



**European Route of Brick Gothic** unites countries, regions, towns, cultures and people by its universal language of architecture.

Brick Gothic, this unique architectural style, constitutes a phenomenon present not only along the coasts of the Baltic Sea, but also far to the south into the land. Brick Gothic holds an important position in the history of European architecture – it had been closely linked with the history of countries of northwestern and eastern Europe between the 13th and the 14th century, as well as with the development and fall of Hanseatic League. The style of brick Gothic architecture is characterized by glossy colors of burnt clay, raw wall surfaces and a great variety of architectural forms based on simple and homogenous brick shapes. Many of ancient buildings are still exploited in accordance with their original purpose, while other edifices host among others museums, concert halls and offices. Very often these are the places where the past and the present become one. Some Baltic countries united their forces and created "European Route of Brick Gothic", constituting a path extending through the history of Europe, on which the guests are cordially welcome.



**Remnants of the castle and former Benedictine abbey**

Wooden fortification dating back to the early period of reign of the Piast dynasty had been in the 13th century transformed into brick castle. Remnants originating from this period include among others a fragment of defensive wall together with two towers, the Noblemen's Tower (former prison for noblemen) and the Clock Tower, elevated in the 15th century in order to serve as Cathedral bell tower; in its basement, remnants of the Roman stone construction (palas) lie. Around the middle of the 16th century, the Benedictines had erected between the castle's towers the Gothic church of Saint Wojciech and the monastery. In the late 18th century, the abbey was transformed into theological seminary. The building used to serve educational, residential as well as museum purposes. At present, it is the seat of the Diocesan Museum.

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**Former canonry**

Former canonry had been erected around the year 1445 by Stefan from Miszewo, parish priest of the Cathedral. After the January Uprising, the canonry had been requisitioned and sold. In the year 1908, the building had been purchased by Płock Scientific Society (TNP) and transformed into the organization's seat. The Society, inaugurated in the year 1820, is one of the oldest general scientific organizations of a regional character in Poland. It also runs the Zieliński Library, known throughout the country. Researchers from Płock and the Płock region benefit from the library's rich collection of books.

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**Former collegiate church of Saint Michael Archangel**

Origins of the collegiate church founded by Dobiechna – widow of Wojstaw, guardian of Bolesław Krzywousty – date back to the 12th century. The existing construction had been erected in the first half of the 13th century and is characterized by both Roman as well as Gothic features. In the 15th century, Gothic tower had been erected within the building's façade. Archaeological discoveries have shown that it had been one of the first structures with Gothic features at the territory of Poland. Since 1180, a "trivium" school had been functioning within the collegiate. In the 17th century, the college of the Society of Jesus had been inaugurated within the collegiate church and in the 18th century, its members started the building's reconstruction. When the Commission of National Education (KEN) had taken over the school in the year 1773, the building had been reconstructed according to the design by Stanisław Zawadzki and in the year 1843 according to the design by Antonio Corazzi. Long educational tradition is continued by Marshal Stanisław Malachowski High School (popularly called "Malachowianka"). The school is considered to be the oldest school in Poland functioning uninterruptedly in the same location.

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**Former defensive tower**

Former defensive tower from the 14th century constitutes the remnant of the defensive walls system constructed during the reign of King Kazimierz Wielki. It had been located near Dobrzyńska Gate – one of the town's three entrance gates, which did not survive until the present days. In 1489, Duke Janusz II transformed the tower into the seat of elite merchant and rifle brotherhood, which used the building as its armory. Between the year 1897 and the outbreak of WW2, a shelter for the elderly and handicapped founded by Mr. and Mrs. Flatau had been functioning here. At present, it is the seat of monuments conservation office.

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**Saint Dominic's Church**

The Dominicans had arrived in Płock in 1225. Duke Konrad I of Mazovia had founded for them the Saint Dominic's Church, which had been mentioned already in the town's foundation act from 1237. In the year 1243, the church had been burnt and reconstructed a year later. In 1803, Prussian authorities had expelled the monks and passed the church to the Evangelical parish. After WW2, Catholics bought the church from Evangelicals and at present, the church belongs to the Roman Catholic Saint Maximilian Kolbe's parish. The exposed fragments of walls prove that Saint Dominic's church, together with former Saint Michael's collegiate church, had been the first brick edifices in the Mazovia region.

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**House Under Horns**

At the turn of the 14th century, the House Under Horns had been erected within the town wall and had served as a residence of Płock canons. It had been located near the Wyszogrodzka Gate. The building is characterized by very thick walls, massive buttresses and basement with gothic vaults. On its top, one can find noblemen's coat of arms "Horns", being the source of the building's name. In the 18th century, the building hosted among others the theological seminary and nowadays, Catholic organizations and associations have their seats in the House.

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**Town wall**

Płock had been surrounded by a thick and high wall basing on the privilege from the year 1353 edited by King Kazimierz Wielki. The document had defined among others technical specifications as well as the source of funding for the fortification. The construction period had lasted ca. 16 years and the fortifications had finally reached the length of ca. 1700 meters. The moat had adhered to them from the West and North-East. The entrance to the town had been possible through 3 gates: Dobrzyńska Gate, Bielska Gate and Wyszogrodzka Gate. At the turn of the 18th century the wall was demolished. The remaining fragment is ca. 15 m long, ca. 5 m high and ca. 80 cm thick. The second preserved fragment of the wall is located next to the House under Horns.

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**Saint Bartholomew's Parish Church**

The church had been erected in 1356 by bishop Klemens on request of King Kazimierz Wielki. It had been a proud Gothic edifice with its façade facing the Vistula river, presbytery facing the market square as well as high free-standing bell tower located nearby. In 1540, the church had been reconstructed according to the Renaissance style by Jan Baptist the Venetian. In the 18th century, the church had undergone a thorough renovation and reconstruction and as a result lost its Gothic features. Early Baroque marble main altar, originally located in the Benedictine abbey, constitutes the most prominent decoration of the church's interior. The renovation completed in 2013 exposed some Gothic remnants of the former edifice, among others pointed portal of the façade facing the Vistula river.

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