



THE ARCHITECT IN QUESTION
WALTER GROPIUS AND THE BAUHAUS

Thursday 5 December

2019 sees the centenary of the establishment in Weimar of the Bauhaus ('building house') School, by-word for the profoundest thinking about art and architecture in the 20c and the most influential art and design school in history. It was established, as a kind of medieval Guild, by one of the greatest architects of his generation, Walter Gropius: we commemorate 50 years since his death in 1969. Drawing on lessons from Ruskin, William Morris and the Arts and Crafts Movement in England, the Bauhaus was concerned to unify the arts of painting, sculpture, craft and architecture. As Gropius put it at the time: "Art and the people must form an entity. Art shall no longer be a luxury of the few but should be enjoyed and experienced by the broad masses. 'Gropius married Alma Mahler, the fiery widow of the composer, in 1915, who arguably provided him with the strength for the foundation of the school. After drastic cuts in its funding in Weimar, Gropius refounded the Bauhaus in Dessau in 1925, in a building that has become an icon of the Modern Movement. When the Nazis took power Gropius fled to England, where he designed Impington Village College in Cambridgeshire, and then to the USA, where he was appointed Professor at Harvard and designed a series of astonishing Massachusetts buildings. In 1935 his and Alma's daughter died of polio aged 18, and Alban Berg composed his exquisite Violin Concerto in memory of her.

All **Culture in Question** lectures take place in the Art Workers Guild, Queen Square, Bloomsbury, unless otherwise indicated. Coffee is served at 10.30, the lecture begins at 11, and a light lunch with wine is served at 1 pm. The event ends by 3.30 p.m.

£85 INSCAPE members, £95 non-members.