our very own art professors. Things that can really stick out, not only mentally but physically as well, are awesome architecture designs. You might wonder if these artists of paintings and drawings went to school, but when you walk around Europe and see buildings and homes with a very modern look to their square shapes, just know that they were probably built by some of the greatest art students of all time, at the Bauhaus. The Bauhaus was a school that operated in Germany from 1913 to 1933 where the occupants began to learn how they would create a huge impact on the architecture of their time.

“The building of the future” is the quote that is used to describe the Bauhaus when it originally opened. This could actually be said for all of the other buildings that the great artists like Peter Behrens, Fritz Mackensen, and Henri Matisse had helped design after their relationship with the Bauhaus. For example, credit goes to Peter Behrens when someone sees the clean lines and less decoration. This is a simple part of the Bauhaus teachings, that it was less of the outside décor and better usage of the materials at hand. Another interesting piece of information that deals with the teachings of this school is the fact that architecture, its main point, wasn’t actually emphasized until 1927 when the first architectural classes were offered. Although some architecture was being created, for example a competition design for the Chicago Tribune Tower, the students mostly studied the creation of craft work, like cabinets, chairs, and pottery.

One of the main points that the Bauhaus tried to make was to unify art, craft, and technology in all of its work. For example, a picture of a row of windows in one of the rooms shows that they are all mechanically operational. They are sleek in design, symmetrical as well, and can be opened with the touch of a button. Another important piece of information to mention that they Bauhaus had an effect on is the design of furniture. For example, the Cantilever chair designed by Mart Stam. It is made from steel, with no back legs for support, only the material from which it was made.

Over the course of its time, the Bauhaus school went through many transformations and changes, thanks to the political warfare going on in Germany at that time, as well as simply the changing ideas of teachers and board members, which caused new paths for the students to follow. As stated before, the motto was originally to unify art and technology. So, as we created our model of our Bauhaus Boulevard, we made some improvements and brought our own, new ideas to the ideas that Bauhaus started. Those include roof design on the homes, skylight design, road access, building texture, as well as the simple closeness of community. All of these are simple, basic elements to a Bauhaus ideology, but they are nonetheless important to not overlook, although simple and easily plausible. We will discuss these new improvements in more detail, explaining why they were made, and what exactly they “bring to the table.”

One of the most interesting and bold additions we made was the grass that was placed on top of the roofs. Not only does it look like the roof tops have a wicked haircut, but this grass

and texture can help a lot with rain runoff and puddle elimination. A basic element of Bauhaus can be seen in these flat roofs that are set up for homes today, but either a slight incline is set up to run the rain away, or buckets of tar is put down so that it does not drip through the ceiling. Our grass and dirt will stop that, where it will soak up the water and continue to grow into a magnificent piece of art.

Another bold element we added was the addition of a small basement, about one third of a normal size. This flows together with the rest of the design of our boulevard for a few reasons. One, is that it can be a good place to have a car garage, using as little space as possible. Second, it is built into the ground, so that once again no space is unused and its unique design is cool because it is like a “hidden” part of the house. A third element is the access it has to the roads. Since the roads were put behind the homes, these garages and basements are next to the roads, not the upper, main level of the home.

Now that our homes are close together, which enhances the sense of a community as well as using as much road space available as possible without using it unnecessarily, we also added sunroofs to the tops of the homes. These windows do not stick out into the air like most, they are simply holes in the ceiling with a window covering it, letting in a massive amount of sunlight only adding to the beauty of these homes. Also, a final addition we made, is the hard exterior of the homes. While these walls are easily moldable at first, they soon turn into a solid foundation for people to live in between.

So the walk down Bauhaus Boulevard has changed a little bit, not for the worse though that’s for sure. Our improvements, if you want to call them that, included the addition of non-protruding skylights, the addition of small basements into the ground, grass on the rooftops to prevent runoff which also enhances the viewing pleasure and creativity of these homes, as well as other minor details. These additions add to the history of the Bauhaus in their own little ways, but they truly do express the unique ideas that the original school intended upon. So, the next time you’re walking down Bauhaus Boulevard, stop, take your hat off and say, “Wow, that looks awesome!”

Works Cited

Bauhaus 1919-1933. Bauhaus Archive Museum of Design.
<<http://www.bauhaus.de/english/bauhaus1919/index.htm>>