

# lodge architecture in west virginia state parks

In 1967, Walter Gropius, the father of modern architecture, led The Architects Collaborative (TAC) in the design of the lodges at Twin Falls Resort, Hawks Nest and Pipestem Resort state parks. Gropius and TAC's methods remove complicated features from structural designs, simplifying the building process. This architectural framework encourages interaction with nature and reflects the rustic flavor of park design.

## Twin Falls Resort State Park

In the heart of Wyoming County, Twin Falls Resort State Park offers majestic mountain views, modern resort facilities and a glimpse into the pioneer days of the 19th century.



The conversion of the area into a 3,776-acre state park began in 1964, when Western Pocahontas Corporation and Pocahontas Land Corporation gave the state of West Virginia a "gift of land" to develop a state park. Funding for development was made available in 1963 under the Area Redevelopment Administration.

The golf course was open to the public during the fall of 1967 and in 1968 construction began on the lodge complex, pro shop/swimming pool complex and cabins. The pro shop complex and cabins were completed in the spring of 1970 and opened to the public on June 26, 1970. The park's initial facilities included a 20-room lodge, with restaurant and gift shop, 13 deluxe vacation cabins, and a nine-hole golf course with pro-shop, which included an outdoor swimming pool.

In the early 1970s work began on a campground and picnic areas. The 50-site campground opened in 1975.

## Hawks Nest State Park

Land for Hawks Nest State Park was purchased in 1935 when the state purchased the land around the now well-known overlook. Much of the early planning for the park was done by the National Park Service. The stonework that one sees today was the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps, which was stationed at nearby Babcock State Park at Clifftop. They built the picnic shelter, snack and souvenir shop, restrooms, and numerous stone walls within the park.



In 1963 the DNR's Parks Division had the opportunity to further develop some of West Virginia's scenic natural resources by entering into a loan/grant agreement with the United States Area Redevelopment Administration. Land was purchased and leased for the building of Hawks Nest lodge. The modern 31-room lodge and conference complex was designed by The Architect's Collaborative, a Walter Gropius firm of Boston, Mass. It was completed and opened to the public in the spring of 1967.

## Pipestem Resort State Park

The development of a state park in the Pipestem area came about for several reasons. During the early 1960s, the federal government offered financial assistance to West Virginia to promote economic development in areas of low employment. The priceless beauty of the Bluestone Gorge area resulted in the development of the resort as an employment opportunity for local residents while offering scenic vistas and recreational opportunities for tourists.



By 1971, 25 modern cottages, two lodges with a total of 143 rooms, 27 holes of golf, pro shops, tennis courts, a 50-site campground and an aerial tramway, miniature golf course, riding stables, 16-acre lake, indoor and outdoor pools, a 500 seat amphitheater, meeting rooms, gift and craft shops, two restaurants, a cafeteria, a supper club, and three snack bars were completed and open to the public. The official opening was Memorial Day, 1970.



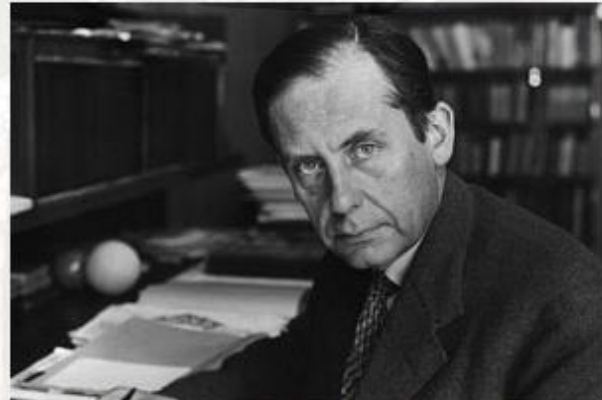
# walter gropius, architect, 1883 - 1969

Walter Gropius was a German architect and founder of Bauhaus, which means "House of Building" or "Building School." Bauhaus is the common term for the Staatliches Bauhaus, a school in Germany that combined crafts and the fine arts, and was famous for its approach to design. The Bauhaus Style became one of the dominant influences of Modern architecture, which eliminates ornament and emphasizes steel, glass and concrete material to create a sleek look.

Along with Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and Le Corbusier, Gropius is widely regarded as one of the pioneering masters of modern architecture. His career advanced in the post-World War I period when the master of the Grand-Ducal Saxon School of Arts and Crafts in Weimar, Germany, recommended Gropius to succeed him. This eventually led to Gropius' appointment as master of the school in 1919. It was this academy that Gropius transformed into the world famous Bauhaus.

Gropius later taught at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. As a Harvard professor, he introduced Bauhaus concepts and design principles — teamwork, standardization and prefabrication — to a generation of American architects.

Gropius founded The Architects' Collaborative (TAC) an American architectural firm located in Cambridge, Mass, with a group of young architects in 1945. TAC would become one of the most well-known and respected



*Walter Gropius*

*The Staatliches Bauhaus, built by Walter Gropius, stands in Dessau, Germany. This innovative and unique building was designed and constructed in 1925 and 1926.*



*Below: Twin Falls Lodge built in 1967.*



## References:

Columbia Encyclopedia-People, Columbia University Press

"Interview with Walter Gropius," British Broadcasting Corporation, January 6, 1968



# the architects collaborative (tac)

The Architects Collaborative (TAC) was created in 1945 by German architect Walter Gropius and seven other architects. The original partners included Norman C. Fletcher, Jean B. Fletcher, John C. Harkness, Sarah P. Harkness, Robert S. MacMillan, Louis A. MacMillan and Benjamin C. Thompson.

The idea of "collaboration," which was the basis of TAC, meant the entire group of architects had input on a project, rather than putting an emphasis on individualism.

TAC is well-respected for its broad range of designs and has created many successful projects, such as the John Fitzgerald Kennedy Office Building in Boston, Mass.; the Harvard Graduate Center in Cambridge, Mass; and the AIA Headquarters Building in Washington, D.C.



*Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation,  
Administration Building\**



*Harvard Commons\**



*John F. Kennedy Federal Building\**

*\* Photos provided courtesy of [Mary Sullivan](#), Bluffton University*

## References:

The New Architecture and the Bauhaus, Walter Gropius, 1955

## modernist movement in state park lodges

Also known as the International Style, Modernism eliminates ornament and emphasizes steel, glass and concrete material to create a sleek look, in which "form follows function."

The Modernist Movement used innovative materials and mass-produced fittings, often originally intended for industrial settings, to create original furniture and buildings.

The first variants were conceived early in the 20th century. Modern architecture was adopted by many influential architects and architectural educators; however, very few "modern buildings" were built in the first half of the century. The Modernist Movement gained popularity after World War II and became the dominant architectural style for institutional and corporate buildings for three decades.

### Twin Falls Resort State Park Lodge



### Pipestem Lodge Resort State Park



### Hawks Nest State Park Lodge



#### References:

The New Architecture and the Bauhaus, Walter Gropius, 1955

Pioneers of Modern Design: From William Morris to Walter Gropius, Nikolaus Pevsner, 1936



## historic photos of state park lodges

### Hawks Nest State Park



### Pipestem Resort State Park



### Twin Falls Resort State Park



Photographs provided courtesy of West Virginia Department of Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Section.

**“Palladian style architecture in the late 1700’s is showcased by a mansion on an island.”**



**“Harman Blennerhassett, a wealthy Irish aristocrat, settled on the wilderness island in 1798, where he built a magnificent mansion. Designed in the Palladian style (like Mount Vernon), the house contained 7,000 square feet of floor space. Its rooms were furnished with furniture purchased in London and Baltimore, oriental carpets, oil paintings, and porcelain made in Paris. The hardware on some of the interior doors was made of silver. Alabaster lamps were suspended from the ceilings by silver chains. A 2-1/3 acre flower garden and two huge lawns surrounded the house. It was one of the most elegant estates in Virginia and was the most beautiful home west of the Alleghenies.”**



**[More information about Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park is on another page]**