



# 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. Putvinskio (the representatives of foreign governments were located on it in the interwar period), K. Donelaičio, Kęstučio, 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, Perkūno 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!

# 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:

- MODERNIST.KAUNAS.LT
- ARCHITECTURE AND URBANISM RESEARCH CENTRE, AUTC.LT
- ARCHIMEDE.LT
- KAUNAS – UNESCO CITY OF DESIGN EUROPEAN HERITAGE LABEL
- "KAUNAS MODERNISM" "EKSKURSAŠ"
- TARPUKARIOARCHITEKTURA.LT
- OPTIMIZMO ARCHITEKTŪRA (OPTIMISM ARCHITECTURE)
- KAUNAS 1918–2015. ARCHITECTURAL GUIDE

Digital versions of this one and other routes are available at [kaunastika.lt](http://kaunastika.lt)

## TOURISM INFORMATION

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 #kaunastic #visitkaunas

# HELLO!

Greetings from Kaunas! We are proud to invite you to our city, whose modernist architecture from the First Republic period has been awarded UNESCO World Heritage status. 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 Ateitis 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 Žalialkalnis; 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.



