

PRZĘD-MIEŚCIE OŁAWSKIE

neighbourhood map

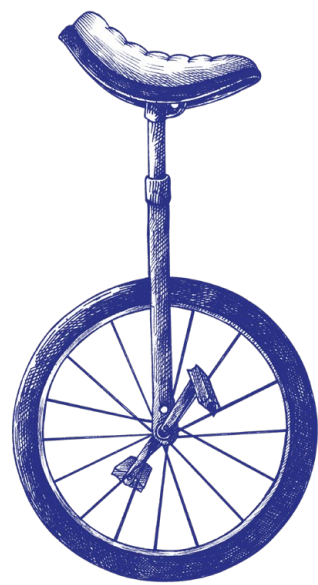
Before World War II, Olawa Suburb was called Ohlauer Vorstadt. Today, the boundaries of the settlement are marked by the urban moat, the Olawa River and, from the south, by the railway tracks leading to the Central Railway Station.

During the communist era it was called the Bermuda Triangle, which was connected not only with the historical urban layout of the estate – the main streets form this geometrical figure – but also with its bad reputation. For a long time it was perceived as a dangerous place where it was better not to go. Today the Triangle is only a common name.

Since 2008 Przedmieście Oławskie has been undergoing a revitalization process – tenement houses are being renovated, many new residential and commercial buildings are being erected.

Among the old buildings, various architectural styles can be found: from Gothic, through Baroque, Neo-Renaissance to Art Nouveau. Some of the yards still contain the remains of former factories due to the industrial character of the area.

Breslau's (nowadays: Wrocław) wealthy people also built their summer residences in the suburb, attracted by the vast green areas that make up today's Park on Niskie Łąki. Today this area remains as attractive as ever. Before the war, mainly, there were restaurants, cafés, a funfair and sports facilities. Today, the park, through which the Olawa river flows, as well as the areas near Rakowiecka street, are the favourite recreation and resting place for the inhabitants of the Triangle.



1

Wrocław was the European Capital of Culture in 2016, and we joined this event with our project. The idea was based on choosing 4 places on the map of Wrocław. My job was to search for these places. The first location that came to mind was the **ruins of a monastery** that dates back to the second half of the 19th century. Unfortunately, now the building has fallen into disrepair, but it used to be a beautiful structure. There was an altar inside made of black marble, a wooden altar, and the whole could accommodate 550 people. Today only the walls still stand. We decided to put the first poem there. In the artistic convention of yellow boards, like construction information boards. So that passers-by would come closer and become interested in this place. The board hangs there still. **Maciej**

2

In 2019, a **flower meadow** was sown on a small patch of land between the blocks of flats. With the neighbours' help, the remains of a withered creeper were removed. Young trees that grew by themselves have been dug up and transported to new places where they can grow peacefully. The square has been divided into zones: a wild and herbal one. Bees from all over the area come there. It is quite a sight. It is worth to see the beautiful plants for yourself, and what a difference a small piece of flower meadow within the city's concreteosis made for the insects. **Ala**

3

From the 60s, **Romani caravans** came to this place. As a child I would run there and sang with them. I was really a great fun. I also remember a terrible shortage of food, while coming there were wagons with vegetables and apples. Sometimes you got a cabbage or apples to take home with you... **female neighbour**

4

The owner of the former **"Relaks" bar** was terrifying. You could pawn your watch for a dinner and pick it up at any time. **male neighbour**

There was also a story when Romańczuk **drove his horse** into the "Relaks" bar. He was afraid of no one. He knew that no one was going to do anything about it. He kept his horses there, near the river. One day he drove one of them into this bar. And there was a door like in American westerns, you know the one. He goes in through that door on horseback. He ordered a beer without dismounting the horse. He drank it and rode out on horseback. **Krzysztof**



Some of the visual materials come from the collections of the National Digital Archives

5

New films could be watched at the "Warszawa" and "Śląsk" **cinemas**, and only then here. Opposite was my dad's hairdressing salon. **male neighbour**

6

After the outbreak of the war, the building was transformed into a **war hospital**. It was a resource base of the front. The Brothers Hospitaliers sheltered the Polish and Jewish minorities. The personnel worked here throughout the war and thus they were safe. We have a lot of photos of soldiers in the garden: listening to music, drinking alcohol, so one may assume that they enjoyed resting here. We have discovered photo reels in the attic. One of them showed the procession from Traugutta Street (then Bruderstrasse) during the Feast of Corpus Christi procession. You can see what the street looked like back then. There are also crypts in the church that can be visited: the brothers rest there and are still being buried there. It was also the site of a shelter for Allied soldiers during the last months of the war. **Kamil**

7

I have heard the story from one of my friends friend. It is about the **thumb of Aleksander Fredro**, which is kept in Przedmieście Oławskie at the **Church of St. Maurice**. The thumb was supposedly given to a certain professor who was doing research in Ukraine – in the church where Aleksander Fredro was buried. The gift had been sitting on his desk for a long time. The professor was looking for a place where the remains of the writer's body could be buried. A priest from the Church of St. Maurice agreed to the burial. The thumb has been here ever since. **Marcin**

8

We had a **family** here **that bossed around the entire neighbourhood** – the Romańczuks. There were six of them. One day they all burst into the **police station** with guns, even the girls. They started shooting. It was in the 70s. They all went to prison for this. They got life sentence. Everything is described in the book titled *Rozbroić miasto* (*Disarm the City*). **Krzysztof**

9

There were large trees next to **Hydropolis**. To this day, I cannot get used to the fact that they are not there. I believe there was a post-German cycle path: pedestrians on one side and cyclists on the other. When there was no footbridge to the zoo, there was a **carrier**. He took people to the other side for a small fee, because there was the entrance to the zoo there. **male neighbour**

10

One of the few wooden entrance floors has been preserved inside the corridor. It is lined with wood so that the horses that used to enter the former **Wine and Vodka Factory** through there would not make that much of a noise. The factory was located here because the Olawa River, where you could clean your horses, was nearby. There were gas lamps in the entrance corridor of the tenement house. The portal is made of genuine sandstone. Above the entrance, you can see the date of building the tenement house and the insignia of the owner of the tenement house, who also was the owner of the two adjacent buildings (the factory owner). The original door handles, stucco works, and plaster and wooden plafonds have still been preserved inside the apartments. In the attic you can see the original wooden logs supporting the roof. From the backyard-facing windows of the staircase there is a beautiful view of the Centennial Hall. Some of the rooms in the apartments have a rare arched ceiling. Joints of plaster, wooden boards and straw have been preserved in the partition walls. In the backyard, there are bricked up secret doors – so it is not known where do they lead to. the residents suspect that it is a former air-raid shelter from the beginning of the 20th century. **Marcin**

In the 80s and 90s Mrs. Mikulska ran her **mangle** in the backyard. She organised games for children and competitions. Music was playing – the backyard life was carrying on. **female neighbour**

It was not only a factory, but also a **wine storage and shop**. My aunt worked here during the war for this owner. He imported wines from abroad, had a storage and sold them. It operated until the very end. Then they started to evacuate people. **Jerzy**

11

The tenement house at **97 Traugutta Street** is very characteristic, and probably everyone knows it because of the **sculptures of horse heads** that decorate it. This decorations are the result of the fact that the owner of the tenement house was a vet. Apart from the fact that he was a doctor of veterinary medicine, he also owned a horse-drawn vehicles rental business. His love for horses was therefore emphasised here. The tenement house is over 120 years old, and on the ceiling of the vehicle passage we put the title of a poem by Ilona Witkowska, which reads: "you will not get a collar, you are only a woman". **Maciej**

12

Every Saturday before Pentecost, boys were wading in the water and collecting **sweet flag**. Then they sold it in small bundles and made whistles out of it. According to the tradition, the smell of the sweet flag should spread all over the house. **Agnieszka**

13

The best **cheese and potato dumplings** and a great service. When we were children the Boss Lady gave us free potato chips for taking out the rubbish. **Seba**

14

These blocks of flats have beautiful **promenades**. I am full of admiration for how it is arranged, because when I was little, there were terrible thickets there. People went swimming there, sure, although certainly not from that side, but rather at the Olawka swimming area. It was behind the bridge, in the direction of Niskie Łąki. Opposite the "PKS Odra" stadium. A lot of people were going there. **male neighbour**

15

Die-hard volleyball players have been playing on the **volleyball court** for 35 years – from spring to autumn. Some are not so young. The net and the ball are kept by Mr. Zbyszek, who lives almost around the corner. **Agnieszka**

16

I live at **Miernicza Street**, known for being used by film-makers. As one of the few streets in Wrocław it has complete pre-war buildings, and in addition – the rich façades of tenement houses make it resemble old Berlin, Amsterdam or other large cities of Western Europe. What is more, these façades were never renovated after the war. Among the film that were shot at my street were: *The Doll* by Ryszard Ber, *A Lonely Woman* by Agnieszka Holland, *Warsaw 44* by Jan Komasa and *Cold War* by Paweł Pawlikowski. Foreign films were also shot here: *A Woman in Berlin* by Max Farberbock, *Avalon* by Mamoru Oshii, or *Bridge of Spies* by Steven Spielberg. For some films, decorations were built: for example – the part of a building next to the corner tenement house no. 15, or the high wall next to the Brothers Hospitaliers' garden. The corner shop at Łukasińskiego Street has a thirty years old wooden casing made for one of the films. During the shooting of *Bridge of Spies*, a part of the Berlin Wall was built under my windows. The windows of the basements and ground floors of tenement houses were covered wooden planks, the already old façade were artificially aged, and satellite dishes were removed from all floors. The producer of the Steven Spielberg film in which Tom Hanks was walking down our street paid the tenants for the inconvenience. The residents were paid PLN 100 for the removal and reinstallation of a dish. I got the same amount for standing in the window one day. **Fragment of Agnieszka Dubaniowska's book "Place on Earth. From Kresy to Przedmieście Oławskie"**.

17

One of our favourite **footbridges**. Going from Przedmieście, looking to the right you can see the Oder valley and a little of the Rakowicki forest, and looking to the left – the buildings of the University of Technology and Stare Miasto in the distance. We took our wedding photos here, near Olawa, on the footbridge, next to the stairs that go down to the river. This is probably not a very popular place for photo shoots. The branches of willows reach the grass itself and go along the river. From Okólna Street to the bridge over Olawa – that is a nice place at any time of the year. You can go further down Okólna Street and there you can enter the forest, where you can also have a pleasant walk. There is a contrast between the big city and this nature. The river here nicely separates the urbanised part from the green one. **Paweł**

18

It all started with the Hedgehog. Iza Rutkowska came with it in 2015. It was crazy – jumping on it, carrying it up the staircases, the children were overjoyed, but the adults also joined them. They „borrowed” electricity to pump it up, because it was several metres long. People would come interested, a lot of talks resulted from this, like what to do with this backyard. Later, Iza collected money for a trip for the children to the Kłodzko Valley and there the Hedgehog popped and that was its end. Iza came back and started collecting ideas from the residents on how to improve something here. As she had funds for the project, we managed to organise some kind of a Christmas meeting with a big Christmas tree, decorations, we even had a barbecue. It was then that the inscription **"All Residents' Memorial Backyard"** was written on the wall. **Bartek**

19

At Na Niskich Łąkach you could see **Romani caravans**. The horses unhitched from the wagons nibbled on the grass, and the Romani people sat on the meadow. Their children ran barefoot between the wagons, the women nursed the babies. In the evening they lit fires, cooked food, played harmonicas and guitars, sang, danced. They lived their lives in their own way, ignoring the onlookers who were attracted by the captivating music and lively dances. Sometimes men would lay out their own-made and excellent pans and pots, calling for purchase. Roma women in colourful long skirts put one on top of another and with cards in their hands, went out to the streets and offered people to tell them their fortune. **Agnieszka**

20

This building has always been here, but for several years now... water has been flowing from its windows. You can read on the board that it is the **"Trafostacja"** art installation and that the artist gave it to the nature. Animals and plants are to live there as they wish. It is very pleasant to touch this wall with water flowing over it and listen to the murmur it makes. Olawa also flows nearby, you can hear the ducks and swans that live here. **Bartek**

Sąsiadujemy^W

Neighbourhood is a programme of animation and cultural activities in Wrocław's housing estates run by the Strefa Kultury Wrocław (Wrocław Cultural Zone). For several years we have encouraged the residents of Kleczków, Brochów, Olbin and Oławskie Przedmieście to get to know each other and build neighbourly relations. Since 2021 we have also included Huby, Różanka and Gajowice in our backyard activities. We continue to walk around the nooks of the housing estates with the city guide, Szymon Maraszewski, who plays the lead role in two seasons of the series "Tales from the housing estates". You can watch all the episodes on the website, Facebook and YouTube of Strefa Kultury Wrocław.

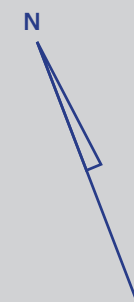
In 2021 we also invited the residents of Oławskie Przedmieście, Olbin, Kleczków, Brochów, Księży, Nadodrże, Świdnickie Przedmieście and Grunwaldzki Square to co-create with us neighbourhood maps of these housing estates. No one knows as many stories about the neighbourhood as our male and female neighbours, so we spent several months collecting various stories about the most interesting, beautiful and peculiar places in the neighbourhood. Thanks to our joint efforts, you can now look at eight Wrocław housing estates through the eyes of their inhabitants – get to know their memories and present-day stories, as well as discover spaces that no longer exist.

Take the map in your hand and follow the trail of your male and female neighbours! Remember that each map is available in three languages: Polish, English and Ukrainian.

We wish you successful neighbourhood journeys!

PRZEDMIEŚCIE OŁAWSKIE

neighbourhood map



100 m

GASTRONOMY

- A** Manufaktura Pizzy i Chleba
Kościuszki 159
- B** Cukiernia on zmywa
Prądzyńskiego 37/1a
- C** KRASNOŁÓD
Komuny Paryskiej 10
- D** Alternatywy 4
Komuny Paryskiej 5
- E** Folgujemy
Kniaziewicz 16
- F** Bar Pierozek
Kościuszki 86
- G** Pierogarnia Babuni
Komuny Paryskiej 96

- H** PIZZASSO Pizzeria
Traugutta 96
- I** Równowaga – sklep ze zdrową żywnością
Świstackiego 3
- J** Yummy Place
Komuny Paryskiej 45
- K** Ryż i Nori
Prądzyńskiego 24a/1a
- L** Warzywniak
Kościuszki 76B
- M** WOLNA – piekarnia bezglutenowa
Kościuszki 105
- N** Chiński Wiatr
Traugutta 104
- O** Bar DeTeS
Kniaziewicz 9

MEETING PLACES

- 7** plac przed Impartem
Mazowiecka 17
- 8** Pracownia Komuny Paryskiej 45
Komuny Paryskiej 45
- 9** Hydropolis
Na Grobli 17
- 10** Tor wrotkarski
Żabia Ścieżka
- Przed Pokój H-13**
Hercena 13
- 2** Centrum Integracji Mieszkańców
Nowe Łąki
Traugutta 81 (oficyna)
- 3** Centrum Na Przedmieściu
Prądzyńskiego 39A
- 4** Trójkąt na Trójkacie
Kościuszki 162
- 5** Muzeum Etnograficzne
– Oddział Muzeum Narodowego
Traugutta 111/113
- 6** Odra Centrum
wybrzeże Słowackiego 5B

Green areas