HOME   ABOUT ARTNEWS   ARTNEWS S.A.   ADVERTISE   CONTACT US   SEND A LETTER TO THE EDITOR   ONLINE RESOURCES ▶

The leading source of
art coverage since 1902.

Search this site

REVIEWS —— APRIL 2015

HUTEMAS AT MARTIN-GROPIUS-BAU

in Troeller POSTED **03/31/15 12:30 PM**

lin

Share 110   Tweet 31   Pinterest 3   ShareThis 153

A s a former museum of applied art, it is fitting that the Martin-Gropius-Bau should mount <u>one of the largest exhibitions</u> to date devoted to the Russian art school <u>VKhUTEMAS</u>. Known as the "Russian Bauhaus," the school was founded in 1920 as part of an overhaul of the Russian educational system in the wake of the 1917 revolution. Like the Bauhaus, founded the year before, VKhUTEMAS was formed by merging a fine-art academy with an applied-arts school. It also shared with its German counterpart many of the same goals, including, above all, a commitment to the idea of the artist as a productive member of society.

"VKhUTEMAS: A Russian Laboratory of Modernity, Architecture Designs 1920–1930" comprised some 250 works by students and teaching staff, which included El Lissitzky, Lyubov Popova, Alexander Rodchenko, and Vladimir Tatlin, among others. Focusing on VKhUTEMAS's architectural workshop, the exhibition offered a sweeping overview of the state of drawing during this fertile decade.

Pencil, ink, gouache, and watercolor were all deployed, sometimes in combination with printed matter, as in Alexander Vesnin's proposal for decorating the school's facade on the tenth anniversary of the revolution. Despite the school's emphasis on functionalism, few of the works in the show resembled actual plans. Indeed, many appeared unrealizable. They were most

Michail Korzhev, *Abstractive exercise to detect the mass and weight*, 1921, paper, ink, and watercolor, 8⅝" x 6⅞".
©THE SCHUSEV STATE MUSEUM OF ARCHITECTURE, MOSCOW

Don't Miss a Single Headline!