

STREETS

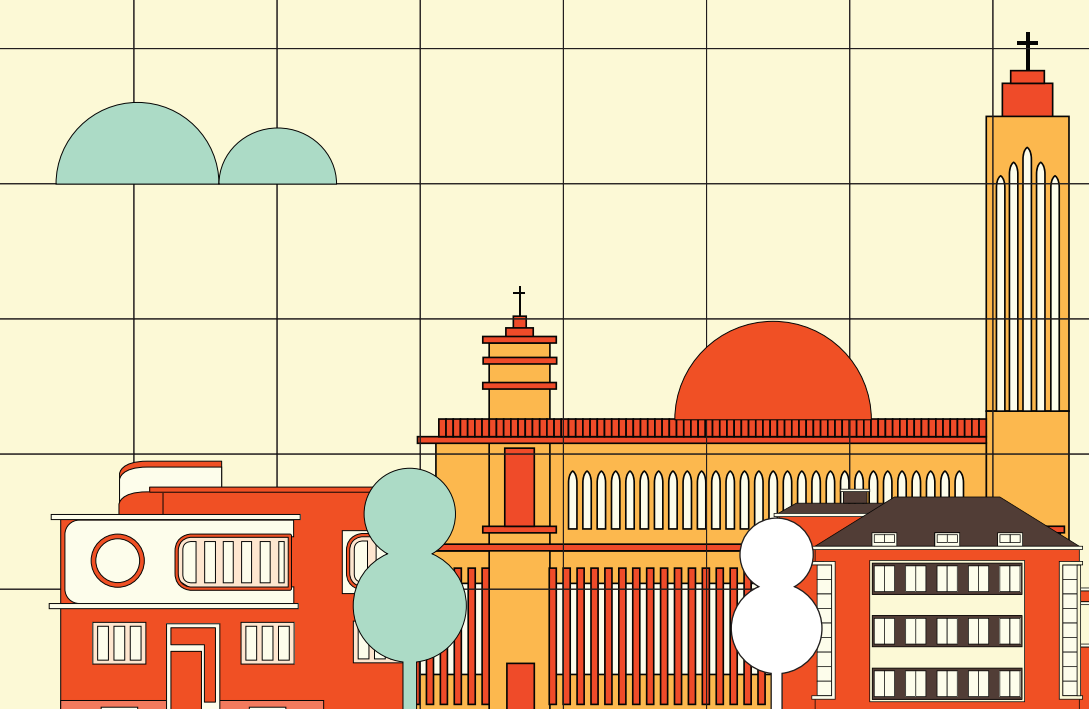
It is impossible to accommodate all the riches of Kaunas city into such a modest map. From 1919 till 1940 alone, 12 000 new buildings we built here! Therefore, we recommend taking a walk on the streets of V. Dutvinskio (the representatives of foreign governments were located on it in the interwar period), K. Donelaičio, Kėstučio, Maironio and Mickevičiaus. Then, walk around the block of Trakų and K. Būgos streets located near Ramybės Park; climb the stairs up to the Radio district, wander around Vaižganto and E. Fryko streets, Perkūnas Avenue; walk to the Kaunas County Public Library and get lost in the residential architecture of Lelijų, Radastų and Tulpių street – wooden as well!

Yes, you will notice that some buildings marked with the European Heritage Label are empty and in bad condition. You may not be able to get in some of them, while others will delight you with their freshly painted facades. Kaunas is diverse! It is essential to get to know all of its faces to walk further, right?

Happy wandering!



MODERNIST'S GUIDE



MORE

Books, directories, web pages, tours, shows and smartphone apps – it seems that every month the heritage of Kaunas Modernist architecture is rediscovered by some new contemporary initiative. The more of them, the better for both townspeople and the visitors of Kaunas, right? These are our favourites:

- MODERNIZMASATEICIAI.LT
- ARCHITECTURE AND URBANISM RESEARCH CENTRE, AUTC.LT
- ARCHIMEDE.LT
- KAUNAS – UNESCO CITY OF DESIGN
- EUROPEAN HERITAGE LABEL
- "KAUNAS MODERNISM" "EKSKURSAI"
- TARPUKARIOARCHITEKTURA.LT
- OPTIMIZMO ARCHITEKTŪRA (OPTIMISM ARCHITECTURE)
- KAUNAS 1918–2015. ARCHITECTURAL GUIDE
- STOP JUOSTA (THE BARRICADE TAPE)

Digital versions of this one and other routes are available at kaunastika.lt

TOURISM INFORMATION

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#kaunastic #visitkaunas

HELLO!

Welcome to Kaunas – UNESCO City of Design! The city earned this title during the period of the First Republic; contemporary Kaunas would not exist without the time when the city served as the temporary capital and "stood in" for Vilnius from 1919 till 1940. Overnight, Kaunas had to transform itself from a little town of Russian Governorate to the capital that meets the European standard. The city needed to speed things up, it needed to invest, to be united and most importantly to believe! For various reasons, different professionals born, living, working or studying abroad, started coming to Kaunas and collaborating with residents, businesspeople and politicians. Offices, hospitals, schools, residential and industrial buildings as well as other signs and centres of a modern (and modernist) city didn't arise overnight, but... almost.

Kaunas is increasingly focusing on its history, which usually hides in plain sight. The Modernist's Guide will make your acquaintance easier and direct you to further contacts. Yes, you will notice that some buildings marked with the European Heritage Label are empty and/or in bad condition. You may not be able to enter some of them, while others will delight you with their freshly painted facades. Kaunas is diverse and there is a story behind every building. It is essential to get to know all of its facets to see the whole picture, right? Happy wandering!

ARCHITECTS

When Kaunas became the temporary capital, it needed to be... built. Lithuanians who were studying abroad and purposefully invited foreign nationals flocked to Kaunas and got to work. The knowledge gained in Italian, German, French and Russian schools was soon turned into hundreds, and thousands of new buildings and the dominant architectural trends in other countries merged into Kaunas modernism. We are unable to mention all the architects who built Kaunas, but we urge you to continue the study independently!

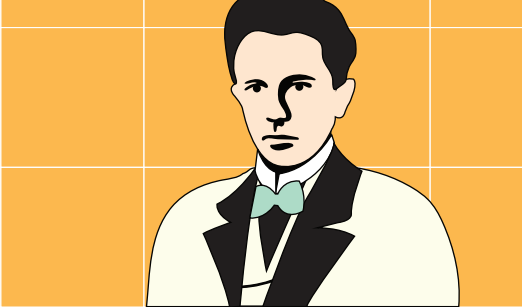
FELIKSAS VIZBARAS
1880–1966

In addition to many modernist masterpieces in Kaunas, the biography of this architect who studied in Riga and worked in Ukraine until 1918 is complemented by objects like Antanas Smetona manor. F. Vizbaras also led the construction of Kaunas and Šventoji ports. In 1940, this member of The Lithuanian Catholic Federation Atėitis moved to Germany.



VLADIMIRAS DUBENECKIS
1888–1932

One of the pioneers of modern Lithuanian architecture was also an advocate of ethnic style. V. Dubeneckis was born in the family of a Lithuanian deportee in Russia. He studied architecture at the Petersburg Academy of Fine Arts, and in 1919, moved to Lithuania. The architect, in addition to creating scenography for theatre plays, was also one of the founders of the Lithuanian Artists' Association and the Lithuanian Union of Engineers and Architects. When V. Dubeneckis passed away, the whole city participated in his funeral – the procession had stretched along the Vytautas Avenue.



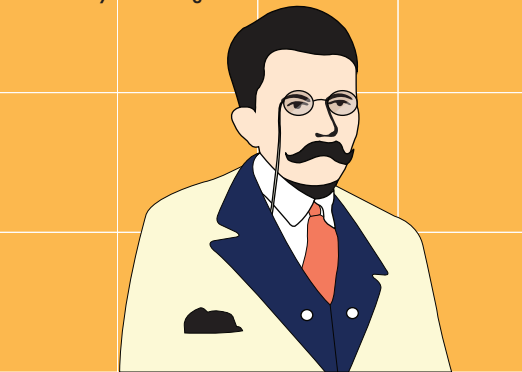
KAROLIS REISONAS
1894–1981

This Latvian who graduated from the Faculty of Architecture of the St. Petersburg Civil Institute was only given Lithuanian citizenship in 1932 despite having already worked as the engineer of Kaunas city and the head of the Construction division. Incidentally, while designing the Resurrection Church Karolis Reisonas converted to Catholicism.



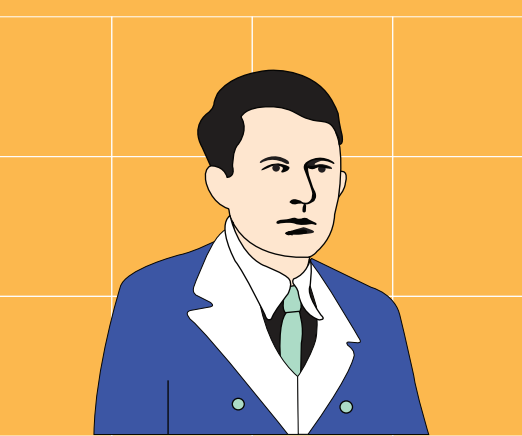
EDMUNDAS ALFONSAS FRYKAS
1876–1944

Born in the family of an architect, Edmundas Alfonsas studied at the St. Petersburg Institute of Civil Engineering and began his career in Georgia. In addition to many buildings in Kaunas, the architect also designed several railway stations in Lithuania, and a few churches. You can find E. Frykas street in Žaliakalnis; only it is disputed which Frykas is being honoured here.



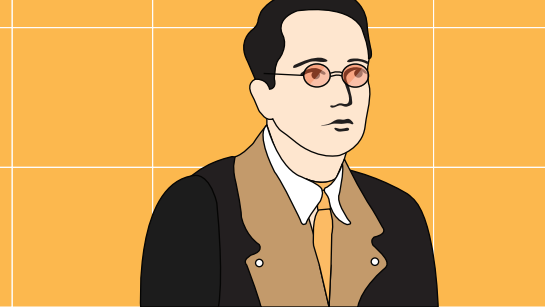
ARNAS FUNKAS
1898–1957

The advocate of progressive functionalism was born in Smolensk, but at 20 years old he had settled in Kaunas. In addition to devoting much attention to building constructions, he was also interested in interior design. After the war, he taught at the Baltic University in Germany.



VYTAUTAS LANDSBERGIS-ŽEMKALNIS
1893–1993

The member of one of the most famous dynasties in Lithuania, who lived to be a hundred years old, can be characterised not only by his rich heritage but also by a colourful biography. The architect came to Lithuania from Russia in 1904. He had studied in Riga, Kaunas and Rome and had the chance to serve as a volunteer in Lithuanian freedom struggles and as a minister of the provisional government. Later, he moved to Germany, then to Australia and in 1959 returned to Lithuania, where he worked for several decades as an architect.



PUBLIC BUILDINGS



1 THE CENTRAL BUILDING OF FORMER LITHUANIAN POST OFFICE

Feliksas Vizbaras, 1931
Laisvės al. 102

The centrally located building is distinctive due to its organic blend of national style and modernism. Postal services are no longer provided here, but in 2022, the spaces designed by F. Vizbaras served many of the ideas of the European Capital of Culture and even became a creative home for war refugees from Ukraine. The future plans for Kaunas Central Post Office include its transformation into an open and modern National Institute of Architecture and a museum.

2 PAŽANGA COMPANY

Feliksas Vizbaras, 1934
Laisvės al. 53

Newspaper offices, a shop and a restaurant with a rooftop terrace – this building designed by Feliksas Vizbaras was always busy during the interwar period. In the years of Soviet occupation, the interior logic was destroyed. Afterwards, the building was hosting a university, and now the empty spaces are waiting for the future advancement.

3 DAIRY CENTRE

Vytautas Landsbergis-Žemkalnis, 1932
Laisvės al. 55

The inventive simplicity and multifunctionality that were squeezed in this narrow corner lot seem to have gone ahead of their time. After the university students moved out, the Dairy Centre comes to life only during special occasions, for example, during the Design Week.

4 KAUNAS DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS (FORMER KAUNAS DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY)

Vytautas Landsbergis-Žemkalnis, 1933
Laisvės al. 14 / Vytauto pr. 91

One might say that lucky are those who never had to visit any part of this building. In the interwar period and today, the architectural rigour and solidity continue to be in touch with the building's purpose. The best way to view it is from the other side of the Vytautas Avenue.

5 THE FACULTY OF CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY (FORMER RESEARCH LABORATORY)

Vytautas Landsbergis-Žemkalnis, 1935
Radvilų pl. 14

We wonder if the students running around the faculty every day know that they have an exceptional opportunity to interact with history? The only reason why the first-rate equipment, build under a special order, wasn't ripped out and taken away by the occupants is that during the construction of the laboratory it was deliberately installed into the shell of the building.

6 KAUNAS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY (FORMER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND CRAFTS)

Vytautas Landsbergis-Žemkalnis, 1938
K. Donelaičio g. 8

One of the symbols of K. Donelaičio street – an important street in the city centre – is the building the value and magnitude of which managed to remain intact because after the war a library was established there and its employees were very conscious of their environment. Incidentally, this building was supposed to be built near the War Museum!

7 ROMANAS DOLOVINSKAS APARTMENT BUILDING

Arnas Funkas, 1932
K. Donelaičio g. 22

The vibrant colour is what distinguishes the building's facade twisted in a typical "Kaunas" way. Perhaps it would be appropriate to put this Žaliakalnis' neighbour on the list of residential buildings, but today it contains more office spaces than residents.

8 THE CENTRAL BUILDING OF THE LITHUANIAN SPORTS UNIVERSITY (FORMER PALACE OF PHYSICAL CULTURE)

Vytautas Landsbergis-Žemkalnis, 1934
Sporto g. 6

The palace ("supplemented" with annexes during Soviet occupation) was supposed to be more grandiose, but the economic crisis ruined the architect's plans. Today, however, this building and other nearby structures dedicated to sports form an athletically graceful whole.

9 SPORTS HALL

Anatolijus Rozenbliumas, 1939
Perkūno al. 5

In 1937, after Lithuanians won the European Championship, the basketball soon became so popular that it was decided that the championship of 1939 will be held in Kaunas. But where? All the architects said no to this challenging project – it was supposed to be the first basketball arena on the continent – that had to be implemented in a short time. But the most famous engineer of the time, Anatolijus Rozenbliumas said yes. All Kaunas Žalgiris fans are still grateful to him.

10 THE CENTRAL BUILDING OF THE LITHUANIAN UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES (FORMER VYU FACULTY OF MEDICINE)

Vladimiras Dubeneckis, 1933
A. Mickėvičiaus g. 9

The building designed according to the model of the University of Brussels can also be viewed from Spautuvinių street – from there, it looks much more modern. An interesting fact: during the Soviet occupation, the remains of pilots Steponas Darius and Stasys Girėnas were secretly held in the building's basement. And before that, the first crematorium in Lithuania was set up there.

11 KARININKŲ RAMOVĖ OFFICERS' CLUB

Stasys Kudokas, Kazys Kriščiukaitis, Jonas Kova-Kovalskis, 1937
A. Mickėvičiaus g. 19

The exterior of the representative building takes your breath away with its subtle and still relevant ethnic features. The interior is full of ethnic symbols too, and, therefore, one needs an hour to slowly walk around and see the premises fitting for the high-level officials.

12 VYTAUTAS THE GREAT WAR MUSEUM AND M. K. ČIURLIONIS NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ART

Vladimiras Dubeneckis, Karolis Reisonas, Kazys Kriščiukaitis, 1936
K. Donelaičio g. 65 / V. Duvinskio g. 55

Not all Kaunas visitors know that the two largest museums of the city are located in one building! The building which like a crown descended in the temporary capital (Čiurlionis Museum's facade really resembles a crown!) is really too big for visitors to examine the architecture and exhibitions in one day. Also, let's not forget the War Museum garden – the heart of statehood inspired by French and Italian examples.

13 KAUNAS CITY MUNICIPALITY (FORMER STATE SAVINGS BANK)

Arnas Funkas, Adolfas Lukošaitis, Bronius Elzbergas, 1940
Laisvės al. 96

Before the building was set up, Lithuania was occupied, and later, the function of the building had changed, but it doesn't mean there's nothing to see! Revolving door, ethnic interior elements and the unique glass ceiling in the Grand Hall will surely catch your eye.

14 ALEKSOTAS FUNICULAR

1935
Amerikos lietuvių g. 6

It's a miracle that two funiculars – the symbols of the increasingly modern city in the interwar period – not only remained intact but are still used to this day. Aleksotas panorama looks even more beautiful if you get up there with this vehicle!

15 ŽALIAKALNIS FUNICULAR

1931
Aušros g. 6

The elder brother of Aleksotas funicular gets you up to Žaliakalnis in 1 minute and 38 seconds. You can take your bike with you for free!

16 THE CENTRAL BUILDING OF KAUNAS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY (FORMER AGRICULTURE BANK)

Karolis Reisonas, 1935
K. Donelaičio g. 73

You can guess that the farmers' fates were once decided in this building by looking at the ceiling and the bas-reliefs created by Bernardas Bučas, the husband of Lithuanian poet Salamėja Nėris. By the way, initially, the bank was intended to be built in the shadow of the War Museum.

17 RESURRECTION CHURCH

Karolis Reisonas, 1933–2004
Žemaičių g. 31A

It seems that the prolonged construction of this symbol of independent and strong Lithuania gives sense to its purpose. The construction process was interrupted by the Soviet occupation (almost half a century the church operated as a radio engineering factory). The strength of the church consists of many people's efforts and small details. The impressive fact is that the Latvian-born architect Karolis Reisonas had converted to Catholicism for this project.

18 EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH

Karolis Reisonas, 1937
E. Ožėskienės g. 41

Climbing up the Savanorių mountain, when the trees are still bare, you can notice how similar these creations of the same architect are, both, by the way, were unfinished before the occupation. This church containing a canteen and a sports hall doesn't get the same attention as the Resurrection Church, but it is promised that the building will be returned to the parish's hands. And then what?

19 CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Algirdas Šalkauskis, Adolfas Netyksa, Pranas Markūnas, 1935–1938
A. Juozapavičiaus pr. 60

The roof of the building is one of the first examples of thin-walled reinforced concrete shell construction in our country. The modernist church is decorated with the fresco Angels created by the famous Lithuanian monumentalist and scenographer Liudas Trukys. The rear windows have stained glass, created by Stasys Ušinskas after the war.

20 JONAS JABLONSKIS GYMNASIUM (FORMER JONAS JABLONSKIS PRIMARY SCHOOL)

Antanas Jokimas, 1932
Aušros g. 3

It is the first school in Lithuania designed using the advanced functional principle. In the process of strategising Žaliakalnis' future, the school was allocated a lot next to the Resurrection Church. Therefore, it's not surprising that the school soon became and long remained a prestigious one.

21 AUŠRA CINEMA

Unknown author, 1939
Aušros g. 18

The movie theatre that was able to accommodate 800 viewers was the largest of sixteen (!) in Kaunas. It attracted people not only because of its repertoire but also because of an automatic air purifier and uniformed staff. Today it operates as a squash club.

22 KAUNAS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY PROGYMNASIUM (FORMER ŠANČIAI GYMNASIUM)

Stasys Kudokas, 1938
Skudoo g. 27

The construction and setting up of this expressive building during the interwar period cost as much as 1 000 000 Litas. This school was graduated by writer Jurgis Gimberis, actress Monika Mironaitė and many other famous Šančiai residents.

23 ROMUVA CINEMA

Nikolajus Mačiulskis, 1940
Laisvės al. 54

The city must have at least one historical cinema, right? The activists of Romuva – the tiny art deco castle, which inspired the love of film in many Kaunas residents – had to reclaim the movie theatre from the intricate speculative networks.

24 PASAKA CINEMA

Juozas Segalaukas, Jokūbas Rabinavičius, A. Paškevičius, 1940
Savanorių pr. 124

One of the last cinemas built in the First Republic was neither the most functional nor the most modern. All that was redeemed by the building's art deco facade that delights the passersby to this day. In fact, today it accommodates an entertainment centre.

25 DAINA CINEMA

Stasys Kudokas, Antanas Breimeris, 1936
Savanorių pr. 76

The cinema was once one of the most modern in the city at the time - and the first one not on Laisvės Avenue. It even glowed with neon! After decades of silence, the building, acquired by private investors who love Kaunas, is buzzing with activity again - it is being carefully reconstructed and is preparing to become a multifunctional art and culture centre offering a programme relevant to audiences much broader than residents of Žaliakalnis.

26 KAUNAS GYMNASIUM OF ART (FORMER JADVYGA AND JUOZAS TŪBELIS VILLA)

Feliksas Vizbaras, 1932
Dainavos g. 1

Not every building in Žaliakalnis has its "own" stairs to the city centre! The aura generated by many important guests of the Prime Minister and his wife was destroyed by the Russian occupation in the blink of an eye. However, it reincarnated pretty fast – right after the war, the first secondary art school in the country was established and it nurtured many generations of talented Kaunas residents.

27 KAUNAS ARTISTS' HOUSE (FORMER APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE)

Vytautas Landsbergis-Žemkalnis, 1931
V. Duvinskio g. 56

Although when talking about this cultural centre of the city we often hear references to the Vatican, it should be noted that the emissaries of the Holy See have never actually settled there, but the building – the only one in Kaunas – was designed specifically for the embassy. Later it had to be adapted to the children's hospital, and almost half a century ago, artists settled there – and for a long time!

28 KAUNAS STATE PHILHARMONIC HALL (FORMER MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND THE PARLIAMENT)

Edmundas Alfonsas Frykas, 1929
L. Sapiegos g. 5

Neoclassicism, art deco and ethnic motifs – the architects managed to fit into the "inconvenient" lot many functions and creative solutions that were successfully transformed after a few decades. When listening to a classical music concert, it's hard to believe that you're sitting in the same place where laws were once adopted.

29 FIRE STATION

Edmundas Alfonsas Frykas, Pranas Markūnas, 1932
I. Kanto g. 1

Who could think today that during the interwar period the Fire station was also a business and service centre with a functional V. Kudirka Public Library? The building connecting I. Kanto and Nemuno streets is undoubtedly the most memorable of its kind in Lithuania.

30 BANK OF LITHUANIA

Mykolas Songaila, 1929
Maironio g. 25

Monumental forms and the luxurious interior testifies to the bright ambitions of the First Republic. Today it is necessary to plan a visit to the bank well in advance (the tours are rare), but it's one of the greatest pleasures in discovering the secrets of the interwar period in Kaunas!

31 SUGIHARA HOUSE (FORMER JUOZAS TONKŪNAS VILLA – JAPANESE CONSULATE)

Juozas Mišvydas, 1939
Vaizganto g. 30

The charming villa on the slope, typical to Žaliakalnis, is extremely important from a historical point of view. It served as a residence for the Japanese Consul Chiune Sugihara who rescued thousands of Jews from the Holocaust.

32 KAUNAS SPORTS MEDICINE CENTRE (FORMER HOUSE OF THE JEWISH OZE SOCIETY)

Krežmeris, Šragenheimas, Grigorijus Mazelis, 1926
D. Poškos g. 1

The unexpected example of modernism and art deco on a narrow street is a project adapted to Kaunas but created elsewhere. Unfortunately, it was heavily modified during the restoration in 1979.

33 KAUNAS CLINICS OF THE LITHUANIAN UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES (FORMER VYTAUTAS MAGNUS UNIVERSITY CLINICS)

Urbanas Cassanas, Elie Ouchanoffas, Feliksas Bieliniskis, 1939
Eivenių g. 2

It can be said that the most ambitious construction project in the First Republic continues to this day – part of the Clinics is being rearranged, new blocks are being built. By the way, did you know that when the war started the facade of the Clinics was camouflaged?

34 PRANAS MAŽYLIS MATERNITY HOSPITAL (FORMER PRANAS MAŽYLIS HOSPITAL)

Romanas Steikūnas, 1936
V. Duvinskio g. 3

One of the wealthiest doctors in Lithuania invested his assets for the benefit of the future – for more than 80 years now, new Kaunas residents come into the world in this hospital.

35 KAUNAS CENTRAL OUTPATIENT CLINIC (FORMER PATIENT FUND)

Antanas Novickis, Vytautas Landsbergis-Žemkalnis, 1935
A. Mickėvičiaus g. 4

What is considered moderate and stylish today, during the interwar period was modern and progressive. This is one of the first specialised medical buildings in Lithuania that inspired other cities to follow its lead.

36 TARTAR MOSQUE

Vaclovas Michnėvičius, Adolfas Netyksa, 1933
Totorių g. 6

The only brick mosque in the Baltics rose as a monument to Vytautas the Great who invited and settled the Tartars in Lithuania.

37 INTERMEDIX BUILDING (FORMER ŠVIESA PRINTING PRESS AND AUTOMATED TELEPHONE EXCHANGE)

Feliksas Vizbaras, 1935
E. Ožėskienės g. 10

Those who are well-acquainted with the German capital will notice features similar to Berlin electric motor factory. The building that was finished in less than a year looks calm and monotonous only from the outside!

38 JEWISH BANK (INTEGRATED INTO ZOOLOGICAL MUSEUM)

Grigorijus Mazelis, Mikas Grodzenskis, 1925
Laisvės al. 106

During the interwar period, the complex rich in art deco elements beckoned with its busy arcade, movie theatre and a library. Get to the reptilian section of the museum, and you will find some remaining constructions of the bank. The rear facade can be seen from E. Ožėskienės street.

39 KAUNAS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY CULTURAL CENTRE (FORMER ATETININKAI HOUSE)

Feliksas Vizbaras, Algirdas Šalkauskis, 1929, 1933
Laisvės al. 13

The sign marking the quickly developing temporary capital is the fact that the modernist palace – only several years old back then – was already being renovated and modernised. By the way, the building was designed to have four storeys, but after the facade's simplification, it has become a five-storey building. And that is a hallmark of insightful cost-effective economics!

40 MD JONAS BASANAČIŪS MILITARY MEDICAL SERVICE (FORMER ENT HOSPITAL)

Vytautas Landsbergis-Žemkalnis, 1930
Vytauto pr. 49

The nation's patriarch was treated at the first university clinic in the country, and after his death, the hospital was given the present name.

41 KAUNAS DISTRICT PATIENT FUND (FORMER ST VINCENT DE PAUL RETIREMENT HOME)

Karolis Reisonas, 1939
Aukštaičių g. 10

Priest Simonas Markūnas gathered many people for this noble cause. Among them – architect K. Reisonas who also provided his services for free. Unfortunately, the elderly didn't enjoy this charming and genuinely modern building for long – after the occupation the hospital for tuberculosis as established there.

42 HOUSE OF THE NATION CULTURAL CENTRE (FORMER CHAMBER OF LABOR)

Adolfas Lukošaitis, Antanas Novickis, 1940
Vytauto pr. 79

From a canteen to the reading room, a theatre and a hotel – no such range of services were available for workers elsewhere in Lithuania. However, it didn't last long because the Gestapo expropriated the building. During the Soviet era, this moderately-looking building served as Chamber of Labor, and now its functions are slowly adapted to the needs of the 21st century.

43 THE NATIONAL LAND SERVICE (FORMER LLOYDS OF LITHUANIA INSURANCE COMPANY)

Arnas Funkas, 1938
L. Sapiegos g. 10

Despite the fast-growing temporary capital, not that many private companies dared to build their headquarters in Kaunas. But these insurance brokers liked A. Funkas work so much that they used the drawing of the building's facade on their business letterhead.

44 ŽALIAKALNIS WATERWORKS (FORMER ŽALIAKALNIS WATER-SUPPLY STATION)

Stasys Kudokas, Feliksas Bieliniskis, 1938
Aukštaičių g. 43

The water-supply station – a sign of a real city – is decorated with the most visible sculpture in Žaliakalnis: The Water Carrier (by sculptor Bronius Pundzius). The engineer that worked on the station is the first Lithuanian proficient in Japanese language and literature: signatory Steponas Kairys. Kaukas Stairs are located nearby. They can take you to the city centre; however, it should be noted that their authenticity was destroyed during the war.

45 DAIRY CENTRE

Vytautas Landsbergis-Žemkalnis, Bronius Elzbergas, Jonas Kova-Kovalskis, 1939
Karalius Mindaugo pr. / Drietičio g.

Everyone knows the Dairy Center next to the fountain, but the palace is just a representative building of the company. The real life of dairymen took place at the Nemunas quay and dictated trends throughout Lithuania. Now, you can live there!

46 CHILDREN'S LITERATURE MUSEUM (FORMER DOMA AND MYKOLAS ŠLEŽEVIČIUS HOUSE)

Leonas Ritas, 1933
K. Donelaičio g. 13

The beauty of their house best unfolds in the inner courtyard. Prime Minister Mykolas Šleževičius and his spouse Doma were renting some of the rooms in their city villa. Among its residents was writer Petras Cvirka. It is symbolic that now the Children's Literature Department of the Maironis Museum of Lithuanian Literature is located there.

47 THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE LITHUANIAN GOVERNMENT'S REPRESENTATIVE IN THE KAUNAS DISTRICT (FORMER TAUBĖ-FEIBĖ ELŠTEINIENĖ APARTMENT BUILDING)

Leiba Zimanas, Isaakas Trakmanas, 1935
L. Sapiegos g. 4

From today's point of view, it would be hard to guess that during the interwar period this subtle building was home to well-off Kaunas businesspeople. Incidentally, just after being built, the house-cube received an award for the most beautiful facade in the city.

48 APARTMENT BUILDING OF THE ENTREPRENEUR JONAS LAPĖNAS

Feliksas Vizbaras, 1932
Kęstučio g. 38

One of the three "skyscrapers" of Kaunas at the time that almost blossomed after the renovation in 2017 belonged to the director of the Maistas company and a founder of a printing firm Pažanga. Sharp-eyed architecture lovers will notice some bulk similarities with the Central Post.

49 STASYS KUDOKAS VILLA

1938
V. Mykaloičio-Putino g. 11

When climbing up the narrow stairs to Žaliakalnis, an elaborate gate and behind it a garden – like little Italy – catches your eye. In that garden stands the house of one of the most famous architects of the interwar period – and he designed it for himself. Is there any other work that demands this much responsibility from an architect?

50 TULPĖ COOPERATIVE APARTMENT BUILDING

Antanas Macijauskas, 1926
A. Mickėvičiaus g. 15

It is one of the first cooperative apartment buildings in Kaunas. Its architecture captures the search for national style.

51 APARTMENT BUILDING OF THE BUTAS COMPANY

Jonas Kriščiukaitis, 1932
Trakų g. 5

During the interwar period, this minimalist house was home for the highest-ranking officials of the Supreme Court of Lithuania, among them the father of the architect who designed the building and also the family of a Harvard Professor Vytautas Kavolis.

52 JUOZAS DAUGIRDAS APARTMENT BUILDING

Vladimiras Dubeneckis, 1931
Vytauto pr. 30

At the beginning of the First Republic, Vytautas Avenue was only becoming an avenue – most buildings here were still quite provincial. Except for the modern house of the Drobė company director. At one time, it also hosted a French Consulate.

53 ČESLOVAS PACEVIČIUS VILLA

Vesvalodas Kopylovas, 1934
Vyduo al. 59

It is likely that you have driven by this minimalist little house for dozens of times. Next time you should slow down and enjoy the aesthetics that would undoubtedly bring a blessing from "less is more" pioneer Mies van der Rohe. We are not exaggerating – in 1935, the owner of this villa was given an award for the most beautiful and comfortable brick house.

54 APARTMENT BUILDING OF DR PRANAS GUDAVIČIUS

Edmundas Alfonsas Frykas, 1926
Gedimino g. 48

A prominent doctor P. Gudavičius inspired the diversity of the building's inhabitants – it always had plenty of doctors. The renovation of the building's exterior was finished in 2017 and inside, a new Kaunas generation – partial to the interwar period – is starting a new era Art Deco museum. You can drop by!

55 ALEKSANDRA ILJININĖ HOUSE

Arnas Funkas, 1934
K. Donelaičio g. 19

The facade of the most beautiful house on the street, or maybe even in the whole of Naujamiestis, attracts passers-by and even people who have never been to Kaunas. The building's circular window has become a symbol of a book, an exhibition, and a whole movement of modernist architecture enthusiasts called "Architecture of Optimism". Arnas Funk designed the house and interior - many of his solutions can still be admired today on tours organised by the building managers. In addition, artist Rokas Mikšius has created a Lego model of the Iljinai House, which will likely hit the shelves worldwide soon.

56 APARTMENT BUILDING OF MOŽĖ POSVIANSKIS AND HIRŠAS KLISAS

Jokūbas Peras, 1938
Vytauto pr. 58

It is said that the idea of this building with a shape unrepresentative of Kaunas was taken from a Western magazine. It is well possible because, in the end, this residential building stands out with its art nouveau and art deco expressivity.

57 MATIJOŠAIČIAI HOUSE

K. Donelaičio g. 9

The residential building hiding between two big streets has recently fallen into the hands of loving architects – hence, an occasion to stray from the usual path to see it. The apartment building is also important because it was home to composer Belys Dvorianas once.

58 APARTMENT BUILDING OF ELCHANAN ELKES

Mikas Grodzenskis, 1930
Kęstučio g. 8

The building that belonged to the Jewish doctor of a tragic destiny (the was entrusted with a prominent position in the Kaunas ghetto) is one of the earliest examples of modernism akin to functionalism in the city. The building housed Elkes' family, tenants and a small clinic as well as the first Montessori kindergarten. And just before the war – the Finish Embassy.

59 RAGUTIS APARTMENT BUILDING

Vladimiras Dubeneckis, Mykolas Songaila, 1924
Savanorių pr. 9

It is perfectly fine if this building reminds you of the nearby Kaunas State Musical Theatre. The tandem of architects was designing