Find inspiration in the artistic nooks of Warsaw, which offer an extraordinary mix of tradition and modernity.

Breathe in the culture.

If you love contrast and serendipity, take a tour combining modern design and architecture with a longing for the city's glorious past. Look around carefully and everything will fit in perfect harmony.

The walk starts in the city centre, which will put you in a creative frame of mind, so that you can seek further inspiration with a smile on your face. Go past the Palace of Culture and Science, a classic example of Stalinist architecture. You are now in the very heart of Warsaw. Walk along Marszalkowska Street towards Jerozolimskie Avenue where gems such as Art Nouveau townhouses await you.

The Powisle quarter has a fascinating surprise to offer. Are you ready for a trip to the realm of gods with multiple arms, menacing peers of Indonesian demons, the power of the Himalayas, suzani embroidery as well as oriental bazaars and souks? Just go down Poniatowski Bridge and take Solec Street. If you are interested in the culture of contemporary Asia, do not miss the Asia and Pacific Museum located here. Its exhibitions, presenting the achievements of Asian artists, will help you explore the mysteries of this continent of contrasts.

Architecture, art and design – everything belongs together

Dagmara Iakubczak
Journalist, author of the FORelements blog, fascinated with design, art, architecture and Saska Kepa.

Now, let us return to Poland to meet our native artistic Bohemia.

Go back to Poniatowski Bridge and head towards the National Stadium. At Rondo Waszyngtona take Francuska Street, a fabulous street which has its own annual feast in May. This place was a source of inspiration for the famous Polish poet and songwriter Agnieszka Osiecka* and still inspires many artists. It may feel like a different world, as life goes on peacefully here among the countless pubs and cafés, and the soothing rustle of trees.

A few steps away from Francuska Street, Katowicka Street is teeming with superb examples of interwar modernist architecture, offering a gorgeous view of a dozen historical buildings.

From Katowicka Street, go to Miedzynarodowa Street known for its mysterious outdoor sculptures from the 1970s hidden in the leafy courtyards among blocks of flats. Continue on and you will get to Skaryszewski Park where you can relax after this inspiring walk. Finally, a titbit: Miedzynarodowa Street, together with other streets in this area as well as Skaryszewski Park, was meant to be Warsaw's exhibition grounds. The project was never completed, as it was stopped by the World War II.

* Agnieszka Osiecka (1936-1997)
– a Polish poet, writer, songwriter, journalist, film director and screenwriter

Architecture, art and design – everything belongs together