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The Deluge Fountain, Casimir the Great Park

The fountain, executed by the Berlin sculptor Ferdinand Lepcke, author of "the Archer", was officially unveiled in 1904. The creation of the „Deluge” was the result of a competition for the design of a monument-fountain which was to decorate this part of the city. It quickly became an attraction, a landmark of the city, and above all, one of the most photographed sights in Bydgoszcz. The central group of the fountain, people and the lion saving themselves from the Biblical Flood, was about 6 meters high. The fountain disappeared from the city's landscape in 1943 when it was melted down for war purposes. As a result, the German army gained almost 9 tons of bronze. Thanks to the determination of social activists, this unique monument was reconstructed and placed in its original location in 2014.



10

The Church of Saints Peter and Paul, Freedom Square

The temple was erected in the years 1872-1876 for the needs of the Bydgoszcz Evangelical community. The building, very modern at that time, was designed by the Berlin architect Frederick Adler. He was a lecturer at the Berlin Building Academy. Adler, who specialized in sacred buildings, designed an interesting structure for Bydgoszcz, dominated by the forms typical of the Neo-Romanesque and Neo-Gothic styles. The stained glass windows in the chancel were funded by the German Emperor Wilhelm I. They were executed by the Royal Stained Glass Institute in Berlin. The church received modern gas underfloor heating and was illuminated by around 200 gas lamps. The profiled bricks and terracotta tiles decorating the facade were brought from Charlottenburg (now a district of Berlin).

11

Copernicanum, 1 Kopernika Street

This beautiful building, now belonging to Kazimierz Wielki University, was erected in the years 1903-1906. This edifice, decorated with some interesting Art Nouveau details (the sundial on the south elevation attracts attention), was designed in the Berlin architecture studio of Carl Zaar and Rudolf Vahl.

12

The „Archer” sculpture, Jan Kochanowski Park

The statue made by the Berlin sculptor Ferdinand Lepcke is one of the most important symbols of the city. The sculpture was brought to Bydgoszcz in 1910 thanks to the efforts of, among others, the mayor of the city, Hugo Wolff. Various copies of „the Archer” can be found in German cities, including Coburg – the hometown of Ferdinand Lepcke, Wilhelmshaven – the twin city of Bydgoszcz, and on the Museum Island in Berlin.



13

Mickiewicz Avenue

The northern frontage of this elegant street, laid out in 1903, was built up with interesting tenements and villas designed by the leading local architects. Most of the buildings standing along the avenue were once decorated with details typical of the Berlin Art Nouveau. It is worth adding that there is a residential district located north of Mickiewicza Avenue. It was designed according to the latest urban trends which emerged at the beginning of the 20th century.



14

The Building of the Music Academy, 7 Słowackiego Street

The main edifice of the Bydgoszcz Music Academy was built in the years 1904-1906 for the needs of the district office. As part of Prussia, then Germany, Bydgoszcz was not only the capital of Bromberg Region but also the capital of a district. The neo-baroque building was designed by the German architect Traugott Ernst Robert von Wienskowski von Saltzwedel from Potsdam near Berlin. The construction works were carried out by the company M. Czarnikow et Co from Berlin. This structure, slightly rebuilt in the post-war period, is still one of the finest architectural pieces of the so-called Music District in Bydgoszcz.

15

The buildings of the Polish Radio of Pomerania and Kuyavia

48 Gdańska Street. The unusual villa, one of the most interesting buildings in Bydgoszcz, was erected in the years 1897-1898 for Ernst Heinrich Dietz, a rentier and city councilor. The building was designed by the Berlin architect Heinrich Seeling in the style inspired by the English version of the so-called Picturesque Architecture. There are many beautiful decorative elements inside the villa. The garden at the back of the building is also worth noticing especially the fountain with a unique sculpture of a heron.



17

Tenement house at 2 Krasieńskiego Street, on the corner of Gdańska Street

The building was designed by the architect Julius Knüpfer, who came to Bydgoszcz from Berlin at the end of the 19th century. The tenement house, built in 1912, presents the forms of early modernism. The structure with reduced detail on the facade was covered with a tented roof. Fortunately, it has survived to the present time (a similar roof once covered „Jedynak” Department Store). It is worth adding that the building housed an exclusive fashion salon in the interwar period. Fashion shows were regularly held in the rooms on the first floor.

18

„Jedynak” Department Store building, 15 Gdańska Street

The modernist department store was designed by Otto Walter from Berlin for the wealthy family of merchants – the Conitzers. Stylistically, the edifice was supposed to refer to Berlin and Paris department stores. Reinforced concrete was used in the construction of the building for the first time in Bydgoszcz. As a result of a fire, the building lost its original, very characteristic roof. It is worth paying attention to the sculptures decorating the facade. Four Greek goddesses (Aphrodite, Eris, Hera and Athena) were placed above the entrance and the figure of Silenus in the corner of the building.



16

Tenement house at 42 Gdańska Street

The building was erected in the years 1905-1906 for the merchant Max Rosenthal. It was designed by a recognized architect from Bydgoszcz, Fritz Weidner. Weidner, who worked in Bydgoszcz for most of his life, is the author of some of the most original and characteristic tenement houses which can be found in the city center. He left Berlin and moved into the city on the Brda River, initially signing his works: „Fritz Weidner – an architect from Berlin”. The tenement house is an example of new trends in the architecture developing at the turn of the 20th century, trends which came to Bydgoszcz first adapted by German, often Berlin-based, architects. The early modernist building with simplified detail was articulated by a pair of bay windows connected by massive balconies.

50 Gdańska Street. The villa in the Italian Renaissance style was designed by the Berlin architect Hildebrandt. The stately building, on the east side, was surrounded by a garden planned by the renowned garden and park designer Johann Larass, educated at the gardening school in Potsdam. The villa was built in 1900-1902 for Wilhelm Blumwe, a wealthy industrialist from Bydgoszcz. Blumwe was the owner of the successful Factory of Woodworking Sawmill and Machines (currently the Woodworking Machine Factory in Bydgoszcz). The company, which can boast over 150 years of history, employed more than 100 workers at the end of the 19th century. At the beginning of the 20th century, it had its representatives in many cities, including Berlin and Cologne.

19

The building of the former Eastern Railways Administration Authority, 63 Dworcowa Street

The monumental building was designed by the Berlin architects Martin Gropius (1824-1880) and Heino Schmieden. The edifice, stylistically referring to the Dutch Mannerism, was erected for the needs of the first railway management in Europe and in the world – the Royal Eastern Railways Administration Authority. It was responsible for the development and supervision of the railway lines in the Prussian eastern provinces. Standing in front of the building, it is worth taking a few steps towards the intersection of Dworcowa and Królowej Jadwigi Streets. Looking westwards from this point, you can see the historic building of the main railway station from the mid-19th century, partially visible behind the new terminal building from 2016. The railways played an extremely important role in the history of the city at the turn of the 20th century.



* The Railway Bridges in Bydgoszcz.

The three railway bridges over the Brda River near PKP Bydgoszcz Główna railway station are a unique engineering monument. The eastern brick bridge was put into service in 1851 as part of the constructed railway line that was to connect East Prussia with Berlin. It is one of the oldest existing railway bridges in Poland. The middle brick bridge was erected in 1872 during the construction of the railway line from Bydgoszcz to Inowrocław. The western bridge of a reinforced concrete structure (built in 1895) forms an interesting contrast to the neighboring brick structures.



Bydgoszcz as „Klein Berlin”





As a result of the First Partition of Poland (1772), Bydgoszcz was incorporated into Prussia. The Prussians took over a city devastated and heavily depopulated by wars. Bydgoszcz, known at that time as **Bromberg** (the German name of the city), became an important administrative and military centre. The city began to develop again as a place of industry and trade, to a large extent thanks to the King of Prussia, Frederick II the Great, who decided to build the Bydgoszcz Canal (1773-1774). The railway connection with Berlin (1851) further helped the development of the city, significantly contributing to its prosperity.

Thus, Bydgoszcz experienced dynamic growth in the second half of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century. This time can be called the second golden period in the history of the city. Most inhabitants of Bydgoszcz at that time were people who came from Prussia. Berlin, becoming the capital of the newly established German Empire, would therefore exercise a huge influence on the residents of the city on the Brda River. At the beginning of the 20th century, it was possible to get by train from Bydgoszcz to the capital of the German Empire in five hours. The residents could choose from more than ten connections a day. Bydgoszcz merchants, entrepreneurs, factory owners and architects travelled to Berlin. However, such movement also took place in the other direction. Local but also Berlin architects would design buildings in Bydgoszcz. Many tenement houses, public edifices and industrial plants with interesting architecture were built on the Brda River. That is why the city was called little Berlin ('Klein Berlin'). We kindly invite you for a walk around the German Bydgoszcz from the turn of the 20th century.

1 Lloyd's Palace, 17 Grodzka Street*

The building was erected in the style of the Dutch Mannerism in the years 1885-1886 for the captain Otto Liedtke. The small structure hides over 100 years of history connected to the inland navigation in Bydgoszcz. The property, purchased at the beginning of the 20th century by the Bydgoszcz Inland Navigation Society (Bromberger Schlepsschiffahrt), reminds us about the role that the river trade played in the history of the city. Bydgoszcz's heritage related to water, including some unusual hydrotechnical facilities as well as the city's 19th-century industrial past can be seen on Mill Island.

* The German language was used in the names of streets and squares at that time; Grodzka street was called Schloßstraße, later Burgstraße.



2 The Church of Saint Andrew Bobola, 7 Kościeleckich Square

The temple, visible from the Old Town Bridge, was erected between 1901 and 1903 for the German religious community as an Evangelical parish church. Most inhabitants of Bydgoszcz at that time were Germans, mostly Protestants. The imposing structure, still the tallest building in the city (75 metres), was designed by the Berlin architect Heinrich Seeling. Although he specialized in the construction of theatre buildings, Seeling designed two temples in Bydgoszcz, the only churches he ever executed.



3 The building of the Main Post Office in Bydgoszcz, 6 Jagiellońska Street

A vast complex of post office buildings was erected in the space between the Brda River and Jagiellońska Street in the years 1883-1885 and 1896-1900. After the victorious war with France (1870-1871) and gaining huge war reparations, the Prussian authorities decided to expand the postal institutions in the newly created German Empire. The building, erected in the neo-Gothic style, recognized as a national style by the Prussian parliament in the 19th century, still serves its original function. On the facade, among many interesting details, one can still see the well-preserved inscriptions in the German language above the entrances to the building.



4 Tenement house at 1-3 Stary Port Street

The neo-baroque corner building, erected by one of the most famous Bydgoszcz architects and builders, Józef Święcicki, was designed as the Hohenzollern House. The sculpture of the German Emperor Wilhelm I, placed in the niche in the corner of the building at the height of the third floor, was an interesting decorative element. The King of Prussia, who became the first ruler of the united Germany, had been looking at the Brda River from 1893 until 1920 – the year when Bydgoszcz returned to Poland.



5 Tenement house at 6 Theatre Square

The characteristic big-city tenement house was designed in 1912 by the Berlin architect Henry Gross for Otto Pfefferkorn, a merchant and Bydgoszcz furniture manufacturer. The furniture industry in Bydgoszcz developed extremely dynamically in the second half of the 19th century. There were several sawmills in the city, some of them belonged to timber merchants from Berlin. The capital of Germany was undoubtedly the main recipient of 'Bydgoszcz' wood and local furniture products.



6 Emil Werkmeister's tenement house, 4 Jagiellońska Street

The edifice was designed by a well-known and prominent Berlin architect Heinrich Seeling. It was erected between 1910 and 1912. The building, a truly modern structure at that time, was commissioned by Emil Werkmeister, a Bydgoszcz wine wholesaler. The house, with a limited detail and an interesting solar motif in the bay window, was built on the site once occupied by granaries.



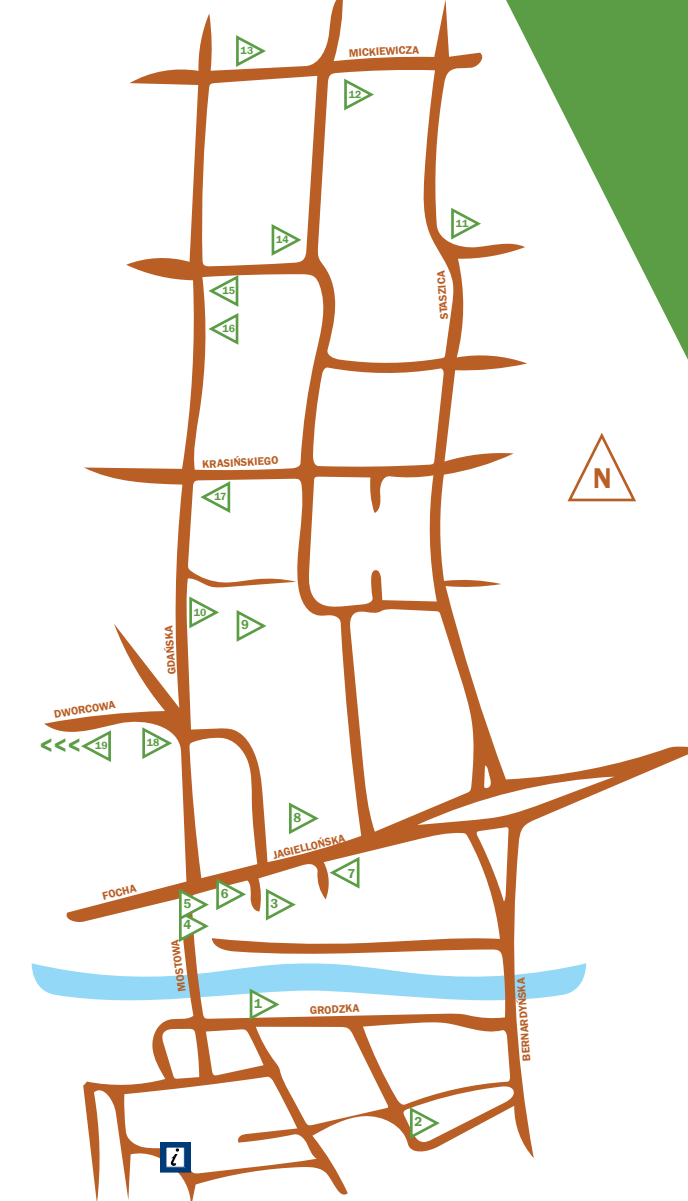
7 The building of the Polish Central Bank, 8 Jagiellońska Street

The building was erected in the years 1863-1864 for the needs of the Bydgoszcz branch of the Central Bank of Prussia, Berlin. The representative building was designed by the German architect Herman Cuno. The Neo-Renaissance edifice stylistically refers to the palace architecture of the Italian Renaissance. At the time of its construction, the treasury inside the building boasted extremely modern security devices.



8 The Building of the the Voivodeship Office in Bydgoszcz, 3 Jagiellońska Street

The oldest part of the present complex was erected in the years 1834-1836 to accommodate the offices of Bromberg Region (Polish: rejencja bydgoska, an administrative unit in Prussia established in 1815 by the decision of King Frederick William III). The neoclassical edifice was built according to the plans prepared by the Higher Construction Department in Berlin. The building was designed by Carl Adler. However, it is worth noting that the design was corrected by Karl Friedrich Schinkel (1781-1841), a German architect and urban planner, one of the most prominent representatives of Classicism in the Kingdom of Prussia.



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