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MANUFATURA

Manufaktura, a cultural, entertainment and commercial complex located in the former factory of Izrael Poznański, has been attracting crowds of Łódź residents and tourists for almost 20 years. Revitalized brick buildings from the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries are adjacent to modern commercial spaces and together create a unique atmosphere that cannot be found in any other city.

It's best to discover Manufaktura in your favorite style - whether by learning about the historical curiosities of Łódź textile industry, looking for great entertainment with a group of friends or shopping. Everyone will find something for themselves in this former Izrael Poznański empire!



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28 Piotrkowska Str. #2U, 90-269 Łódź

Elaboration: Angelika Zembrzuska

Photo: tOT, UMT, Manufaktura

Łódź Tourism Information 28 Piotrkowska Street

tel. (+48) 42 208 81 81
(+48) 722 005 314

opening hours:

October – April:

Mo. - Fr. 9 AM - 6 PM

Sa. 10 AM - 6 PM, Su. 10 AM - 3 PM

May – September:

Mo. - Fr. 9 AM - 7 PM

Sa. 10 AM - 6 PM, Su. 10 AM - 4 PM

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POWER STATION

It was established in 1912 and initiated the process of electrification of the factory. In 1928, the power station was equipped with over 30 boilers producing steam for turbines. In the second half of the 20th century, when the factory started using the city's own power network, the building served as a switching station and a water softening plant. A riveted crane with a slideway set on reinforced concrete pilasters has been preserved.

Today, the building houses a restaurant.

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TEXTILE PRINTING AND FINISHING PLANT

It was erected in 1891 as a three-storey building with a steam engine downstairs and a water tank upstairs. The facility was used for finishing processes: draping, printing, smoothing and quality control. The highest part of the building housed a print preparation room.

Currently, the lower storeys are occupied by restaurants and upper ones by the Museum of the Factory, entertainment centre and offices.

Rynek
Włókniarek Łódzkich

Manufaktura

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THE MARKET SQUARE OF ŁÓDŹ'S TEXTILE WOMAN WORKERS

The central point of Manufaktura is the Market Square Of Łódź's Textile Woman Workers. The square, which stretches between historic factory buildings and a modern shopping mall, is a place where mass events are organized, such as the finale of the Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity, the Birthday of Łódź, the Fiat 126p owners meeting or independence picnics. In summer, there is a beach on the Market Square, so you can relax under the palm trees and play volleyball in the heart of the city. In winter, the largest open ice rink in Łódź welcomes all interested parties.

The square commemorates the textile woman workers of Łódź, who were the main employees of textile plants throughout the city. Often performing their duties in poor conditions and beyond their strength, they provided for entire families and contributed to the growth of manufacturers' fortunes and, in a broader perspective, also to the development of Łódź. In honor of all the nameless women workers, the main square of Manufaktura was named after the woman textile workers.

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ENGINE HOUSE

The old engine house was built in the years 1877-1878. The structure differs in architecture from other buildings of the complex. Originally, it worked as a foundry which produced machine parts. Thanks to this Poznański gained independence from foreign component suppliers. In post-war times the facility served as a drinking water syphon bottling plant.

Today, the building houses the biggest pet shop in Łódź.

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HIGH WEAVING MILL

At the end of the 19th century, the production capacity of the oldest weaving mill in Poznański's factory reached its end. Another weaving mill was quickly constructed, called the high weaving mill due to its four storeys. It was connected with the preparatory department by a tunnel located in the shed weaving mill.

Currently, the building is the seat of the prestigious MS2 Art Museum (see „Museums of Art” leaflet), which has some of the most interesting works of contemporary art in its collection.

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WORKERS' HOUSES

At the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, over 6,000 people were employed in the factory. Poznański built a total of over 1,000 flats for most of his workers, the rent of which was deducted from the employee's salary. Housing conditions were difficult, although some of the larger apartments were equipped with water supply systems and gas lighting, only white collar workers could count them.

Poznański also built a school for workers' children, a first-aid facility, outpatient clinic and a company hospital.

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CANTEEN AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

The building served as the canteen and the factory community centre for employees of the Poznański's empire. In the inter-war period it housed a theatre and later a cinema.

Today, although there is a modern discount store there, the renovation works were carried out under the strict supervision of the monument conservator, which made it possible to recreate the original appearance of the building. Inside we can see an unveiled floor mosaic, and on the walls visualisations depicting work in the historic textile factories.

REVITALIZATION

Nowadays, 19th-century factories in Łódź are experiencing a renaissance, thanks to a large-scale revitalization project. Old buildings regain their splendor, gain new functions, becoming centers of cultural and entertainment life.

Manufaktura is a precursor and a model example of Łódź revitalization. In 2006, when the complex was opened, it was the largest project of this type in Europe. Over three years of construction work, over 2.5 thousand employees were involved in the restoration of historic buildings. A total of 90,000 m² of historic interiors were renovated, 600 trees were planted. The entire investment cost approximately EUR 200 million.

Manufaktura is a combination of culture, entertainment, gastronomy and trade. There are three museums in its surroundings: the Museum of the City of Łódź, the MS2 Art Museum and the Factory Museum. For those looking for entertainment, there is a cinema, Experimentarium and the Maty Theater. For active people there is a dance studio, a climbing wall, a billiards club, a bowling alley and a laser games center. An integral part of the complex is a modern shopping mall with over 240 stores of the best brands.

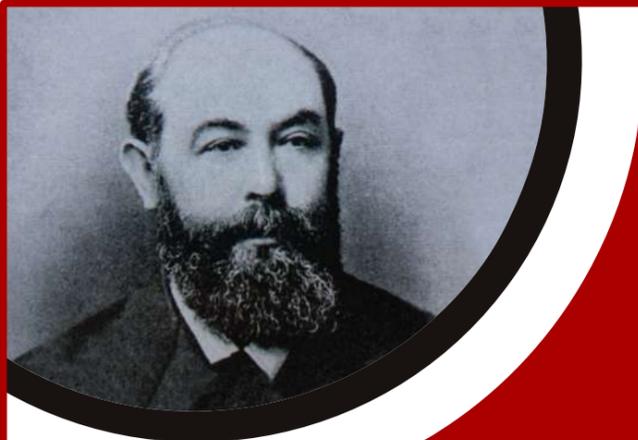


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THE EMPIRE OF I. POZNAŃSKI-MANUFATURA

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A WALK IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE FORMER TEXTILE EMPIRE

The old rumble of factory machines has died down irretrievably, but has been replaced by the bustle of conversations, music and children's laughter. The old factory has awakened, becoming a fashionable place to spend time in an attractive space that combines the history and identity of the city with modernity.

Manufaktura forms a compact complex of 13 historic buildings and a newly built shopping centre covering an area of 27 hectares, which is approximately the size of 38 football fields.

FROM A DREAM OF THE PROMISED LAND TO A PEARL OF INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE

At the end of the 19th century, where Manufaktura is located today, there was a large textile factory, one of the largest in the Kingdom of Poland.

The history of its power began in 1835, when the Kalman Poznański family moved from Aleksandrów Łódzki to Łódź. In 1872 the first weaving mill started operating in Manufaktura. Year by year, the factory expanded with more weaving mills, a bleaching and end-use finishing plant, a spinning mill, its own gasworks and fire station, and the wealthy manufacturer began the construction of a magnificent palace. Today it is one of the most recognisable monuments in Łódź.

At the end of his life Poznański, with his fortune estimated at 11,000,000 rubles, was ranked among the wealthiest industrialists of the Kingdom of Poland.

The First World War and the interwar period brought financial failures to Poznański's empire. Eventually, the family, indebted to banks, lost its position in the company.

A new phase in the life of the factory occurred after the Second World War. Nationalised, so called Julian Marchlewski Cotton Industry Plants, later renamed "Poltex" for several decades co-created the legend of textile Łódź, providing jobs to thousands of city dwellers.

The 1990s and the time of political transformation brought numerous bankruptcies. The crisis did not spare the plant in Ogrodowa Street. Put into liquidation, the complex deteriorated for several years until, at the beginning of the new century, a new and grand vision appeared to give a new life to the extraordinary post-industrial space. In this way, an unprecedented and largest revitalization project in the country began.

Today, the renewed and bustling Manufaktura is a very important point on the tourist, cultural and commercial map of Łódź.



1 FACTORY GATE

A distinctive feature of the Manufaktura is the massive factory gate leading to the textile kingdom of Izrael Poznański. Built in the years 1878-80, it is integrated into the fence line and emphasises the monumental character of the buildings. Bricks Poznański used to build the factory and the gate came from his private brickyard and were signed with initials IKP or IP.

Nowadays, half of them possess the aforementioned signature. Original bricks can be seen in the Museum of the Factory located in the complex.



2 OFFICE BUILDING

The small building between the gate and the palace once housed the offices of the company's management in Poznański's times. The building is connected internally with the palace, and was altered between 1899 and 1907. The ground floor of the building features an original interior design. Although the office had a typically utilitarian function, the interior is not devoid of beautiful polychromes, typical of bourgeois tenement houses or residences of the aristocracy, and originally the walls were wallpapered.

It was here that the most important decisions concerning the future of the factory were made.



3 SPINNING MILL

The spinning mill is the largest facility in the Poznański's complex, with architecture referring to medieval defensive structures, the mill housed up to 80,000 spindles. The length of this building is comparable to the Eiffel Tower if it is laid horizontally, and its volume to the SS Norway passenger ship. In 1974, the building was used as a location in Andrzej Wajda's movie, The Promised Land.

Today, it houses the exclusive Vienna House by Wyndham Andel's Hotel.



4 THE POZNAŃSKI'S PALACE

This is the largest and most beautiful factory owner's palace in Łódź and one of the largest in Poland. Its immensity and splendour was to overshadow everything that had been built in Łódź so far. Legend has it that Poznański, when asked by an architect in what style he would like his palace to be built, replied that he could afford all styles.

Currently, the palace is the seat of the Museum of the City (see the leaflet about Poznański's Palace).



5 LOW WEAVING MILL

The first building erected by Poznański in 1872 was a single-storey weaving mill with 200 power looms imported from England. A year later the number of looms doubled, and over the next few years the annual production was 412 thousand rubles. At the end of the 19th century, the entire factory was equipped with 2266 looms.

Today, the facility houses restaurants and shops.



6 TECHNICAL OFFICE AND LABORATORY

The building was erected in 1890 during the implementation of Poznański's largest investments aimed at developing the factory.

Today, it houses a restaurant.



7 FIRE STATION

Large complexes of factories in Łódź had factory fire stations. Manufaktura was not an exemption. The tower and terrace of the building were used for drying the fire hoses. The space between the station and the technical office was occupied by garages. At the end of the 19th century, the fire brigade consisted of 2 master firemen, 36 employees and 60 volunteers. The equipment included steam and hand pumps, barrels, ladders and 14 carts.

Today, it houses a cafe.



8 THE END-USE FINISHING PLANT AND BLEACHERY

The facility was built in 1891 as the end point for cotton processing. The end-use finishing plant refined the appearance and feel of the fabric, making it not only better looking but stronger and more flexible.

Currently, there is a bowling alley here.



OTHER INTERESTING PLACES

- 16 22 OGRODOWA STREET
CHURCH OF ST. JOSEPH
- 17 WOŚP SQUARE
THE HEART OF THE GREAT ORCHESTRA OF CHRISTMAS CHARITY
- 18 STARY RYNEK SQUARE
THE OLD TOWN THE STAROMIEJSKI PARK
- 19 43 OGRODOWA STREET
OLD CEMETERY

