THE CHANGING FACE OF

THE PRAGA DISTRICT

WARSAW

2017
For many years the Praga district was seen as one of the less attractive parts of Warsaw, both from the investment and social development point of view. Lots of factories operating before World War II and many industrial plants were closed down, and some tenement houses and apartment buildings were left neglected. However, the image of the Praga district keeps changing. Nowadays, the area is perceived as a Warsaw’s unique district, full of development potential. Due to numerous revitalisations and a number of investments, its character has been already boosted and enhanced in the eyes of Varsovians. Moreover, its cultural and gastronomic offer is getting wider and encourages people to spend their spare time there more often. Simultaneously, its post-industrial and individual character attracts lots of Warsaw artists who live there.

The aim of Knight Frank's publication is to present the changing character of the Praga district, with special focus on the investment, social and business aspects. Starting with the history, through industrial development and its impact on Warsaw, we would like to raise the issue of some unique places which now thrive again due to the revitalisation. Many of them are private and commercial investments, but also public projects are included in the Integrated Revitalisation Programme. Many projects with unique character and rich history attract theatres, clubs, galleries and other niche initiatives. As a result, the Praga district is becoming the cultural and artistic heart of the city. This uncommon vibe of the district is appreciated not only by the bohemia, but also as a business location, chosen mainly by the creative sector, start-ups and freelancers. New investments such as Google Campus Warsaw, Centre of Creativity Targowa, or Starberry (the start-up incubator of Microsoft to be open in autumn 2017) confirm the attractiveness of this part of the city as a business location. We also present the wide gastronomic and entertainment offer of the Praga area to underline the special character of the right bank of the Vistula river.

The history of the right riverbank of Warsaw dates back to the medieval times, when the first settlements were formed in the area i.a. Kamion - part of today’s Praga South, or Bródno. The name Praga is rooted in that era as it is derived from the word „prazyć” which meant „to roast”. The grounds were first burned in order to clear them to building settlements. In 1448, Praga received city rights from the king Władysław IV Vasa and remained a separate town until 1791. After being incorporated into Warsaw’s administrative borders, the area went through a period of intensive industrialisation and urbanisation. During the time of partitions in the late 18th century, a Russian community was located here as the goal of the occupant was the full russification. That’s why there are so many Russian elements in this part of the city. Amongst them is the Orthodox church of Holy Mary Magdalene - one of the most characteristic buildings in the Praga district built in order to embed the presence of the Russian community on the right riverbank. After long struggles also a Catholic church - the Cathedral of St. Florian was built here. It is now home to The Roman Catholic Diocese of Warszawa-Praga. A crucial investment in the Praga district were waterpipes, designed by William Lindley and constructed in 1906, connecting it with the left riverbank. Both the First and Second World War played their roles in the history of the Praga district.
The changing character of the Praga district, its economic and social revival are steps undertaken within the widely understood revitalisation of the district. They include the improvement of the life quality of the citizens, spatial rearrangements, social integration and all actions of activating neglected post-industrial areas or changes in the character of their activity. Revitalisations also include social actions to increase the number of jobs, decrease crime rates, help people in need or preserve the national heritage, including the modernisation and protection of monuments. The city authorities work actively within the Integrated Revitalisation Programme for 2014-2022.

Consequently, the growing number of investment activities and social, cultural and educational activation can be felt on the right riverbank. Apart from the projects that have been completed, the local authorities and private investors are planning to revitalise the post-industrial areas and give them new functions. The plans include: the modernisation of many tenement houses, the construction of new residential developments, activities supporting entrepreneurship and innovative start-ups, supporting young people with business initiatives and creating places that would encourage Varsovians to spend time in the Praga district.
**KONESER**

Koneser built in 1897 with use of characteristic red bricks is one of the most interesting buildings in the Praga district. Warsaw Vodka Manufacture consisted of manufacturing halls, warehouses, workshops, residential buildings and a school. Interwar period was the grandness time for Koneser. The Manufacture hired over 400 people and produced up to quarter million of bottles of alcohol per day. The Second World War drastically worsened the situation of the factory, but the production was continued in the 50s. The Manufacture was closed in 2007.

Formerly

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Presently

Formerly

BBI Development and Liebrecht & Wood investors are revitalising Centrum Praskie Koneser. A mixed-use project, fitting into urban lifestyle trends space, provides for adapting postindustrial spaces to office, retail, hotel, residential, cultural and entertainment functions. The revitalisation of the former Warsaw Vodka Manufacture in the very heart of Old Praga includes adjusting the space to gastronomic function (almost 30 restaurants, cafes and bars), 3-star Moxy hotel (brand of Marriott International chain) with 141 rooms, 25,500 sq m of office space, retail space, food space and eco-bazaar.

Presently

**SOHO FACTORY**

Formerly

The area is located in the Kamiliné neighbourhood one of the oldest parts of the city on the right Vistula riverbank. In the past, it was a location where metal industry developed. During the interwar period it was the third industrial region in Warsaw with numerous factories, i.a. Ammunition Plants and Warsaw Motorcyclic Factory.

Presently

Soho Factory is a partially revitalised urban space combining residential, office, cultural and gastronomic functions. On the post-industrial grounds many cultural, lifestyle or fashion initiatives take place, and it is also premises of Teatr Nowy, Kopernik Museum and Museum of Neons. Soho Factory is also a large-scale residential project developed by Verbel, Feniks, Wars, Kamion Cross and Rebel One, as well as office space attracting creativity sector, media houses, law firms and professional services.

**PORT PRASKI**

Port Praski was established at the beginning of the 20th century as a commodity port. After modernisation it was used for transhipment of food. In the 1970s it was used as floating docks for steamboats, while the docks were closed down in the 1980s.

Formerly

In 2012, the Port Praski investment commenced. The architectural concept involves four districts representing different functions: residential, office, leisure and science. The 1st district of the Port Praski is Stará Praga, where first modern residential buildings were developed, the following two are under construction and the new ones are planned. The other districts are: Docklands (luxurious part of the Port Praski with restaurants, boutiques and marina), City (business district) and Media Park (media and technology district).

Presently

**BOHEMA**

Bohema project assumes revitalisation of the former Schicht and Pollena factories grounds. First companies were located here in 1899. Postindustrial complex consists of neobrick buildings and a historical chimney. Consecutively a few factories had their premises here: Praga, Schicht and Pollena Uroda.

Formerly

Presently

Formerly

03 / PORT PRASKI

Formerly

Presently

Formerly

Presently

Formerly

Presently

Formerly

Presently

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Presently

Centre of Creativity Targowa, opened in 2016, is the first investment of the city dedicated to the creative sector supporting entrepreneurs and innovative start-ups. The incubator for the creative sector headquartered in the building is a place gathering young people with business ideas, and providing them with support and technical institutional back-up.

Projects of the local authorities

F I R S T S T R I F T 2013–2017

CENTRE OF CREATIVITY TRAGOWA

56 Targowa St.
http://firma.um.warszawa.pl/
projekt/centrum-kreatywnosci-targowa-56/

Formerly

The building was designed in Polish renaissance style. It’s the former Warsaw Orthodox Jewish Educational Institute, including a school, asylum for Jewish children and prayer house. Baj Theatre was established in 1928 and is the oldest puppet theatre in Poland.

Presently

The Warsaw City authorities announced modernisation of the theatre. Revitalisation of the building will include the neighbouring kindergarten. Completion of the construction works is planned for 2019.

BAJ THEATRE

28 Jagiellońska St.
http://teatrbaj.pl/

Formerly

Reconstruction and adaptation works for the Praga Museum of Warsaw at 50/52 Targowa St. were completed. The investment was mainly financed by the EU funds and is crucial for the revitalisation of the Praga district due to its cultural, urban and social function. The Praga area is the only district in Warsaw which has its own museum.

Presently

A group of buildings including small tenement house from 1819 which is the oldest preserved residential building in the Praga district. Before World War II the elementary Jewish school was located in the building. The paintings of old Jewish prayer houses were discovered here. Since 2003 all the buildings are officially registered as monuments.

PRAGA MUSEUM OF WARSAW

50/52 Targowa St.
http://museumpragaz.pl/

Formerly

New headquarters of the Warsaw Symphony Orchestra is one of the priority projects of the Integrated Revitalisation Programme. The project includes a concert hall for 1,800 seats, place for theatrical, film or artistic presentations, multimedia library, and French garden. The construction works are to be completed in 2022.

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SINFONIA VARSOVIA

272 Grochowska St.
www.sinfoniavarsovia.org

Formerly

The Gelbfisz and Rotenberg tenement house at 1/79 Inżynierska St. was completed in ca. 1900 and is the oldest tenement house at this street. In 1945, it was taken in the city's possession under "The Bierut Decrees". Since 2005, the building has been inscribed in the monument register.

Presently

In December 2016, Centrum Młodych (the Youth Centre) was opened in the Praga district, and it is a host to the project "Wsparcie na starcie" ("Support at the start") dedicated to the youth between 15 and 26 years of age. The Praga revitalisation project includes activities gathering the citizens in the aforementioned project, which combines personal development and professional activation, and learning competencies desired at the job market.

CENTRUM MŁODYCH

1/79 Inżynierska St.

Formerly

The open market at 54 Targowa St. was established at the end of the 19th century by Julian Różycki, Warsaw investor, chemist, owner of few pharmacies. In the 50s, the open market was taken over by the local authorities and for the next decades trade was blooming here.

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BAZAR RÓŻYCKIEGO

54 Targowa St.

Formerly

Currently, the revitalisation of the historic Różycki open market is under social consultancy discussion. First architectural ideas include reconstruction of the gate, space for cafes, service stalls, greenery, terrace, and creating the open market as place where the local community meets. The costs of the project are to be covered by the Praga revitalisation fund.

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Tenement houses

**11/18 BRZESKA ST.**

http://www.magnimillion.pl/brzeska18/

The tenement house at 18 Brzeska St. was built in 1914 in late Art Nouveau style and was perceived as one of the most beautiful in the Praga district. In the interwar period there was a bakery and workshops of local craftsmen. After World War II the tenement house was confiscated due to the expropriating decree. For years after, the city made no investments, therefore the condition of the building deteriorated. A decision was even issued for the house to be demolished, but fortunately it was inscribed in the historical site register in 1999.

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The tenement house at 18 Brzeska St. was built in 1914 in late Art Nouveau style and was perceived as one of the most beautiful in the Praga district. In the interwar period there was a bakery and workshops of local craftsmen. After World War II the tenement house was confiscated due to the expropriating decree. For years after, the city made no investments, therefore the condition of the building deteriorated. A decision was even issued for the house to be demolished, but fortunately it was inscribed in the historical site register in 1999.

Presently
Fenix Group started the construction works in 2016 which are planned for two years. The scope of works include: renovation of the elevation, superstructure of one floor, recreating the wing, installing elevators and modernisation of the residential units.

**12/21 TARGOWA ST.**

https://www.fenixgroup.pl/targowa-21

The tenement house at 21 Targowa St. was a residential building built in 1868. Through the years of wars and occupation the owners had changed, until 1945 when it was overtaken by the city. The gradual ruining of the building resulted in classifying the tenement house for demolition. A few years ago, the building was registered in the monument register.

Formerly
The tenement house at 21 Targowa St. was a residential building built in 1868. Through the years of wars and occupation the owners had changed, until 1945 when it was overtaken by the city. The gradual ruining of the building resulted in classifying the tenement house for demolition. A few years ago, the building was registered in the monument register.

Presently
Fenix Group started the construction works in 2016 which are planned for two years. The scope of works include: renovation of the elevation, superstructure of one floor, recreating the wing, installing elevators and modernisation of the residential units.

**13/22 JAGIELLOŃSKA ST.**

https://www.fenixgroup.pl/jagiellonska-22

The tenement house at 22 Jagiellonska St. was built between 1911-1912 as a four-storey house. In the interwar period the tenement house was inhabited by the local elite. During World War II the house was partially destroyed and rebuilt in 1950 without the original decorations of the facade.

Formerly
The building at 22 Jagiellonska St. was built between 1911-1912 as a four-storey house. In the interwar period the tenement house was inhabited by the local elite. During World War II the house was partially destroyed and rebuilt in 1950 without the original decorations of the facade.

Presently
Fenix Group bought the tenement house in 2010 while the general renovation and modernisation process started in 2015. There are 28 apartments planned, retail units, installation of the elevator, and renovation of the elevation. The completion of the project is scheduled for 2018.

**14/26 OKRZEI ST.**

https://www.fenixgroup.pl/okrzei-26

The tenement house at 26 Okrzei St., called ‘The House under the Owls’ was built in 1906 and has been still considered one of the most beautiful buildings in the Praga district. In 2005, it was registered as an official monument and came back to its rightful

Formerly
The tenement house at 26 Okrzei St., called ‘The House under the Owls’ was built in 1906 and has been still considered one of the most beautiful buildings in the Praga district. In 2005, it was registered as an official monument and came back to its rightful

Presently
“The House under the Owls” is another revitalisation led by Fenix Group. The company acquired the house in 2010, while the reconstruction works started in 2014. The building will offer 42 flats and two-storey apartments.

**15/15 KĘPNA ST.**

https://www.fenixgroup.pl/kepna-15

Kępna Street is one of the oldest streets in the Praga district. The tenement house at number 15 was a residential building completed in 1917. Since 1967 it was by owned by the state.

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Presently
Since 2015 there have been undergoing renovation works in the historic tenement house at 15 Kępna St. Four-storey building will be completed in 2017. Renovation works include both the pre-war interiors and its unusual elevation.
The revived character of the Praga district made the area one of the most interesting cultural hubs on the map of Warsaw. The right riverbank part of the city is characterized by the unusual, old pre-war tenements which made this area a place combining the history, culture and art. Numerous theatres, galleries, clubs, cafés and restaurants which attract not only Varsovians but also a number of tourists can be found here. Every year, the Praga district hosts many festivals that make it even more extraordinary, i.a. Otwarta Ząbkowska, Praga’s Birthday, The Night of Praga, Ząbkowska KULmixTURA or Florian’s Fair. There is also the Praga Museum of Warsaw which presents the interesting history of the Praga district and the Sinfonia Varsovia, the Polish symphony orchestra, operating since 1984. Moreover, this artistic character of the district is emphasized by unusual murals which stress out Praga’s atmosphere. Since 2009, the Street Art Doping festival is held in the Praga district every year. The aim is to create the works of the greatest international mural artists operating in the public space. Other social activists also take care of Praga’s murals, i.a. the Loesje group.
**BAJ THEATRE**

28 Jagiellońska St.  
http://teatrbaj.pl/

The oldest puppet theatre in Poland and one of the most famous theatres for children in Warsaw. The building itself also deserves special attention. The former Warsaw Orthodox Jewish Educational Institute was located here and included a school, asylums and prayer houses.

**POWSZECHNY THEATRE**

20 Zamoyskiego St.  
http://www.powszechny.com/

The theatre, established in 1944 by Zygmunt Hübner, offers a wide variety of spectacles from classical to contemporary dramas. Its credo: “The theatre that gets in the way” emphasizes the theatre’s role in defending freedom of speech and the freedom of creation.

**SINFONIA VARSOVIA**

272 Grochowska St.  
http://www.sinfoniavarsovia.org/pl/

The Sinfonia Varsovia Orchestra, established in 1984, played at numerous renowned festivals and regularly takes part in major musical events in Poland. The orchestra is a council cultural institution coordinated by the capital city of Warsaw. The headquarter of the Sinfonia Varsovia Orchestra is the former Institute of Veterinary Science, but a new concert hall with 1,800 seats is at the planning stage. The first concert in the new facility may take place in 2022.

**PRAHA CINEMA**

26 Jagiellońska St.  
http://www.kinopraha.pl/

Kino Praha, the first post-war cinema in Warsaw, was built in 1949. It was situated on two floors and could fit in 580 viewers. Due to low profitability the building was demolished in 2005 and replaced by Centrum Praha – the 6-floor project including office space, retail units and a 3-hall multiplex with 555 seats, now called “New Praha Cinema”.

**PRAGA MUSEUM OF WARSAW**

50/52 Targowa St.  
http://muzeumpragi.pl/

Praga Museum of Warsaw is one of the first museums on Warsaw’s right bank and it presents the history of this part of the city. The museum was created with the active involvement of Praga’s local community and is located in one of the oldest tenement houses in the district.

**NEON MUSEUM**

25 Milska St.  
http://www.neonmuseum.org/

Neon Museum is one of the most unique museums in Warsaw. It is dedicated to the documentation and the preservation of post-war neon signs. The collection contains hundreds of neon signs and other electro-graphic artefacts and is systematically growing.

**POLISH VODKA MUSEUM**

27/31 Ząbkowska St.  

Polish Vodka Museum will open in autumn 2017 in the Centrum Praskie Koneser – a former vodka manufactory. The main theme of the exhibition, presenting over 600 years of history of vodka production in Poland, will be the local manufacturing tradition of the world renowned Polish vodka.
Hydrozagadka is both the iconic and the largest club in the Praga district. You can dance through the night here or join numerous concerts that take place here.

Sklad Butelek is located in the club and entertainment part of the Praga district. It is one of many exceptional places on the right riverbank. Many concerts of mainly niche bands take place here.

The Chmury cafe is a neighbour of the Hydrozagadka club. It is the place where you can listen to chamber concerts, take part in art fairs or simply have a coffee.

Centrum Zarządzania Światem, the club with the motto “Humour, music, flavour”, is one of the most popular destinations in the Praga district. Apart from a whole-day menu, it offers numerous artistic opening events, performances or comedy stand-ups.

The Dzika Strona Wisły club-theatre is one of the most characteristic places in the Praga district. The premises of the Pożar w Burdelu cabaret hosts 150 seats and are the heart of artistic niche community in the Praga district.

Mózg Club is a musical, theater, performance and exhibition scene, with a focus on experimentation and improvisation. It is a meeting place for the creative and arthouse community located in the Powszechny Theater.
The Praga district and its changing character attracts dozens of young people from a bohemian background. The once gastronomically and culturally sparse area is now ripe with bars, cafes, restaurants and clubs which offer a vast range of cuisines to try and cultural events to attend. The plentiful niche coffee shops and restaurants, which bustle especially in the evening, are spread throughout the entire district of Praga. Each of them is unique. Very often, the venues are close to each other so it’s worth to choose more than one and set out on your own culinary and cultural journey through the area. We present only a selection of places, but trust us, they are the ones we favour most.

For more, check out our new Praga application.

**ART BISTRO STALOWA 52**

European cuisine in an unusual version is served in Art Bistro Stalowa 52. The restaurant also proposes artistic opening events, while a quiet patio offers an escape from the city rush.

**WARSZAWA WSCHODNIA BY MATEUSZ GESSLER**

Warszawa Wschodnia is a restaurant serving modern interpretations of Polish and French dishes. It is open non-stop, and its heart is a large kitchen table where you can watch chefs while they cooking.

**BOSKA! WŁOSKA**

Boska Włoska is a small pizza and spaghetti restaurant created by the owners of Boska Praga. Homemade pasta is the specialty of the house.

**STARA PRAGA CAFE**

Stara Praga is a place which recreates the vibe of pre-war cafes. The cafe gained its popularity thanks to live music and other cultural events that take place here.

**PYZY FLAKI GörąCE**

Pyzy Flaki Gorące is located next to the Różyckiego open market and, similarly to the famous neighbour, became an iconic place. It is a very popular place among Varsovians and won many awards (e.g. the first place in ‘Warszawiaki 2016’ contest as Bar of the Year).

**KONSULAT PRAETTIGAU**

Konsulat Praettigau serves modern European cuisine with an artistic vibe. The restaurant often hosts artistic openings and other cultural events.
The Praga district is situated close to the Warsaw's city centre. However, contrary to the city centre or the Wola district, there are no glass skyscrapers here, where large corporations are located. However, it does not mean that the right riverbank is “a business desert”. Tenement houses in the Praga district and the unique vibe of the area attract artists and designers. There is no other location in Warsaw that would gather such numbers of representatives of the creative sector. Consequently, many places dedicated to entrepreneurs from this sector are opened here: Centres of Creativity Targowa, Creative Hub Targowa, Art Cluster or the planned Centre of Creativity Nowa Praga. Business development in the Praga district is also supported by the premises dedicated for start-ups, where they can receive help from experienced advisors and develop their innovative ideas. A milestone in this matter was the opening of Google Campus Warsaw at Targowa Street in 2015. In Autumn 2017, the Starberry business accelerator is to be opened in the Praga 306 office scheme in the Praga district by another technological giant – Microsoft. In last years, numerous co-working spaces have been created in the Praga district, where freelancers, micro-enterprises and small companies can work, small office or conference room, set up a virtual address or organise a meeting with a client or network. Experts claim that co-working spaces have been created in the Praga district, mainly artistic workshops, and modern offices, conference rooms, exhibition and event spaces, and relax area. Microsoft technology platform, EY consulting services and support from Senfino experts. Microsoft's joint venture. Besides the office and meeting space, the platform offers support and specialist knowledge concerning the Microsoft technology platforms, EY consulting services and support from Senfino experts. Festival 'Filipinka' cafe and ‘Niedźwiedź’ bar used to be. Two levels of 270 sq m space offer micro offices, an open space with hourly desks rental option and conference rooms. Tenants can use office equipment and “Chill out Kitchen”. Fantastic Studio also offers a virtual address service. It's a space that encourages the exchange of experience and creative development, where representatives of different sectors can find their place.

Centres of Creativity Targowa is a place dedicated to the creative industries initiated and executed by the local authorities. The centre was created as a part of the Integrated Revitalisation Programme and its task is to influence economic development of the Praga district. It has the form of an entrepreneurship incubator for the creative sector (design, fashion, games, architecture, film and video, music, crafts, advertisement, photography, etc.) and a space of experience sharing and integration. It offers trainings, consultancy services and preferential rents. The centre is located in the revitalised Minor tenement houses from 1865. Over 3,000 sq m host mainly artistic workshops, and modern offices, conference rooms, exhibition and event spaces, and relax area.

Centre of Creativity Nowa Praga is another city investment dedicated to creative industries, culture initiators and citizens. It’s a space that encourages the exchange of experience and creative development, where representatives of different sectors can find their place.

Warsaw is one of the few cities in the world (next to London, Madrid, Seoul, Tel Aviv and Sao Paulo) where the global giant Google decided to set up its innovation support centre. Google Campus Warsaw, located at the former Warsaw Vodka Manufacture ‘Koneser’ is 1,600 sq m space for CEE start-ups development. It’s a place available 24/7 where one can rent a desk at the co-working space, draw some inspiration, take part in lectures, use trainings organised by Google and its partners, ask for advice of the experienced specialists, build your network or even find an investor.

Startberry is a place dedicated to the start-up society focused on new technologies, which will become a centre of knowledge exchange and meeting area for start-ups, developers and entrepreneurs. The area of 680 sq m to be opened in autumn 2017 is created to set up events, workshops, meetings and to support entrepreneurs with their projects and business development. Starberry is Senfino’s, EY’s and Microsoft’s joint ventures. Besides the office and meeting space, the platform offers support and specialist knowledge concerning the Microsoft technology platforms, EY consulting services and support from Senfino experts.

Business development in the Praga district is mainly supported by the premises dedicated for start-ups, where they can receive help from experienced advisors and develop their innovative ideas.
The opening of the second line of the Warsaw metro improved access to the Praga district by public transport. The current final station of the metro is at Dworzec Wileński, while the opening of next 3 stations at the eastern Vistula bank is planned for 2022. Moreover, the transport infrastructure includes many trams and buses, linking the Praga district with other parts of the city. The location of Warszawa Wschodnia - the second largest railway station in Warsaw, where long-distance and local trains stop is a great transportation advantage for this part of the city. It is worth to mention that the Praga district can also be reached by water. In summer, a water tram connects the right and left Vistula riverbanks.

New infrastructure developments:

01 / Construction of the north-east part of second metro line and three metro stations: Szwedzka, Targówek, Trocka (until 2022)
02 / Foot-and-bike bridge connecting the Praga district and the Powiśle area (until 2019)
03 / Extension of Trasa Świętokrzyska, construction divided into stages (the commencement of the last stage planned for 2018)
04 / Construction of the new railway station PKP Warszawa Stalowa (until 2022)