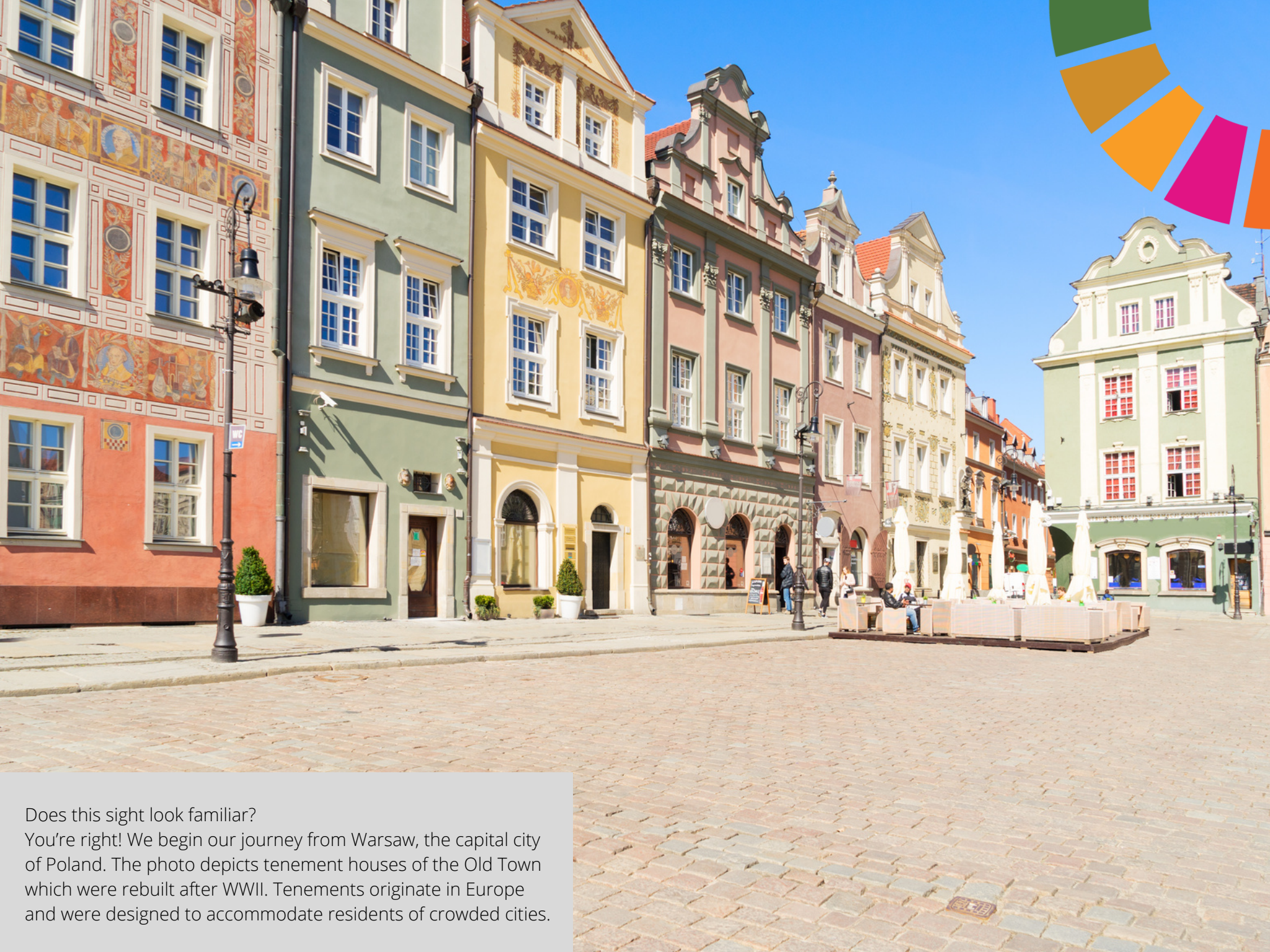


HOUSES AROUND THE WORLD



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Does this sight look familiar?
You're right! We begin our journey from Warsaw, the capital city of Poland. The photo depicts tenement houses of the Old Town which were rebuilt after WWII. Tenements originate in Europe and were designed to accommodate residents of crowded cities.



This type of house is probably the most well-known! An igloo was a common sight in Greenland and the Canadian Arctic Archipelago. They were used by hunters as temporary shelters during winter. Igloos could also serve as temporary shelters for small families. Sometimes bigger igloos were built as well — they were meant to be the places of meetings, ceremonies, sports events and festive activities. This may seem unbelievable, but such snow-and-ice houses were very warm.



This is yurt — a house built from animal skin and felt. Such houses can still be seen in the steppe areas of Russia, Kazakhstan and Mongolia. Yurts can be easily taken down and put up in a new place. They are usually inhabited by shepherds who graze sheep and horses. Their job requires a frequent change of places in search of the areas suitable for grazing animals.



Slums can be seen in South America, Africa and India. They are very crowded parts of cities inhabited by people living in extreme poverty. Most buildings in slums are makeshift constructions made of materials that could be found around (e.g. boards, boxes and corrugated sheets). Usually, in slums there are no pavings, electricity or sewage system. People living there do not have access to running water.



Pueblo — houses in Arizona and New Mexico in the Southern US. Pueblo is the architecture of the Indian tribe of Pueblo (in Spanish “pueblo” means “village”). Traditional Pueblo houses are made of stone, wooden beams and rectangle unburnt bricks. The bricks are a mixture of clay and hay, moulded and dried in the sun. They are erected as multi storey terraces (one above the other). Higher stories and roofs are accessed using ladders.



Traditional houses in Russia are made entirely from wood. This type of housing is called “izba” by their inhabitants. Such houses have small windows and coal furnaces to keep them warm during cold winters.



Brick houses characteristic of North Africa. This type of brick is usually not burnt in kilns but left to dry in the sun.



The houses of the Maasai people can be seen in Kenya and Tanzania. They are temporary shelters because the Maasai people frequently change their place of residence. Manyatta is made of wooden sticks dug in the ground, entwined with smaller twigs. This type of housing is oval in shape and covered with a mixture of mud, animal excrements and grass. It is meant as a shelter not only for people, but also domestic animals.



Houses of the Korowai people, which we can encounter in Papua New Guinea, are constructed to protect their inhabitants: buildings erected on the ground are prone to attacks of other tribes.



Detached houses are characteristic of the US, where whole neighbourhoods are built in the same style. Such streets can be seen in US family films, like Steven Spielberg's "E.T"



Sometimes, the architectural trademark of a given country or region is not the shapes or materials but the colours. Such white buildings are a common sight for example in Africa (the picture shows houses in Tunisia). Why, in your opinion, have people decided to paint the whole city white?



Another example of such hallmarks are Mexico's colourful buildings.