



# PLAC GRUNWALDZKI

## neighbourhood map

Once the site of several villages, today it is the very centre of the city. Grunwaldzki Square is a combination of unique architecture, many academic centres and office buildings.

Formerly, it was dominated by tenement houses, but a lot has changed due to the decision of the military authorities of Festung Breslau to build a temporary military airport on the axis of Grunwaldzki Bridge – Szczytnicki Bridge. As a result, many buildings were demolished.

After the war, for several years the housing estate was associated mainly with the largest market in the city, the so-called szaberplatz. At the beginning of the 1950s, the area began to be redeveloped. Over the years, university premises, student residences – the famous “Dwudziestolatka”, “Parawaniec”, “Kredka” and “Ołówek” – as well as residential buildings were built.

One of the most recognisable buildings on Grunwaldzki Square are the “Sedesowce” (Toilet blocks) designed in 1967 by Jadwiga Grabowska-Hawrylak. This establishment consists of six sixteen-storey blocks of flats of unique construction. The estate also houses faculties and institutes of the University of Life Sciences, Medical University, Wrocław University of Technology.

The inhabitants of the Square enjoy walking along the Odra's embankments and watching ships or canoes sailing on the river. Another characteristic place is the Reagan Roundabout, which is one of the most important transfer centres in the entire city. The blue Grunwaldzki Bridge, from behind which its white “Sedesowce” emerge, is one of Wrocław's most famous landscapes.

## Sąsiadujemy<sup>W</sup>

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!



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

1

Now a hairdressing salon, previously a library, and in the 60s and 70s there was a **pub called „Jawor”**. I went there with my husband for dinners. He was waiting for me across the street in the doorway. When I came home from work, he called me. Then we went together to eat something. I have beautiful memories from there. It is a pity that this place is not there anymore. **Female neighbour**



2

During the flood, my husband and I carried sandbags by the bridges to save the city. Mainly at the **Peace Bridge**, but people carried them everywhere. Plac Grunwaldzki was then almost flush with the water. **Female neighbour**

3

A so-called **open-air marketplace** was here. You could buy a variety of goods from almost every industry: food, art, small household appliances. In the 90s, people from Russia came here with huge spacious bags to trade, among the thing they sold were pictures, alcohol. Nearby you could buy eggs from a farmer or potatoes. I loved to wander between the stands and, above all, to browse through all these treasures. To this day, I have at home the things I bought at that marketplace. **Dorota**



4

**The Goliath circus tent** with stalls. It was a clothing and utility tent, and you could buy all kinds of products there. The marketplace was created in its stead. In fact, people traded there much earlier already. **Male neighbour**

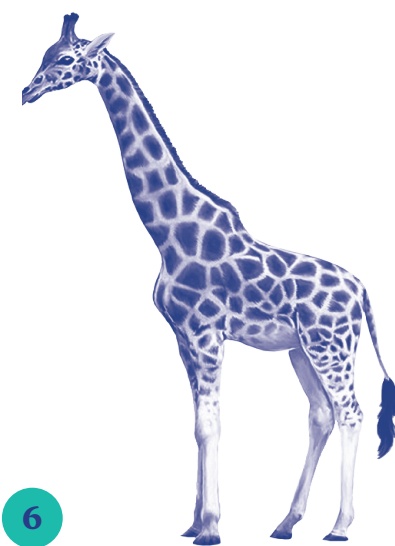
We played among the rubble. We were looking for various things. We went into cellars, where we found canning jars, for example. It was a single empty square. Later, the marketplace appeared. It expanded slowly. Horses and cows were being sold here. The marketplace stretched from the school almost to Grunwaldzka Street. It existed until the mid-60s. You could buy everything there: ducks, chickens, butter, eggs, vegetables, fruit, but also junk and rubbish. **Maciej**

Nearby I bought my first Depeche Mode cassette titled Violator. At the marketplace or directly from the caravan standing right next to it. I actually worked at a newspaper shop there for a while – just for a few days. **Piotr**



5

In the tenement houses on both sides of **Norwida Street** lived the families of professors. While fleeing, they allegedly left their possessions and buried their treasures, hoping that they would return. My grandma and mum said that when someone would come, look at and show to themselves these tenement houses, they always wondered whether they were the owners. At the doorway number 11, a certain gentleman bought the apartment formerly belonging to his family, ordered it to be renovated and left. He left it under my care; if anything would happen, the workers were to come to me. A painter once came, saying that he had made a discovery by scraping a piece of plaster in the apartment being renovated. He told me to go and see what he found. In the ceiling, there was a photo of a German soldier in uniform plastered over. This is what the Germans did back then. Figuring that when they soon come back, they will be able to prove that this is their apartment. **Ela**



6

The neck of land saved from flooding during the flood in 1997. When the then directors of the **zoo** noticed that the water level was rising higher and higher and that the neck of land is being slowly torn away, they begged the residents to come and help save it. This neck of land kept back the water; if it were to break, the water would get under the walls of the zoo and flood it completely. When I heard that, I went to help. I was most touched by the sight of children holding bags – adults poured sand into them and carried them to the proper place. It was around two in the morning. The residents saved this neck of land and the entire zoo. **Ela**



7

In the 90s it was the most popular **spot** among **skaters**. If you were a skater from the neighbourhood, you had to be there. This whole complex was new back then. **Piotr**

8

I met my husband in the „Wawrzyny Plus” community at Bujwida Street! We got married in the **church of St. Lawrence**. We joke that we met at the cemetery. More specifically, during a barbecue on a terrace overlooking the cemetery. **Karola**

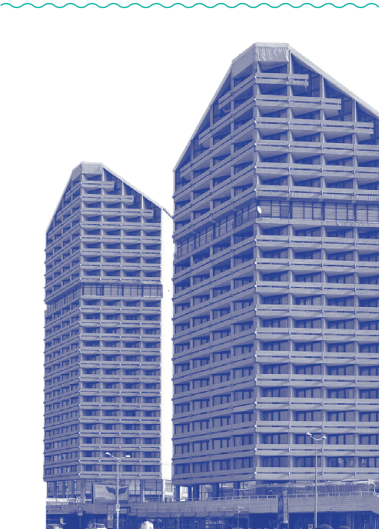


9

When I was little, my grandma lived in a block of flats overlooking this backyard. It was there that I picked conkers and trampled mirabelle plums. I was watching multicoloured flowers in the **garden** by the windows, which was established by Ms. Helenka – a neighbour from above. And it was there that a fireman waved at me from a beautiful red fire engine. The years have passed, my grandma is long dead, Ms. Helenka who established the garden is also gone. Now I live there. I take care of the rose bushes in the garden under the block. I watch the mirabelle plum tree from my window and still pick conkers in autumn. **Emilia**

10

For me, Plac Grunwaldzki is associated primarily with **Academic Radio Luz**, of which I am a member. The history of Radio Luz is, of course, inextricably linked with what is happening in the Wrocław music, and above all, at least from my perspective, on the Wrocław underground scene. Over the last few years – I think that the biggest star of the Wrocław underground scene, whose work is somewhere at the intersection of punk rock and hip-hop, is the performer hiding behind the pseudonym of Zdechły Osa. And Zdechły Osa is also in a way connected to Grunwald because the video for his hit titled Zakochałem się w Twojej matce was filmed at Plac Grunwaldzki. Specifically in the back room of Biedronka – next to Sedesowce. It is also worth noting that this song became the single of the year of Academic Radio Luz, in 2019 I think. **Sebastian**



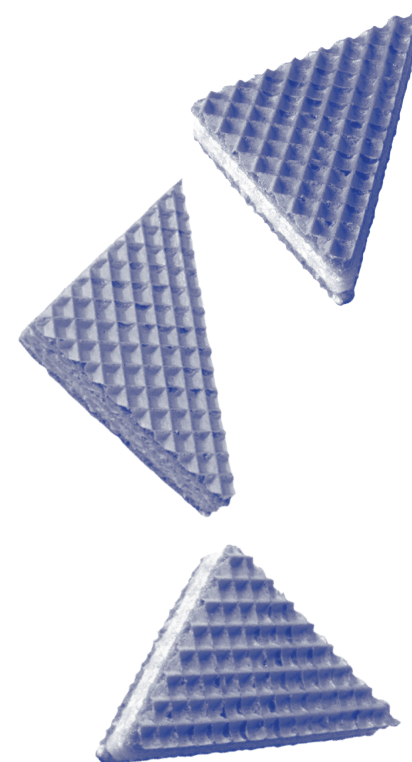
11

I was here two minutes after this **building collapsed**. I think it was already built up to the third floor. The building collapsed under the influence of the wind, like a house of cards. It was in 1966. People gathered – a huge crash. I saw how those reinforced concrete elements were still dangling. It was forbidden to talk about it then – the communist period. There was very little coverage in the press. I was shocked by the event. Some of the workers had already left the construction site, because it was a quarter to two, some had already left, but a few people died inside. **Ryszard**



12

The **airport** was created in order to allow for the escape of officers and high officials at the end of the war. However, only a single civilian plane took off of the square, with the governor Karl Hanke on board. I remember from my childhood that the number of ammunition rounds gathered on this square allowed for dangerous games. We collected them, made a fire, threw them into the fire, hiding behind trees and waiting for them to explode. **Ryszard**



13

The **bakery and confectionery** at Marii Skłodowskiej-Curie street, which feeds the next generation of the students of the Wrocław University of Technology. The thought of a bun with fruits kept me through the second halves of boring lectures. **Mateusz**

14

In the 50s, there was a **concrete wheel** here, and in the centre – a wooden parquetry on a raised platform. Meetings and various events took place there. I used to go there to ride my bicycle. There were also dances, orchestras played – a meeting place. **Maciej**

15

The legendary **sheet-metal toy store** of Kazimierz Wojnowski. This man is a legend. Initially, he bought a wooden shack from the original owner for two Polonez cars. He has organised charity fundraisers many times. **Maciej**

16

Legendary **cream rolls**. One or two zlotys apiece. They were sold from a sheet-metal booth. **Maciej**



17

It used to be a **municipal bathhouse**. Mom took us there to bathe. There was warm water, showers. We did not have that much water at home. The building was designed by Max Berg. **Maciej**



18

One day, it was before the renovation of the façades, after returning home in the evening, I noticed that on the balcony in the kitchen literally **dozens of bats** were swarming. It turned out that they had either been flushed out, or someone had bricked up some exit upstairs. They found an outlet into my balcony. There were probably over 100 of them, maybe 150. They stayed on my balcony for several days because they could not get out. Of course, I called the University of Environmental and Life Sciences for help. They were picked up by a team of chiropterologists and taken outside Wrocław. **Krzysztof**



# PLAC GRUNWALDZKI

neighbourhood map

## GASTRONOMY

- A **Przełam Lody Cafe**  
Curie-Skłodowskiej 91
- B **Kawalerka**  
Polaka 12
- C **Forma Płynna Beach Bar**  
wybrzeże Wyspiańskiego 20
- D **El Gordito**  
Curie-Skłodowskiej 39/U1A
- E **Remont Bar**  
plac Grunwaldzki 18-20
- F **WOO THAI Street Food**  
Grunwaldzka 67A
- G **Thali Kuchnia Indyjska**  
Curie-Skłodowskiej 5
- H **Pub Studencki Przekręt**  
Curie-Skłodowskiej 1
- I **w kontakcie**  
Polaka 12/1B
- J **Shrimp House**  
Wrocławczyka 37
- K **Gluten Appetit**  
Szczytnicka 54/1b
- L **8m2 grunwald**  
Curie-Skłodowskiej 47/1b
- M **Pasibus**  
Łukasiewicza 18
- N **Restauracja Bella Storia**  
plac Grunwaldzki 53
- O **Chingu – Korean street food**  
Bujwida 25

## MEETING PLACES

- 1 **Plac Grunwaldzki OD NOWA**  
Curie-Skłodowskiej 63A
- 2 **Strefa Kultury Studenckiej**  
Hoene-Wrońskiego 10
- 3 **Miejska Biblioteka Publiczna**  
Filia nr 29  
Reja 1
- 4 **Rada Osiedla**  
Sępa-Szarzyńskiego 51
- 5 **Zakwas Studio**  
Szczytnicka 40/1B
- 6 **Kwiaty Kawy – coffee & flowers**  
Szczytnicka 44
- 7 **Kawiarnia Coffilm**  
Grunwaldzka 38/2
- 8 **Fabryka Sensu**  
Polaka 21, lok 4

 Green areas

