1. Villa "Oazė", V. Krėvės St. 6

This particular villa, as well as the one right next to it (V. Krėvės St. 4), is a prime example of the resort's typical architecture. Given their striking stylistic resemblance, the buildings erected around 1930 are likely to have been designed by the same architect, as evidenced by the composition of their facades, the arrangement of windows, and the silhouettes of their mansard roofs. In the surviving old publications



that aimed to attract visitors to Druskininkai, Villa "Oaze" is described as a modern guest house offering diet food options, rooms with spacious verandas, a large dining room, a piano, a bath, and even a sewage system.

2-3 Villa complex, Maironio St. 14 and 16

Villa "Imperial" (Maironio St. 16), which was added to the building complex on Maironio Street during the interwar period, bears a striking resemblance to Swiss-style wooden resort architecture. Constructed in 1926, the villa has undergone multiple repairs and repaints over the years, resulting in some alterations to the decorative details of its facades. This was one of the first rest houses established in the resort and was owned by the local entrepreneur Meyer Frenkel. When it was first built, the villa was only open for guests in the summer season, and it featured not only guest rooms but also a restaurant. You may also want to take a look at Villa "Niespodzianka" right next to it (Maironio St. 14), which is adorned with open work carvings. This lavishly decorated villa evokes the spirit of Italian Romanticism.



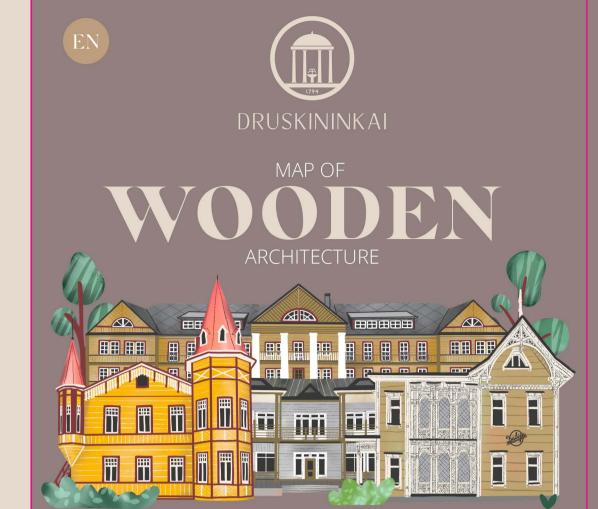


4. Villa "Radium", T. Kosciuškos St. 9

This architectural gem of the resort belongs to the building complex whose second stone building of the Burgomaster (T. Kosciuškos St. 7) was constructed later. Its massive size, highly playful facade structure, and overall composition distinctly set it apart from other wooden villas in the resort. Its name is associated with the chemical element of the same name, which was discovered by the Polish scientist Maria Salomea Skłodowska-Curie and her husband. At that time, Polish people showed a keen interest in new chemical elements, even going as far as investigating the radioactivity levels of the mineral waters in Druskininkai. Once a villa offering overnight stays for guests, the building was repurposed as a laboratory during the Soviet era. Reconstructed in 2009, the villa is now offering accommodation services once again.

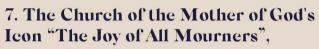
5. Villa "Rivjera", M. K. Čiurlionio St. 61

Built in the 1920s and '30s, in what was then the very centre of the resort, the boarding house of Elžbieta Mulevskaja stood out as a marvel of modern architecture. Each room had its own veranda and balcony, illuminated by electricity in the evenings, and the villa was also equipped with a sewage system, thus providing truly modern amenities for the period. The terrace was a great spot for sunbathing, a trendy activity at the time, and nearby tennis courts provided opportunities for lovers of active leisure.



6. Villa "Maurė", Laisvės Sq. 21

The most striking part of the villa, constructed in the Old Town of Druskininkai at the turn of the 20th century (circa 1900), was the main facade with a semi-open gallery. It features semicircular arch openings adorned with lattice carvings. Like most villas in the resort at the time, Villa "Maurė" provided guest accommodation services. The condition of the building deteriorated significantly during the Soviet era, reaching a critical state. Following the reconstruction in 1985, the formerly residential apartments were restored to their original function of guest accommodation. Today, Villa "Maurė" is known as Dalija Apartment Hotel. The interior boasts an authentic carved staircase railing that has survived to this day.



Laisvės Sq. 1

Built in 1865, the House of Prayer is the oldest surviving piece of wooden architecture in Druskininkai. The church remained almost intact throughout both world wars, too. From 1890 onwards, the nearby House of Orthodox Brotherhood served as a parish school for girls, providing accommodation for the poor of the Christian faith seeking treatment in the resort during the summer season. This wooden Orthodox church imitates the style of a brick building, with features of Russian Orthodox churches and details typical of the Romanticism and Historicism periods.



8. Villa "Sanatorija", Kurorto St. 6

Perched on the picturesque right bank of the Neman River, the sanatorium boasts a territory of around half a hectare. Although this is the largest wooden building in Druskininkai, there are no surviving records of its architect. What is known for a fact, though, is that the sanatorium was built circa 1930. The original function of the building remains unchanged. Currently, the building is known as Villa "Vingis", hosting a small wellness centre and providing accommodation services.

9. Jacques Lipchitz Memorial Museum, Šv. Jokūbo St. 17

This compact and cosy wooden house was built in the first half of the 20th century for the doctor Józef Markiewicz. After World War II, the Markiewicz family villa was repurposed as a paediatric polyclinic. The building underwent extensive repairs in 1971 and later served as a children's library. The building was repurposed once again in 1996, and the former residential building has since been transformed into a museum dedicated to the internationally acclaimed sculptor.



The truly marvellous wooden villas of Druskininkai hold the key to the town's identity. As you wander the streets of the resort, here and there you can see an old building or two. reflecting both the evolution of the town's architecture and remarkable fragments of its history. Ruled by the Polish during the interwar period, Druskininkai was not immune to the influence of the Swiss architectural style, with some of the wooden buildings also showcasing the style of the builders of Zakopane. Most of the wooden villas have been fully restored now and not only adorn the streets of the resort but also accept visitors – some of them operate as hotels, and others offer

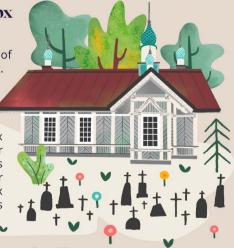
10. M. K. Čiurlionis House–Museum, M. K. Čiurlionio St. 35

Constructed on a foundation of boulders and bricks, the house has log walls finished with light green decorative boards. The surrounding picturesque landscape with a hilly valley overgrown with pine trees was a source of continuous inspiration to the famed artist. The M. K. Čiurlionis House-Museum was established in the homestead back in 1963 at the initiative of his sisters. The garden around the homestead, originally planted by Čiurlionis's father, was rejuvenated in 1964.



11. St. Archangel Gabriel Orthodox Church, Old Town Cemetery

This church belongs to the Church of the Mother of God's Icon "The Joy of All Mourners". The St. Archangel Gabriel Orthodox Church in Druskininkai and the Chapel of Baby Gabriel comprise a small wooden Orthodox church in the Druskininkai Old Town Cemetery situated on a hill. The gates feature embossed Orthodox crosses. The church was ravaged during World War II, resulting in the complete destruction of its interior. The church served as a house of prayer until 1962. At the request of the local Orthodox community and its priest, the church was subsequently renovated.



12. Grudzinskai Villa, M. K. Čiurlionio St. 67

On the corner of Dineikos and Čiurlionio streets stands the K. A. U. Grudzinskai Villa, built in 1900. One of the advertising booklets about Druskininkai published between the two world wars says that you can stay in Mrs. Grudziskaja's villa Dvorek in Jasnos (now K. Dineikos) Street. At the beginning of the second half of the 20th century, it was used as the resort's polyclinic and, later, its laboratory department. The architecture of this former summer house has features of both Swiss villas and the so-called "Zakopanė's style" created by Stanislovas Vitkevičius.

13. Villa "Žuvėdra" (en. "Seagull"), V. Kudirkos St. 9

The villa was built in the first half of the 20th century and has its main, western facade facing V. Kudirkos Street, with a picturesque panorama of the Druskonis Lake. In 1996, the building was rebuilt and transferred to private ownership. The building has a compact volume, all facades have unified design, are highly ornate and complete. The house is decorated with Slavic style ornamentation and its forms are reminiscent of Slavic summer houses built around the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century.

OTHER WOODEN BUILDINGS AT THE RESORT:

V. Krėvės Str. 4

R. Dineikos Str. 12

apartments for rent.

C Sausoji Str. 8

Maironio Str. 12

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
THE ARCHITECTURE OF DRUSKININKAL
VISIT:

The database of wooden architecture in Druskininkai and other Lithuanian towns at www.archimede.lt

The interactive educational platform connecting Lithuanian interwar architecture and modern technologies at www.tarpukarioarchitektura.lt

