

Berlin Report

August 2026

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1. MOKKA*MILCH

Project Overview

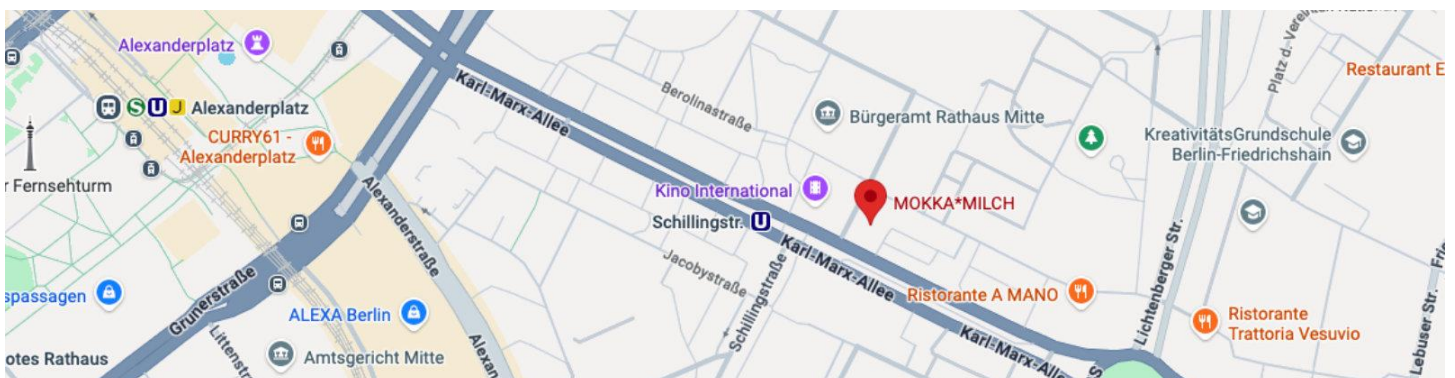
A legendary café that had been a fixture in East Berlin since the 1960s has reopened as MOKKA*MILCH after a long hiatus. On opening day, crowds of eager visitors filled the café, forcing it to temporarily limit entry and even close its doors for a time. The revival has attracted not only those who remember the café from its heyday but also a younger generation discovering it for the first time.

Much of its appeal lies in its mid-century interior, which carefully preserves historic details while introducing contemporary updates. The exterior tiles were restored to their original colors, and the distinctive handrail leading to the mezzanine was sandblasted and faithfully recreated to match its original appearance. Rather than replicating the past exactly, the design reinterprets original geometric motifs from the handrails and tiles as three-dimensional wall features and textured finishes on the bar counter. Traditional materials such as wood and brass are paired with asymmetrical trapezoidal tabletops, creating a subtle dialogue between past and present. Owner Natacha Neumann describes the goal as a space that initially feels unchanged but reveals contemporary details on closer inspection. Following the pandemic, Neumann set out to create a place where people from different backgrounds could gather and reconnect. Inspired by the original Mokka Milch Eisbar—a neighborhood institution for more than 60 years—she sought to revive the value of spontaneous encounters and face-to-face conversation in an increasingly digital world. The interior also quietly supports social interaction through thoughtful acoustic design. Wall treatments, tables, and installations integrated into the large glass windows incorporate sound-absorbing elements, allowing conversations to remain comfortable despite the café's high ceilings and open plan.

Project Details

1. Brand: MOKKA*MILCH
 2. Type of Business: Restaurant, Café & Bar, CoWorking Space
 3. Open Date: 12/06/2026
 4. Location: Karl-Marx-Allee 35, 10178 Berlin
 5. Size: 1040 m2
 6. Architect: Walter Franek, Josef Kaiser (1963) DREIMETA (interiordesign)
 7. Webseite: <https://mokkamilch.de/>
- Photos: Gianni Plescia

Location MAP





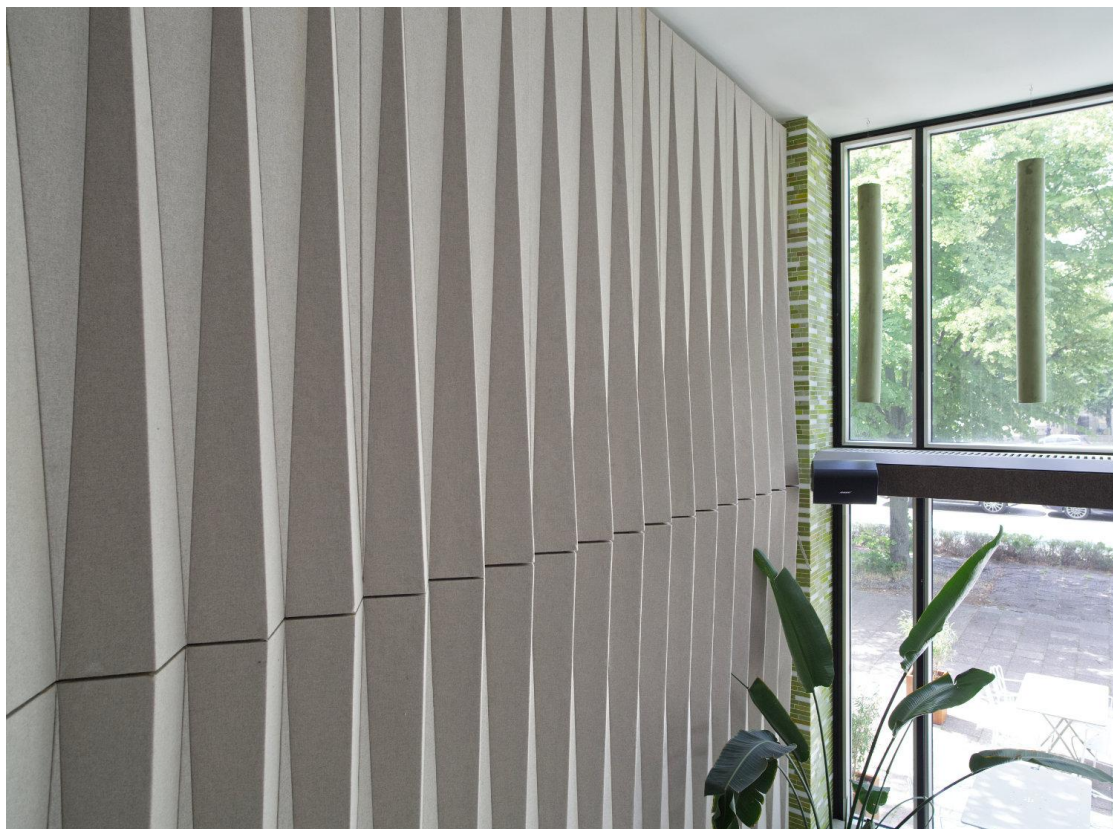
Above: The original tiles and stair railings have been preserved, while the lighting, tables, and other furnishings reinterpret the original material palette with a contemporary design. Below: The mezzanine coworking space.





Above: Mid-century-inspired handrail details and color palette. Below: The coworking space is furnished with books and objects from the East German era, many of them donated by visitors.





Above: The wall features incorporate sound-absorbing elements to improve acoustics. Below right: The bar counter echoes the geometry of the wall. Below left: Sound-absorbing panels matching the ceiling lights are installed by the window.



2. Glas | Beton | Metall

Project Overview

Although the Bauhaus existed for only 14 years, it laid the foundation for 20th-century architecture and design. Among its campuses, the Dessau Bauhaus—celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2026—is especially significant. Its iconic main building, constructed of glass, concrete, and steel, was celebrated for its pioneering design when it opened and continues to attract visitors from around the world. To mark the centennial, the exhibition Glas | Beton | Metall explores the industrial materials central to the Bauhaus philosophy: glass, concrete, and metal. Berlin-based architecture studio Gonzalez Haase AAS designed the scenography for the section dedicated to metal, which has drawn considerable attention. Known for designing retail interiors around the world, Gonzalez Haase AAS often employs unconventional materials to create bold, graphic spaces shaped by light and shadow. For this exhibition, the studio developed mesh-like modules made from welded steel wire, using them as display plinths, vitrines, and partitions. Although made of metal, the translucent structures appear remarkably light and change their appearance depending on the viewing angle. The installation can be seen as a contemporary interpretation of Bauhaus architecture, where steel structures and expansive glass curtain walls replace solid walls to maximize natural light. At the entrance, Marcel Breuer's B9 stool and side table are displayed on a mesh pedestal, creating a composition reminiscent of an abstract sculpture. Throughout the exhibition, objects from the Bauhaus metal workshop merge seamlessly with the linear mesh displays, giving the impression that they float within bands of light. The result is a striking exhibition that vividly expresses the Bauhaus ideal of functional beauty.

Project Details

1. Brand: bauhaus dessau Glas | Beton | Metall
 2. Type of Business: Exhibition
 3. Open Date: 28/03/2026 - 10/01/2027
 4. Location: Gropiusallee 38, 06846 Dessau-Roßlau
 5. Architect : Gonzalez Haase AAS
 6. Website: <https://bauhaus-dessau.de/ausstellungen/glas-beton-metall/>
- Photos: Gianni Plescia

Location MAP

