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Press Release

Claudia Weinreich

University Communications

Press Officer

A unique nationwide research centre: the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar's Digital Bauhaus Lab

An interdisciplinary research centre is currently taking shape on the campus of the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, providing state-of-the-art laboratory space and working environments for academics in the fields of Computer Science, Civil Engineering, Art & Design and the Humanities.

The foundation stone of the Digital Bauhaus Lab was officially laid in Weimar at the end of August. As a building, it will have no equal in Germany. Its aim is to offer research opportunities in areas of particular relevance for the information society in which we live. These include information search and knowledge processing, digital engineering, technology and society, and security and reliability.

The inspiration for the Digital Bauhaus Lab came from celebrated laboratories in the USA, such as the MIT Media Lab in Cambridge, Massachusetts. From 2013 onwards, the new building is to house ten laboratories on four floors. These will include an interface development laboratory and a visual analytics laboratory, which will provide an ideal symbiosis for hardware and software development in connection with modern user interfaces. The ground-floor spaces will focus on social interaction in the public sphere, with the human being the central object of investigation. In addition, the Digital Bauhaus Lab will provide facilities for the high-performance computing of simulation tasks in Civil Engineering, as well as the processing of extreme data volumes, such as occur in the analysis of the world wide web.

A multi-user 3D display unit will also be accommodated in the Digital Bauhaus Lab, supporting computer scientists and civil engineers in their collaboration on a "virtual construction site". It will especially be ideal for the visualisation of complex spatial simulations. Equipped with a high-definition 3D projection screen measuring approx. 3 x 5 metres, it will allow for the simultaneous interaction of up to six users. Ten tracking cameras will record the head movements of the users, meaning that, for every position, the scenario is displayed in accurate 3D-perspective. All users will be able to move freely within the space, point to objects and move around them. The multi-user 3D display unit is one of six major pieces of research equipment planned for the Digital Bauhaus Lab and the only one of its kind in the world to date.

Above all, it is the students of the Bachelor's and Master's programmes in Civil Engineering and Computer Science and Media who will benefit most from the state-of-the-art equipment provided by the new laboratories. These prospective academics will have the opportunity to work in a practical and project-oriented context in this interdisciplinary "laboratory of the



future", which is how Christian Carius, Thuringian Minister of Construction, Infrastructure and Transport, described the Digital Bauhaus Lab at the foundation ceremony.

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The Digital Bauhaus Lab is to be located on the university campus, within easy reach of all the Faculties of the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar. With a total floor space of 560 m², it will offer maximum flexibility to its users; the four floors will be almost exactly square in layout and, with their cantilevered ceilings, will allow for individual planning and modifications in spatial distribution. The construction costs of €7.65 million have been financed in equal measure by the federal government and the Free State of Thuringia. The *Gemeinsame Wissenschaftskonferenz (General Academic Conference)*, the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Community)* and the State of Thuringia have also promised sponsorship for the research centre, declaring that the Digital Bauhaus represents an outstanding example of academic quality on a national level which thoroughly merits comprehensive financial support.

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In its research scope, the Digital Bauhaus Lab dedicates itself to taking on the technological, artistic, academic and social challenges of the information age. This in itself corresponds to the interdisciplinary approach of the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar's Faculty of Media; as creative and academic workers in the field of media, graduates of the Faculty's eight Bachelor's and Master's programmes have excellent professional prospects.

Further information on the Digital Bauhaus Lab, as well as the Faculty of Media's Computer Science programmes, can be found at: www.uni-weimar.de/medieninformatik.

The application deadline for both the Bachelor's and Master's programmes in Computer Science is 30th September 2012.