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"This is not a positive signal for the market. It is very important to clearly state the reasons for the decision."
German Gref, Sberbank CEO

50.1%
the share of Bashneft
floated for sale.

1 trillion rubles
the value of the total
planned privatization by
the government in 2016.



Privatization is the process of transferring an enterprise or industry from the public sector to the private sector.

Privatization, Russian-Style

By **Mikhail Fishman** m.fishman@imedi.ru

Government delays Bashneft sale amid signs of a power struggle.

Russia's privatization process is like a scratched record: the same endless story, the same screeching sounds. Since it was launched under then-President Dmitry Medvedev in 2009, Russia's free-market oriented officials have pushed for the sale of state assets. And they have repeatedly failed. The government announced that the privatization of 50.1 percent stake in the state oil company Bashneft will be delayed until further notice.

The next day, Bashneft shares fell as much as 15 percent. They closed the day down 8.2 percent.

The postponement will have serious consequences. The sale should have brought in up to 315 billion rubles (\$4.9 billion) to the state treasury — a significant source of income for Russia's budget in 2016. Instead, the postponed privatization will speed up the depletion of Russia's rainy-day Reserve Fund. According to the Vedomosti newspaper, this will now happen before the end of the year.

According to the RBC newspaper, the formal reason for delaying the sale was an appeal by the republic of Bashkortostan's president Rustem Khmitov. The republic currently has a 25 percent stake in the company, and supposedly raised concerns over whether it would be able to fulfil its social obligations to the republic post-sale.

But insiders and observers doubt this was the real reason. Instead, they point to the fact that the two major contenders for the state stake of Bashneft were private oil giant Lukoil and state oil company Rosneft.

Many in government had doubts over the participation of latter. After all, what privatization can take place without the transition of state-owned property into private owned property?

"It is nonsense, how can a state-owned company buy another state company? This is not a privatization," presidential aide Andrei Belousov said at the end of July. The comments were in response to Rosneft officially applying to take part in the tender.

In fact, Russia's laws forbid state companies from taking part in privatization. But, for Ros-



The two heads of the oil majors bidding for the state stake in Bashneft — Igor Sechin of Rosneft and Vagit Alekperov of Lukoil.

neft, semantics provide wiggle room. As Rosneft stressed, the government does not own it directly, but via state-owned company, Rosneftegaz.

"Technically speaking, Rosneft is not a state company," President Vladimir Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov confirmed when asked about the matter.

Rosneft has had an interest in Bashneft since Bashneft was de-privatized in 2014 and taken over from its previous owner, Russia's billionaire Vladimir Yevtushenkov. Yevtushenkov was charged with money laundering. The charges were dropped when he lost the company.

Acquiring Bashneft and its untapped oil assets in Russia's far north would allow Rosneft to improve its own financial situation, experts noted.

There was little surprise when Rosneft announced it would take part in the privatization of Bashneft — with Lukoil as its only competitor.

By early August, it was clear a big struggle was taking behind the scenes. Government officials apparently stood firm, according to the Kommersant newspaper. "Lukoil looked like the preferred customer," the paper alleged.

A source close to the government confirmed an official consensus had been reached, and that "everyone understands Bashneft should not be owned by Rosneft — it's against the rules and common sense."

That said, Russia's leadership is indecisive, as it often is when it comes to privatization of natural resources. Handing the assets to private hands would simply mean giving big profits to individuals.

From this perspective, the postponement of the Bashneft sale perfectly fits the history of Russia's privatization program in recent years.

They all start with big ambitions and forceful announcements. And they end up, ultimately, with nothing. **TMT**



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Editor-in-Chief Mikhail Fishman
Production Manager Igor Grishin
Advertising Director Maria Kamenskaya
m.kamenskaya@imedi.ru

Director Elena Stepanova
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Founder and publisher
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**Founder's, publisher's and editorial
address**

3 Polkovaya Ul., Bldg. 1, Moscow 127018

Editorial +7 (495) 234 3223

Fax +7 (495) 232 6529

Advertising Sales +7 (495) 232 4774

Fax +7 (495) 232 1764

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"Nooscope" is described as a device that scans "biosphere" and includes a network of "spacial scanners."



Aug. 12

Anton Vaino unexpectedly appointed chief of staff.



"It is not clear to which discipline we can attribute it. Basically, it's nonsense." **Kirill Martynov**, philosophy professor.

2011-2012

Anton Vaino reportedly published several articles in Issues of Economy and Law.



The Crystal Ball Chief of Staff

By **Daria Litvinova** d.litvinova@imedia.ru, Twitter: @dashalitvinovv

A bizarre article has been linked to newly appointed top bureaucrat Anton Vaino.

"The market is a manifestation of life. The brightest manifestations of life occur in its condensation: in certain points, certain lines, certain spatial-temporal formations."

For some, this might seem to be just a bunch of random words. In reality, they are the introductory remarks of an academic article supposedly penned by Anton Vaino, President Vladimir Putin's newly appointed chief of staff which was published in 2012 by the Issues of Economy and Law journal.

Full of complicated terms, schemes and graphs, the article describes a device called a "nooscope." Designed in Russia five years ago, the nooscope studies "the collective conscience of mankind" and registers "among other things, the unseen." A network of "spatial scanners," monitors changes in the "biosphere".

Anton Vaino today occupies one of the top positions in Russia's bureaucratic hierarchy. His rise was as meteoric as it was unexpected, after Putin astounded Kremlin watchers by replacing close ally and political veteran Sergei Ivanov with someone younger and less well-known.

What we do know about Vaino, 44, is that he is the grandson of the former head of the Estonian Communist Party. He trained as a diplomat before serving in Russia's embassy in Tokyo in the late 1990s, and then at Russia's Foreign Ministry. Since 2003, Vaino has risen up through the presidential administration — forging a career as chief of the presidential protocol department.

Russia's officials describe Vaino as an efficient and loyal bureaucrat and Putin's personal choice as his chief of staff. Accord-

ing to unnamed sources cited by business daily Vedomosti, Vaino is a "brilliant administrator."

Getting a degree has been a mandatory ritual for Russian officials for a long time. For some, obtaining a degree is a necessary condition of climbing the career ladder, says Sergei Parkhomenko, co-founder of Dissernet, an online group fighting intellectual fraud. "For example, if you're a district prosecutor and want to become a city prosecutor, you need to get a Doctorate. It's not a written rule, but that's how it works," Parkhomenkosaid.

According to Kommersant, Vaino published several articles on the economy in Issues of Economy and Law between December 2011 and May 2012. In 2013, Vaino reportedly received an economic degree, about the equivalent of a U.S. masters, after writing and defending a dissertation on the mineral resources industry. Articles in scientific journals, including the one quoted above, were, apparently, a stepping stone to the dissertation. In Russia, anyone seeking to obtain such a degree needs to have articles published in such journals.

Vaino's career, however, did not depend on getting a degree, argues Parkhomenko. Instead, to officials like him it is a matter of prestige. "It is like having a certain car, wearing a suit of certain brand, living in a mansion in a certain place, owning real estate abroad and such. It is part of a 'success kit' for these people," the activist says.

The piece about "nooscope" — whoever did in fact write it — has nothing to do with science, says Kirill Martynov, a philosophy professor at the Higher School of Economics in Moscow. "It

is not even clear to which area of expertise we can attribute it. Basically, it's nonsense. In terms of Russian language, the words make sense, but in terms of science — they don't," Martynov said.

The article lacks many of the formal characteristics of a piece of scientific work, like coherence, logic and the facts being attributed to sources. "Instead, the article uses semi-mystical terms and facts that cannot be verified or proved," the philosophy professor says. "For example, it says that 'nooscope' has 50 patents, but there is no attribution to any of them."

This falls into a trend called "aboriginal science," according to Martynov. "In aboriginal science people imitate scientific activity, using platforms that have nothing to do with international science, but are convenient for achieving their goals," he says.

The article is far from being scientific, agrees Alexander Et-kind, a renowned culture historian. At the same time, the article is utopian in genre. "There is hope in the article that new will change the quality of government. The new device, developed under mythical protocols and patents, is supposed to control things that can't be controlled: Internet, market, life," Et-kind said.

BBC Russia reached out to one of Vaino's co-authors, Viktor Sarayev, and asked about the "nooscope."

The response was elliptic. "Newton invented the telescope, Leeuwenhoek invented the microscope, and we invented the nooscope — a device of the material Internet that scans transactions between people, things and money," Sarayev wrote back to the BBC. He declined to give more details about the device. **TMT**

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4 Looking Forward

"Bout hasn't indicated that he's willing to cut a deal. But there is some concern that he might think 'I'm tired of waiting.'"

Mark Galeotti



The Moscow Times
No. 5768

2008

the year Bout was arrested in Thailand.

2010

the year Yaroshenko was arrested in Liberia.

"The Russian side are working on the case of Yaroshenko and the rest of our citizens who are detained in the U.S." Dmitry Peskov



Diamonds, Guns and Trump

By Matthew Bodner m.bodner@lmedia.ru, Twitter: @mattb0401

Russia's goal of returning convicted arms smuggler Viktor Bout takes on a new twist.

It was a bold, but effortless heist.

Three men, posing as gemstone buyers for a wealthy client, walked into the Moscow offices of an Indian-owned diamond dealer. They talked their way into the firm's vault. After all, they needed to inspect the merchandise. Once the steel hatch was opened, one of the men stepped out to call his client. Shortly afterwards, four men draped in camouflage and wielding assault rifles stormed into the building.

The armed men claimed to be officers of Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB). They were conducting a raid on illicit gemstone trading, they said. Those present were told to drop to the ground. And the so-called officers went off with some \$2.8 million worth of jewelry, and 600,000 euros (\$670,000) in cash.

The robbery took place in August 2010. When investigators finally got around to prosecuting two years later, their attention fell on Russian-American businessman Gennady Klotsman. He was eventually sentenced by Moscow's Lefortovo Court to ten years in a Russian penal colony.

It wasn't, as turns out, Klotsman's first run-in with the law. Back in the U.S., he also had interesting friends with alleged criminal and political connections. But Klotsman wasn't the kind of guy who usually makes headlines, and his arrest went mostly unnoticed in the Russian press. He looked set to serve out his sentence quietly, and to see freedom again sometime in 2022.

But earlier this month Klotsman was thrust from relative anonymity by news that he was one of a list of 13 Americans in Russia that Moscow was looking to exchange for two of its own imprisoned in the U.S.



ELIZABETH WILLIAMS / AP

Unusual Trade

Under normal circumstances, this might be an easy swap: thirteen of yours for just two of ours. But, the two men in question were not easily swappable. According to a Foreign Ministry document cited by Izvestia newspaper on Aug. 3, Russia went straight for the top of its wish-list: the international arms dealer Viktor Bout and a drug-running pilot, Konstantin Yaroshenko. These are men who may or may not have dirt on Russia's leadership.

The U.S. Embassy in Moscow declined to comment on the exchange proposal, but confirmed Klotsman is in Russian custody. The proposal cited by Izvestia was, however, confirmed in part by the Russian Foreign Ministry.

"The details still need to be discussed confidentially," Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov told the RIA Novosti news

In a 2012 courtroom illustration, Bout shouts "It's a lie!" after a prosecutor told the court that he agreed to sell weapons to kill Americans.

agency on Aug. 3. "[But] Yaroshenko is one of those we would like to see released under this scheme, as well as Bout."

Both Russians were seized in sting operations far beyond Washington's traditional territorial jurisdiction. Yaroshenko was arrested in Liberia in 2010 on charges of conspiring to smuggle \$100 million of cocaine into the U.S. Bout, the more significant figure, was arrested in Thailand two years earlier.

"Bout is an absolutely fascinating and unique figure, in that he was indeed a legitimate businessman in not always entirely legitimate industries. As far as I'm concerned, he was also an intelligence asset," says Mark Galeotti, an expert in Russian security services and organized crime. "He's a guy who knows a lot of inside stuff, so while he isn't cooperating now, they fear he one day might."

Bout, who ran a global arms running empire, disputes aspects of his arrest. Both he and the Russian government claim he was tricked into saying he could supply Colombian FARC rebels with anti-aircraft missiles. Bout maintains that any statement made was merely hypothetical, an expression of his confidence as a logistics genius.

There has long been speculation that Bout, and Yaroshenko to a much lesser extent, had ties with Russian intelligence agencies, specifically the GRU. According to Karen Dawisha, an expert on Russian organized crime and corruption, "Bout was running an off-the-books international arms trade (and drug trade), with cash going to Igor Sechin," a close friend and ally of President Vladimir Putin.

Such allegations are difficult to prove, and so far nothing has stuck. But the speculated Bout-Sechin link may have motivated the arms dealer's arrest and subsequent 25-year sentencing. Just



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"It makes sense to have early elections and commit to reforms with a renewed mandate." Alexei Kudrin, former finance minister



12 years

Vladimir Putin has spent as Russian president.



Vladimir Putin has not confirmed that he will run for the fourth presidential term. He said his decision will depend on the situation "in Russia and the world."

March 11, 2018

the scheduled date of Russia's next presidential election.

last week, Bout's wife Alla said the U.S. offered him a reduced sentence and cozy life in America in exchange for information on Sechin. Bout refused, and the U.S. threw the book at him. Alla Bout did not reply to a request for comment.

Interesting Friends

Precisely why Russia might think the U.S. would trade Bout and Yaroshenko for a dozen unidentified Americans and Klotsman is, at first glance, hard to understand. That is before you look deeper into Klotsman's background. There, you see a rich history of fraud and shady business dealings, much of it with another Russian-American businessman, Felix Sater.

When Sater was eight years old, his family emigrated to Brighton Beach, a popular neighborhood for Soviet expats in New York. His father is said to have Russian mafia connections, according to Dawisha. Sater himself has well-publicized links to real estate developer and presidential candidate Donald Trump. His business cards identify him as a senior advisor to Trump.

Sater and Klotsman appear to be old friends. At a New York bar in 1991, Sater earned his first run-in with the law when he stabbed a commodities broker in the face with the stem of a broken Margarita glass. Klotsman was drinking with him that night.

In 1993, the two took control of a brokerage firm called White Rock Partners, which the pair used to defraud investors to the tune of almost \$40 million.

The men pleaded guilty in 1998, but this is where things got weird. Both were in Moscow at the time, according to a 2007 story by The New York Times, and both brokered deals. Sater reportedly bought his freedom by digging up information on black market missile sales for the CIA. Klotsman testified against 19 of his accomplices in the fraud scheme, six of whom had mob ties.

Once off the hook, Klotsman returned to Moscow. According to Russian media reports, it was here that he reconnected with Russian gemologist Samuel Davidyants, who he first met in Israel in the early 2000s. Klotsman then supposedly asked Davidyants to procure \$1 million in diamonds a month for an unnamed buyer. Davidyants helped him, and was allegedly one of the three men who talked their way into the vault in August 2010.

Klotsman's name is the third to appear in the Russian press as a possible trade for Bout. And even with his colorful history, past history suggests he will not be deemed worth the trade. Previous suggestions are said to have featured NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden, and Ukrainian pilot Nadiya Savchenko.

That is, of course, provided a certain candidate does not confound polls to win the U.S. presidential election in November. **TMT**

Putin Is No Lame Duck

Russia's leader is playing the long game when it comes to the country's presidential elections.



Op-Ed by **Andrei Kolesnikov**

Senior associate and the chair of the Russian Domestic Politics and Political Institutions Program at the Carnegie Moscow Center.

Tensions over Crimea and a flurry of new appointments in the upper echelons of government have made many wonder if President Vladimir Putin is planning snap presidential elections, bringing them forward from the planned 2018.

The case for is as follows: the economic situation is dire and, although the euphoria over the annexation of Crimea has not fully worn off yet, the people's mood could change abruptly. It gets tiring to have to dream up a new war every month just to keep the people united against some common enemy. The decision to move parliamentary elections forward from December this year to September also went off without a hitch.

The active reshuffling of senior government posts also points to likely early elections. The old guard is sent into retirement — some in disgrace, as with former Customs head Andrei Belyaninov, and some with honor, like former presidential administration head Sergei Ivanov, who was transferred nonetheless to a specially invented and humiliating new post as the special representative to the president for ecology and transport.

Putin is sending his ruling elite a signal: cut down on the stealing and do not show off your wealth because it reflects poorly on your patron in the Kremlin. The people are feeling the effects of the crisis, and corruption among members of the establishment irritates them greatly.

But despite all of this, there are reasons to suggest that Putin is planning to hold off elections as long as he can.

The crisis is certainly giving way to a long-term economic downturn. Indicators are gradually but steadily falling, while the growth rates for GDP and production hover near zero. It is a very painful and unpleasant situation. The majority of the population, however, has adapted to the crisis and continues to draw hope from the news that Russia has regained its status as a great power. Leaders can definitely use that and their "import substitution" story to keep the people quiet until 2018.

What's more, despite the fact that no one is waiting for a strategy and vision of the future from the president, Putin must still have some sort of platform when he runs for re-election. It isn't possible to create one quickly, so what is the hurry?

If the parliamentary elections in September go off as planned — that is, without major scandals — they will add legitimacy to the system so that leaders can say, "Look, we even hold fair elections and are not afraid of competition!" So why rush into presidential elections?

And most importantly, why would Putin himself want early elections? So that he can have one less year in power? As things stand now, he has a full 18 months before his next term begins, and then another six long years at the helm. Why become a lame duck earlier than necessary?

Putin drew several conclusions from the mass protests of 2011-2012. They convinced him that the mandate he received from "the people," i.e. ordinary Russians, is much more important than the views of the small and overly outspoken segment of progressive citizens.

After returning to the Kremlin, he therefore focused on silencing the voices of that stratum of Russian society. Now they are quiet, and no large-scale protests are anticipated.

And that means there is no need to hold early elections. **TMT**

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"When I saw the coup organizers on TV on Aug. 19, I immediately thought: Well, we're done."
Putin in his *"First Person"* book

3

Russians died during the events of August 1991.

48%

of Russians do not know or remember what happened during the coup.



Russia scored 3.5 on the Freedom House index of political and civil liberties after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.



ANDREI SOLOVYOV / TASS

End of Story

By [Anna Kachurovskaya](#) and [Mikhail Fishman](#) m.fishman@lmedia.ru

An unlikely series of events 25 years ago brought about the end of one of the most feared regimes in history. But how far has Russia come since?

The events of August 19-21, 1991, could hardly be called a revolution. To begin with, there were no revolutionaries — only counter-revolutionaries. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev had long known that a group was maneuvering to remove him in September. And he had made plans to defend himself.

Gorbachev had already initiated talks on creating a new union treaty to deprive the Communist Party leadership of its influence. Talks had already started with the leaders of the Soviet Union's most influential republics. According to Yeltsin's legal adviser, Sergei Shakhrai, the Russian leader signed the agreement on Aug. 17. Shakhrai would later go on to be a key lawmaker and author of the Russian Constitution.

Gorbachev's talks forced the hand of the hardliners and led to the coup. The conspirators had a great deal of power on their side, including the state apparatus, army, and secret services. Their idea was clear: roll back the new freedoms that Gorbachev had introduced, stop flirting with the West, restore the authority of the Communist Party, and return to the golden days before perestroika.

Twenty-five years ago, those conspirators tried to jam a stick into the wheel of change and rob Russians of their hope for a new life. But the stick quickly broke, marking the peak of Russia's aspirations for a different future.

The wheel of change moved onward.

Morning, August 19

The moment citizens understood something was wrong was when they turned on their television sets on the morning of Aug. 19, 1991. The hard-line coup leaders had organized the unscheduled broadcast of "Swan Lake," interrupted only by "breaking" news updates announcing



DMITRY DONSKOI / RIA NOVOSTI

Leaders of the four new states — Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan in December 1991.

that Gorbachev was supposedly ill, and that a new "emergency committee" was now in power.

Gennady Burbulis, Yeltsin's closest ally and another founding father of the future Russia, was with the Russian leader at his dacha in Arkhangelskoye that day. "We held an emergency meeting, and drafted the perfect document — an appeal to the citizens of Russia," he said.

Another adviser, the academic and deputy Yuri Ryzhov was in central Moscow that day. He recalls how he went to work at the Russian White House on Krasnopresnenskaya Embankment on Aug. 19. Today, that famous building houses the Russian government; then, it was the seat of the Russian parlia-

ment, or Supreme Council.

In October 1993, when the Supreme Council rebelled against the president, Yeltsin ordered tanks to fire on the White House that he had defended two years earlier. And this time, the military obeyed orders.

"We arrived at 9 a.m.," Ryzhov said. "It was clear something was happening. When I stopped in at Burbulis' office, his staff said that he was at Yeltsin's dacha in Arkhangelskoye outside of Moscow. I asked them to get Burbulis on the line, but it was Yeltsin who picked up the receiver. He told me they were composing an appeal to the nation."

Burbulis believes that this appeal was one of three factors that made it possible to turn the situation around. Its first phrase read: "The legally elected president of the country has been unlawfully suspended from his duty." The document described events as a coup attempt, and called for a national strike.

Shakhrai was also at Yeltsin's dacha. "It was frightening," he recalled. "There was that cutting silence of early morning and a terrible dissonance: a cloudless blue sky while some sort of problem was brewing. I wondered if I'd see my wife and kids again. When the turmoil began, it helped: we realized we had to do something, defend ourselves."

Yeltsin's motorcade traveled from Arkhangelskoye to the White House, issuing initial orders along the way.

A Living Shield

"We put Yeltsin on the back seat of the ZiL," recalls Alexander Korzhakov. "He would not put on his bulletproof vest, so we surrounded him with our bodies."

Back in 1991, Alexander Korzhakov was Yeltsin's bodyguard.

Continued on Page 11 →

Out & About



August 18 – 24, 2016

7

Weekly round-up of all that's new, delicious and fun in Moscow.



MAHJONG



Mastering Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Thai, Korean and Vietnamese cooking doesn't seem to have been too much of a challenge for resident chef Pavel Kirillov.

Playful Pan-Asian at Mahjong

By **Andrei Muchnik** artsreporter@imedia.ru

Six cuisines under one roof

Mahjong may only be a 10-minute walk from the Kievskaya metro station, but when you enter the snug little eatery you could easily fancy yourself thousands of miles away. Situated in one of the city's most prestigious neighborhoods on Kutuzovsky Prospekt, Mahjong offers a journey through the Orient from the comfort of your dining table.

The restaurant is the latest project of Kirill Gusev, the illustrious restaurateur who went from high-profile and opulent establishments like the now-defunct Zolotoi (Golden) and Entrecote at Hotel Metropol, to more low-key cafes, like Big-

gie and Zhizn Pi (Life of Pie). The same approach to quality—but in a relaxed setting—characterizes his latest venture.

A pan-Asian restaurant, Mahjong is named after the eponymous board game popular across Asia. Just as the tiles of the game are jumbled together, so are the six cuisines on the menu.

On entry to the restaurant try not to stumble over the painting of a waterfall on the floor. The visual illusion supposedly has a 3D effect if you look at it through your smartphone camera, giving the impression you're standing over an abyss on a hanging bridge. The rest of the interior is

rather more subdued, with some street art on the walls and tables that imitate a traditional Mahjong board.

Start with impeccably executed Vietnamese nem—rice paper spring rolls with duck (450 rubles), shrimp (550 rubles) or Japanese salmon tataki (seared and marinated fish) served with cold green noodles (450 rubles). Adventurous types should opt for the well-balanced hot and sour soup (350 rubles).

Choose murgli masala for your main dish—tender chicken in a tomato-based curry masala sauce, served with rice (450 rubles). Vegetarians

won't be disappointed with the vibrant palak panir—spinach with fried panir cheese (450 rubles).

There are some interesting desserts too, like the exotic mango coconut mousse (450 rubles), best paired with a pot of steaming masala chai (400 rubles). If you really want to embrace the experience order a traditional tea ceremony (550 rubles) and enjoy three varieties of tea from different regions of Asia. **TMT**

+7 (985) 588 5500

facebook.com/mahjongrest
17 Kutuzovsky Prospekt
Metro Kievskaya

NEWS & OPENINGS



BEKERS

Bekers

Simple Israeli bakery

With its clean and functional interior, Bekers Israeli bakery on Leninsky Prospekt is no cozy cafe for whiling away the hours. While many of the pies and strudels on offer are distinctly average, you can pick up Jewish specialties like sweet Challah bread. The fruity Bekers pie (320 rubles) and the dense and rich chocolate "kartoshka" truffles (100 rubles) stand out as highlights.

+7 (965) 398 7778

bekers.ru
70/11 Leninsky Prospekt
Metro Universitet



PRASAD

Prasad

Veggie van that packs a punch

Could this be Moscow's finest falafel van? A soft homemade pita with grilled halloumi, smoky eggplant, freshly made hummus, chili sauce and hearty chickpea or lentil falafel will set you back 300 rubles, although smaller portions are available. Hearty tomato soup (150 rubles) and the thyme and mint tea (100 rubles) make for the perfect accompaniment.

facebook.com/prasadblogo

Bauman Garden
15/3 Staraya Basmannaya Ulitsa
Metro Baumanskaya



BRUSCHETTA BAR

Bruschetta Bar

Italian inspired pit stop

Bruschetta Bar is an upmarket alternative to fast food. The bruschettas (300 rubles) that give the bar its name are underwhelming. Small slices of bread are precariously stacked with over-seasoned toppings, most of which will end up falling into your lap. For a more filling snack, go for the comforting lasagna (490 rubles) or the platter of Italian cold cuts (760 rubles).

+7 (495) 691 7787

facebook.com/the21arbat
21 Novy Arbat
Metro Arbatskaya



MED

Med

Upmarket steak restaurant

Med's wooden, brick and copper design provides a classy, yet snug hideaway. The hot beef salad (690 rubles) is a delightfully simple dish, with tender strips of steak layered onto a perfectly dressed bed of fresh vegetables. The New York steak is not cheap at 590 rubles per 100 grams, but it is absolutely worth it. Pair it with the unusual and delicious shrimp potato puree (520 rubles).

+7 (495) 609 0908

facebook.com/coppermoscow
23/12 Tverskaya Ulitsa
Metro Pushkinskaya, Tverskaya

Take it and go!

Four pages packed with the best places in Moscow to eat, drink, walk, shop, listen, watch, dance and sightsee. A new walking route and listings every week! **Take it, use it, save it!**

2. Central House of Artists

Beyond the round school is the massive building that defines the space and houses two different organizations. The one with the entrance on the short side of the building is the Central House of Artists, a hub for artists of every kind, curators, exhibitors, and lovers of anything artistic in the very broadest sense of the word. More than 60 galleries and organizations rent space here, making it a great place for art shopping, and there are 27 enormous halls for massive shows. This is where you come for the cool Non-Fiction Book Festival and the magnificent annual Antique Show. But every year there are dozens of exhibitions of local and foreign artists, concerts, lectures, and other events. Don't pass this entrance by.

10 Krymsky Val. www.cha.ru

3. New Tretyakov Gallery

On the long side of the building is the entrance to the New Tretyakov Gallery, one of the spaces that house and exhibit the enormous collection of Russian art held by the Tretyakov Gallery. This gallery takes up the history of Russian art begun in the old building on Lavrushinsky Pereulok starting with art at the end of the 19th century. It has the absolute best collection of the Russian avant-garde in the world. Run, don't walk, to see the art of Vasily Kandinsky, Natalia Goncharova, Vladimir Tatlin, Kazimir Malevich and other artists who revolutionized art and, in fact, invented modern art. The intelligently curated halls take you through the explosion of avant-garde creativity followed by its gentle and then relentless stifling in the age of socialist realism. But you'll find some brilliant artists in that period, too. A long day of walking will take you through the underground and foreign exile up to the present of Russian art. It's also the place for big shows, like the Ivan Aivazovsky exhibition now on. A Moscow must-see.

10 Krymsky Val. www.tretyakovgallery.ru



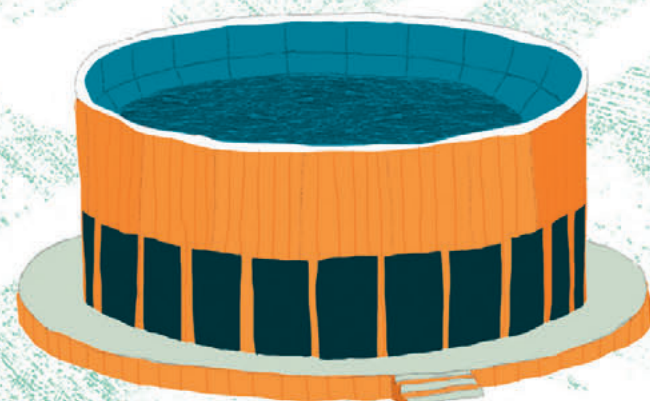
4. Art Market

After the million-dollar art inside, head outside for some affordable art. Walk toward the bridge and follow it past the parking lot down to the river embankment. Here in the old days artists would park their cars, pull out stands and easels, display their art and haggle with customers over the price of a hand-crafted necklace, wooden sculpture or oil painting. In the summer prospective customers dodged huge umbrellas protecting work from the sun; in the winter, they paused by braziers to warm up. Now the area is a pedestrian walkway and the art for sale is under protective awnings. Among generic landscapes are excellent paintings, etchings, and drawings. Hagglng still practiced.



1. School

When you enter the grounds of Muzeon from Krymsky Val, one of the first things you see is a round wooden structure, built in 2012 by the architect Igor Chirkin. This is one of the first buildings completed for the "new park" of Muzeon. The old park wasn't a park at all. First there was just empty space. In 1992 some of the empty space was used as a dumping ground for torn-down Soviet monuments and popularly called "The Graveyard of Fallen Leaders." Then some people said that dumping the statues was disrespectful to those who had believed in the Soviet cause. Others countered that treating the monuments respectfully would insult their victims. So a new concept appeared: a sculpture park that would include Soviet monumental art right next to anti-Soviet art and hundreds of other sculptures. That little park was called Muzeon. A decade or so later, the concept changed again to include all the green space around the large museum building and it was turned into a recreational-educational-musical-artistic playground. That round building you see is the school, a key part of the Muzeon concept of art for all. Stop in for a lecture or class.



5. Embankment

In 2013 the street that used to run along the river was closed, a few buildings torn down, and the whole stretch of river turned into a pedestrian area that joins the Gorky Park embankment to make up several kilometers of car-free paths. The embankment at Muzeon has nifty bridges and jumps for skateboarders and roller-bladers, broad wooden bleachers for relaxing and sunning, several cafés, and a pop-up market with food, souvenirs, clothing and other incredibly desirable non-essentials. If you prefer water to grass or wood, you can hop onboard the good ship Bryusov and have a drink or bite to eat while enjoying the views of Christ the Savior Cathedral and Zurab Tsereteli's massive statue in honor of Peter the Great and the Russian navy.

МУЗЕОН

6

**6. Sculpture Garden**

A trip to Muzeon must include a walk through the sculpture garden — it was, after all, the original reason for the park's existence. Most of the sculptures were made by living artists, many young, and offer a full range of styles and materials, although stone is favored. The most moving part of the collection is the "Leaders and Victims" area: the huge statues of Josef Stalin, Felix Dzerzhinsky — famously pulled down from the square in front of the KGB building on Lubyanka — and other Soviet leaders being watched by 283 carved stone heads behind bars. These 283 faces were carved by artist Yevgeny Chubarov to represent his fellow villagers who were the victims of "dekulakization," exile, and repression during the years of Soviet power.

7

**7. Summer Theater**

At the end of the day, take in a movie at the summer theater, tucked amid the sculptures close to 3rd Golutvinsky Pereulok. The wooden bleachers hold up to 300 people, and the shows start at either 9:30 or 10 p.m. Almost all of the movies are shown in the original language with Russian subtitles, so this is the perfect place for binational families and groups. It's also a great place to go with sleepy kids who will nod off in the fresh air. Be sure, however, to check the site for updates. Movies aren't shown if the temperature drops below 10 degrees Celsius or when windy rain storms make viewing impossible. muzeon.ru/pages/cinema

A Day in the Park

Enjoy the Many Pleasures Of Muzeon

By **Michele A. Berdy** m.berdy@imedia.ru | Illustration by **Ilya Kutoboy**

Spend a day at Muzeon, where great art meets great pleasures on the banks of the Moscow River


Ryan Ayrton, lawyer

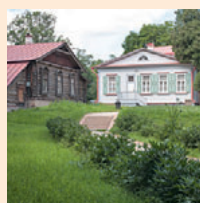
*"My favorite terrace of the summer has to be at **Dewar's Powerhouse**. It's a relaxing place, where you can enjoy the BBQ, a game of table tennis and a refreshing glass of sangria. At night the venue hosts concerts from new and exciting artists."*



MIHAIL LOMONOSOV

Moscow Blues? Four Day Trips From the City

On edge from the constant drilling in Moscow's center and dreaming of fresh air, onion domes and a town small enough to explore without using the metro? Look no further. There's plenty of beauty and adventure to be found outside the big city — and it's closer than you might think.



NICKOLAS TITKOV

Abramtsevo

Artistic retreat on a beautiful estate

Abramtsevo estate — just 60 kilometers from Moscow — has a long and eventful history. It started life as the center for the Slavophile movement in the early 19th century. Under the leadership of Sergei Aksakov the estate was frequented by the likes of Nikolai Gogol and Ivan Turgenev and later it drew artists such as Valentin Serov, Ilya Repin and Mikhail Vrubel.

For a ticket costing 800 rubles you can view the works of these artists and visit the on-site buildings which contain more paintings and historical items. Don't miss a small church designed by Viktor Vasnetsov and a

majolica bench made by Mikhail Vrubel. At the entrance to the estate there are stands with traditional Russian baked goods and soft drinks. Alternatively stop at cafe Abramtsevo for a light bite or the slightly pricier restaurant at hotel Galereya.

Train from Yaroslavy Station to Khotkovo and then bus no. 55. Closed on Monday and Tuesday



MOBINOVIC / PIXABAY

Sergiev Posad

Religious heartland

The main attraction of Sergiev Posad, a small town about 70 kilometers north of Moscow, is the Trinity Lavra of St. Sergius, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The monastery was founded by Sergius of Radonezh,

one of the most revered 14th century Russian saints. The architecture of the monastery is simply unbelievable — you'll find your head constantly turning from one marvel to the other. The masterpieces not to miss are the Trinity Cathedral, which houses Andrei Rublyov's icon "The Trinity," the Assumption Cathedral and the refectory building built in the Baroque style. Both St. Sergius himself and Tsar Boris Godunov are buried on the site.

You are allowed inside the churches during services but be sure to respect the dress code of the monastery. Near the monastery there is a picturesque park where you can rent a boat and relax after all that architectural splendor. If you're looking for a pit stop there's a great little place with burgers, cider and craft beer called Svoi Bar on the way from the monastery to the train station — perfect if you have a little while to wait for your train.

Train from Yaroslavy Station



MIKSAM69 / WIKICOMMONS

Vladimir

An ancient capital

175 kilometers to the northeast of Moscow, Vladimir was a heavyweight political, religious and cultural destination when Moscow was still in its provincial youth. The city's golden age was during the 12th century when Prince Andrei Bogolyubsky moved the capital to the city from Kiev and built many of the city's most famous landmarks. Take the express train from Kurskaya Station — the journey takes around three hours — and don't be put off by the rather dour Soviet infrastructure you'll be greeted with upon leaving the train. If you head into town you'll soon see what everyone's talking about. First stop is the Cathedral of St. Demetrius, which bears intricate stone carvings depicting King David, wild beasts and the Kievan Prince Vsevolod III. Walk past the Palaty, an 18th century court building which holds a children's museum, exhibition and art gallery, toward the fairy-tale golden domes of the Assumption Cathedral. After gawking at the Byzantine-

inspired exterior head inside for frescoes by Rublyov and the coffin of Alexander Nevsky of Novgorod. Ghoulish types will get a thrill from the glass coffin through which you can see his withered, mummified hand. A word of warning: take no notice of the signs and instead enquire with the babushka on the desk about when you can expect the churches to open their doors.

Express train from Kurskaya Station or bus from Shchyolkovskaya metro station



NATALYA 1973 / WIKICOMMONS

Suzdal

Onion domes and old-world charm

If you've made it as far as Vladimir it would be a shame not to hop on a bus and make the 40 minute journey to Suzdal, rightfully referred to as the diamond of the Golden Ring. If you're looking for rustic charm, more wooden carving than your Instagram account can cope with and a remarkable ratio of churches to human beings, Suzdal is the place for you.

Start your explorations at the Suzdal Kremlin, home to the beautiful blue-domed Nativity of the Virgin Cathedral, a museum, a few streets of houses and several smaller churches. Leaving the Kremlin, take the bridge across the river to the Museum of Wooden Architecture and Peasant Life. It's more about the former than the latter, but the picturesque 1756 Church of the Transfiguration, cafe serving medovukha — a honey based drink — and the old mills make it a lovely place to while away an hour or two. Further north is the Savior Monastery of Saint Euthymius, Suzdal's biggest monastery. The complex features buildings and churches funded by Ivan the Terrible and the wealthy Pozharsky family. There is no shortage of guest houses and restaurants so if making the journey back to Moscow doesn't seem like an attractive option, spend the night and have dinner and a few glasses of Georgian wine on the terrace at "Gostiny Dvor."

Express train from Kurskaya Station to Vladimir. Cross the road to the bus station and buy a ticket to Suzdal. Buses depart every 30 minutes.

The Moscow Times
CONFERENCES

SEPTEMBER 13
HOTEL «MARRIOTT ROYAL AURORA»

CIVIL CODE: PRACTICE OF APPLICATION AND RELEVANT CHANGES — 2016

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Ruling of the Supreme Court on the recovery of damages.
Changes in arbitration legal proceedings.
The first legal disputes as a result of the changes in the Civil Code.
Status and responsibilities of a legal entity.
New developments in corporate law.
Changes aimed at improving the law of obligations, transactions and contract law in view of Federal
Law No. 42 dated March 8, 2015.
Objects of intellectual property: An Analysis of Change.

SPEAKER

Evgeny Alexandrov, Partner, Head of Legal Department, «Gorodissky and Partners»
Pavel Gromov, Director of Legal Department, «Auchan»
Elena Kim, Director of Legal Department, «Sibur»
Oksana Petrova, Director of Legal Department, «Dixy Group»
Ekaterina Rykova, Head of Legal Support Network, «CTC Media»
Alexander Smirnov, director of the Legal Department, Moscow Exchange
Tatiana Sitnova, Director of Legal Affairs, BIND (RUS), LLC

Price: 30 000 rub +VAT

Producer
Natalia Ivanova,
+7 495 232-3200, ext. 4151,
n.ivanova@vedomosti.ru

Sponsorship opportunities
Olga Kalinina,
+7 495 232-3200, ext. 4223,
o.kalinina@vedomosti.ru

Participation in the project
Alexandra Podlipskaya,
+7 495 232-3200, ext. 4222,
a.podlipskaya@vedomosti.ru

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The Moscow Times
CONFERENCES

SEPTEMBER 30
HOTEL «MARRIOTT ROYAL AURORA»

MANAGEMENT OF RECEIVABLES: A COURSE ON RISK REDUCTION

Business newspaper The Moscow Times presents its new project, "Management of receivables: A course on risk reduction." The conference will be held with the support of the credit insurance leader, the Coface company. A key topic for discussion will be the reduction of risks and increase of the company surplus due to effective management of accounts receivable. A solution requires a comprehensive and meticulous approach.
The conference is a great opportunity to exchange experience, debate on the most pressing and topical themes, examine trends in automation and insurance of business processes.

KEY TOPICS

- The strategy for preventing formation of accounts receivable.
- Increasing a counterparty verification system considering all sources of information.
- Automation of the recovery of receivables.
- Choosing the best method for determining credit limits for the customers.
- Comparative analysis of the tools for managing accounts receivable.
- Increasing customer loyalty through effective management of the receivables.
- Adaptation of the credit management system and collection of accounts receivable, in line with the standing challenges.
- Current approach to dispute arbitration.
- Opinion of Sales department on building a customer-oriented debt management system.

Producer **Natalia Ivanova**,
+7 495 232-3200, ext. 4151,
n.ivanova@vedomosti.ru

Sponsorship opportunities **Olga Kalinina**,
+7 495 232-3200, ext. 4223,
o.kalinina@vedomosti.ru

Participation in the project **Alexandra Podlipskaya**,
+7 495 232-3200, ext. 4222,
a.podlipskaya@vedomosti.ru

Price: 25 000 rub +VAT

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Yeltsin appealed to compatriots from a tank in front of the White House: "We declare all decisions of Emergency Committee unlawful on Russia's territory."

362

tanks were on Moscow streets during the putsch.



"I was alerted about the possibility of a putsch many times. Members of my inner circle warned me." **Gorbachev**, 2011

Dec. 7, 1991

the Belavezha Accords were signed. The Soviet Union ceased to exist.



← Boris Yeltsin with his bodyguard Alexander Korzhakov preparing to read the historic appeal to Russians on Aug. 19, 1991

→ Russia's tricolor flag became the symbol of the resistance.



← Continued from Page 6

Later, he would go on to become a political figure. In 1996, shortly before Yeltsin's re-election as Russia's president, the hardliners within his camp, that included Korzhakov, attempted to cancel or postpone it. The reformers, led by Anatoly Chubais, believed Yeltsin should stand for re-election and accused Korzhakov and his associates of attempting a coup — in a way that was reminiscent of the events of 1991. Yeltsin eventually lost confidence in Korzhakov, but in 1991, the bodyguard was one of his closest companions.

"As we approached the White House, people were hauling in pieces of railroad track, chunks of iron, stones. It was clear that these people were serious," recalled Korzhakov. "The mayor of Moscow then gave the order to have concrete barricades brought in, as if it was 1941 again."

The rest of the country greeted the coup with stony silence. Some provincial leaders pledged their allegiance to the Emergency Committee. Party bosses in the cities sat quietly and waited.

Aside from Moscow, only the local authorities in St. Petersburg openly opposed the coup. St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoly Sobchak organized a demonstration. His assistant, Vladimir Putin, was also there supporting his boss and the ideas of freedom. Later, as president of Russia, he would refer to subsequent events — to the collapse of the Soviet Union — as "the greatest geopolitical disaster of the 20th century."

But Moscow was the only arena of any significant action.

"Everything that happened in 1991, happened within a radius of a few blocks," says journalist Sergei Parkhomenko. Russia had been free of censorship for several years, and Parkhomenko was a journalist with *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* and *Agence France Presse*. Today, he runs a civil project called "Last Address," devoted to preserving the memory of all those killed during Stalin's terror.

On the same day, Aug. 19, hundreds of thousands of Muscovites took to the streets, forming a living ring of people around the White House. That was the second crucial factor that made it possible to reverse the situation, says Burbulis.

"The crowd shocked me most of all," recalled Shakhrai. "Estimates vary, but it was hundreds of thousands. The people gathered very quickly. Everything fell into place — and that meant we were doing the right thing. I know of no other rallies where people surrounded government buildings to protect them."

The scale of that response also made a deep impression on Parkhomenko. He recalled how the people organized the defenses, how they assigned duties, prepared food, and brought in things they needed. "At some point a truck rolled up and unloaded photocopiers — an extreme rarity at the time. Another truck brought in paper," he says. "That ensured an endless production of flyers to be disseminated through the crowd and plastered on poles around the city."

Yeltsin on the Tank

Although Yeltsin had already served for one year as president of Russia (then still part of the Soviet Union), he did not hold any real executive authority. Prior to the events of August 1991, he was simply a popular public figure and leader. Both Yeltsin and Gorbachev embodied the desire for change. Gorbachev tainted his reputation with compromises, whereas Yeltsin did not.

Yeltsin's time came on Aug. 19, 1991.

"We decided that it would be better to read the appeal not



The toppling of a statue of the founder of the Soviet secret service made history on Aug. 22, 1991

by radio, but rather from the White House steps," Korzhakov recalled. "Then, Yeltsin noticed a tank over on the right. He said, 'Hey, let's take a look.' We walked over and found a lieutenant who was terrified. Yeltsin said, 'Let's climb up.' So we climbed up."

Korzhakov stood near Yeltsin holding a bulletproof vest, and is clearly visible in photos of that event. At about noon on Aug. 19, 1991, Boris Yeltsin read the appeal to the people of Russia, standing on the very tank that had been deployed to fire at him. That image went down in history.

"It was a historic example of political intuition," Burbulis said. The Yeltsin-on-tank moment was also, in his opinion, the third factor that ensured the democratic victory in 1991.

Victory

On Aug. 19, coup organizer Gennady Yanayev could not stop his hands from shaking when asked at a press conference whether he believed that he had committed a coup d'etat. The next day, the generals refused to take part in the attack, and Yeltsin declared himself commander-in-chief. He descended into the White House bunker with his associates that night.

Shakhrai also tried to get in. "I lingered behind in the corridor, and when I ran down it was already shut from inside," he says. "I wandered for a bit through the deserted corridors, and then went out to the crowd in the street. That felt much better."

It transpired that the bunker was an excessive precaution. That night, one of the coup leaders, Vladimir Kryuchkov, called Yeltsin. Korzhakov, who was chatting with another bodyguard in the corridor, picked up. "He said that the decision had been made to lift martial law and to call back the tanks in the morning," Korzhakov recalled. "It meant victory. At least, almost."

That night, the night of Aug. 21, the defenders of the White House walked through the city. It was then that tragedy struck.

Three young men — Dmitry Komar, Vladimir Usov, and Ilya Krichevsky — died while trying to stop armored vehicles in one of the underground tunnels in the center of Moscow.

"Those deaths played a crucial role," said Parkhomenko. "Both sides were so horrified that it brought a halt to everything."

Later that evening, Gorbachev was brought back to Moscow, the Emergency Committee was dissolved, and the Prosecutor General ordered the arrest of the conspirators. Jubilant Muscovites toppled the monument to the infamous founder of the Cheka Soviet secret police Felix Dzerzhinsky, by the KGB's headquarters on Lubyanskaya Ploshchad.

And, at noon on Aug. 22, 1991, the tricolor Russian flag was hoisted over the White House for the first time. The idea of Russia as a separate state and a world power did not yet exist, but the tricolor flag became a national symbol of victory over the Soviet regime and the triumph of freedom.

Reformers had few thoughts about territorial boundaries. Their only concern was how to make a former Soviet country free, democratic, and open. Even after the failed coup, they continued considering ways to hold together what had been until only recently a totalitarian empire. "Our goal was not to build an independent Russia, but to rebuild the Soviet Union," recalls Shakhrai. The futility of that effort only became clear in December 1991, when all of the major Soviet republics voted for independence, and the three leading republics of Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus signed the Belavezha Accords.

The Road Ahead

The new Russia inherited the very same ideas of freedom with which perestroika had begun several years earlier. "We wanted to vindicate the burgeoning freedom in Russia as its core value, and human rights as the basis of its strategic goal," says Burbulis.

Ultimately, that project did not have a happy ending. The values of today's Russian ruling regime are instead more reminiscent of those against which the White House defenders of the White House fought. In place of democratic ideas and human rights, Russia is once again seeing censorship, "telephone-ordered" justice in courts and jailed prisoners of conscience.

Two years ago, the annexation of Crimea marked the first time that post-Soviet states' borders had changed since the signing of the Belavezha Accords. "The empire is gone, but the imperial mind-set remains," notes Burbulis.

The people who took part in the events of Aug. 21, 1991, thought that the road ahead was irreversible. Instead, the road turned out to be a twisting maze. In many respects, Russia is right back where it started out 25 years ago.

All of those who fought against the attempted coup in 1991 were full of romanticism, Parkhomenko insists. "A revolution of dignity took place in 1991," he said. "Participants in those events were not guided by practical considerations."

"Even today, I should preserve that noble, romantic view of life," says Burbulis. "Without it, each of us would lack the dignity that gives life meaning."

A small monument stands above the spot in the tunnel where the three young defenders of the White House died in a tragic accident. Most Muscovites do not even know that it exists. High school history textbooks devote only two or three sentences to this series of miraculous events that changed Russia some 25 years ago. **TMT**

"Avant-garde culture in the 1920s and 1930s was Russia's most significant contribution to modern architecture."
Alexei Ginzburg, architect



1928

the year construction began on Narkomfin.

45

the number of duplex apartments in Narkomfin.



Every bedroom in Narkomfin faces east in order to catch all the light from the rising sun.



MAXIM STULOV / VEDOMOSTI

Models of the interior of the Narkomfin building. Narkomfin was an attempt to realize a new form of living space for the fledgling Soviet state.

The House That Ginzburg Built

By **Howard Amos** newsreporter@imedia.ru

Mysterious investors plan restoration of Moscow constructivist gem.

Russian real estate developer Alexander Senatorov began buying apartments in Moscow's Narkomfin building in 2006 as a gift for his fiancée, Alexandra Markvo, who was fascinated by the revolutionary constructivist style it epitomizes. He pledged to restore its former glory.

Having had almost no maintenance since it was put up in the 1920s, Narkomfin was disintegrating. Water ran down its walls and chunks of masonry would occasionally fall off.

"[The Senatorov era] began with a love story," says Marina Khrustaleva, an expert on constructivism who has closely tracked the history of the building.

Nestled between a small park and the U.S. Embassy in central Moscow, Narkomfin's radical use of color, light and space makes it one of the country's most striking buildings. Envisaged as the prototype for a new way of communal living, Narkomfin was built at a time when the communist ideals of the 1920s had yet to give way to the pomp of Stalinism. Its global influence was immense during a century that saw the mass construction of modernist apartment blocks.

Many hoped Senatorov's love story would prove a turning point, but it quickly crumbled. His marriage fell apart after three years and his fortunes were badly affected by the 2008 economic crisis. Narkomfin remained in a critical condition and many began to doubt a genuine restoration would ever be possible.

"There is a general absence of understanding that the short period of avant-garde culture in the 1920s and 1930s was Russia's most significant contribution to modern architecture," says architect Alexei Ginzburg, the grandson of the celebrated constructivist pioneer, Moisei Ginzburg, who designed Narkomfin.

Mysterious New Owners

After years of decay, however, change now appears imminent for Narkomfin.

Senatorov told Russia's Kommersant newspaper Aug. 1 that Kopernik, his investment company, no longer controlled the building. Two days later, the Moscow city government announced the winner of an auction of part of Narkomfin was an outfit called Liga Prava.

The director of Liga Prava is Garegin Barsumyan, an Abkhaz-born lawyer with a background in banking and legal dispute resolution. He has little public profile.

In an interview with The Moscow Times last week Barsumyan says that as well as the being the director of Liga Prava, he is also its "de jure" owner. But he says other investors — both individuals and financial institutions — are also involved. He declined to identify them, or reveal how many there are. "I don't want to go into the details," he says.

One person currently working on the plans for Narkomfin described Barsumyan as a "representative" of the owners. Another of his acquaintances says it was unlikely he had only invested his own money: "It seems there is someone behind him" they say.

Senatorov Out?

Senatorov confirmed in written comments to The Moscow Times that he sold his stake in Narkomfin last year. "I took a decision to get rid of all my real estate assets. About two years ago," Senatorov says. He declines to comment on to whom he sold Narkomfin, on his relationship with Barsumyan, or Barsumyan's employment history.

But the three years Barsumyan spent working for Kopernik, where he headed the company's legal department, and the

presence of unnamed investors in the project have prompted speculation Senatorov remains involved. Senatorov even retains an office in Narkomfin.

Russian business daily Vedomosti cited Aug. 4 a former partner at Kopernik saying Barsumyan was a frontman for Senatorov.

Senatorov flatly denies he has any financial stake in Narkomfin. And a friend of Senatorov's told The Moscow Times the developer "will be really glad to be rid of it [Narkomfin]."

Barsumyan also rejects suggestions of Senatorov's involvement — but he says Senatorov would be welcome to re-join the project. "Senatorov exited in 2015," Barsumyan says, "[But] maybe he will still return. We are open to investors. To old partners and new."

Follow the Money

Narkomfin has about 4,000 square meters of floor space and Liga Prava now controls everything except for about 200 square meters, which are held by private owners. Almost all of the apartments are currently in use — either as offices, workshops or living space.

Both Senatorov and Barsumyan decline to reveal how much Senatorov received for his stake. But Liga Prava beat off two bidders to pay 101.4 million rubles (\$1.6 million) to the Moscow city government this month for about 1,600 square meters of the site including the building's ground floor and the so-called communal bloc. At the same price, Senatorov's stake would have been worth about \$2 million.

Previous owners have wrestled with how to make a re-development of the building profitable. The task of renovating constructivist buildings, often built using poor quality materials, is not straightforward.



“I personally believe these [constructivist] buildings should be left as monuments of how not to build.”
Marat Khusnullin, deputy Moscow mayor

\$12M

estimated renovation and restoration cost.



Narkomfin was originally designed to stand on columns to give the illusion that it was floating.

Aug. 3, 2016

Moscow city government sells 1,600 square meters of Narkomfin to Liga Prava.



Clearing work in the communal block recently purchased from the Moscow city government is already under way.



Garegin Barsumyan is the director of Liga Prava, the company that owns the Narkomfin building.

And there is no easy way to transform Narkomfin into the luxurious apartments beloved by Moscow developers. After all, who needs tiny apartments with no kitchen? Senatorov's plan to market Narkomfin to rich Muscovites looking for a pied-à-terre was never realized.

Senatorov told Kommersant newspaper in 2014 it would cost \$12 million to completely renovate Narkomfin. In the end, he made little mark on the building apart from consolidating ownership of the apartments and installing a yoga center on the roof.

Barsumyan declines to reveal how much Liga Prava will commit to the planned restoration, but says he is determined to make money. “It’s not simple. But what is simple in life?” he asks. More financing needs to be raised to fund the restoration process, according to Barsumyan.

Ginzburg's Return

One of Liga Prava's first moves on acquiring a controlling stake in Narkomfin was to employ architect Alexei Ginzburg, whose family's history is wrapped up with that of the building itself. Ginzburg's grandfather, Moisei Ginzburg, was one of Russia's leading constructivist architects and built Narkomfin. His father, Vladimir Ginzburg, was heavily involved in efforts to research and preserve the building.

Ginzburg says he was first taken to visit Narkomfin when just five or six years old.

“There can't be anyone else apart from Ginzburg in this project,” says Khrustaleva, who is also a member of the Moscow-based architectural preservation organization Arkhnadzor.

Senatorov originally worked with Ginzburg on restoration plans, but the two men fell out, and Senatorov proceeded to authorize some limited building work.

Ginzburg says he was shocked when he saw the changes. “Before we had the historical surfaces but now almost all of them are covered by paint, plaster or ceramic tiles and the original windows have been switched for plastic ones,” says Ginzburg. “What was done in the last few years has become a serious problem for today's restoration work.”

Back to Basics

Built for employees of the Commissariat of Finance, Narkomfin was an attempt to realize a new form of living space for the fledgling Soviet state. While residents had their own two-floor apartments, they shared kitchens, washing space and even a kindergarten.

Each of the 45 duplex apartments has a bedroom facing east, so residents wake up to the rising sun, and a living area facing west to take advantage of the evening light.

Ginzburg says there are enough extant plans and research to recreate the exact form of the original building, including the striking color code (doors to the apartments are painted alternately black and white), which was influenced by Germany's Bauhaus movement.

When Liga Prava took control of Narkomfin, they did not re-hire the Kleinewelt Architekten bureau that Senatorov used latterly. Barsumyan says he disagreed with many of Senatorov's ideas, including proposals to build an underground swimming pool or turn it into a hotel.

“Nothing will change from what was conceived in the origi-



The previous owner of the building invited a yoga center to take up residence on the roof.

nal architectural plans,” says Barsumyan, who adds the building will be transformed into “business class accommodation.”

Clearing work in the communal bloc purchased from the Moscow city government earlier this month is already under way.

Liga Prava's plans envisage the removal of the ground floor and the return of pillars that once made the building appear as if it was floating. Ginzburg says that, once renovated, the communal bloc, which is connected to the main corpus by an elevated walkway, will contain a café and may be opened to the public.

Against the Grain

Building work could begin as early as October, according to Ginzburg. But Barsumyan says this is conditional on additional investment and not likely to start before the end of the year.

Any successful restoration of Narkomfin will take place despite widespread official indifference to the fate of constructivist buildings in Moscow — an attitude that echoes the disapproval leveled at the constructivist movement in the 1930s. Under Stalin, constructivism was vilified as cosmopolitan, bourgeois and unsuitable for Soviet workers.

Deputy Moscow mayor Marat Khrusnullin provoked the ire of preservationists in June when asked about constructivism. “I personally believe these buildings should be left as monuments of how not to build,” he responded.

A 1920s housing estate in the central Moscow Khamovniki district was torn down earlier this year and developers recently demolished the constructivist Taganskaya telephone station despite well-attended street demonstrations calling for it to be saved.

Russia's constructivist buildings are usually protected by the lesser powers of regional authorities — as opposed to more comprehensive federal oversight. Many of them are falling down and preservationists insist renovation is urgent otherwise they will be lost forever.

“All foreign architects ask to go and see Narkomfin: their education begins with descriptions of this building in their textbooks,” says Khrustaleva. “It is of fundamental significance for the architecture of the 20th century.” **TMT**

THE WORD'S WORTH

Rain, Rain, Go Away

Ливень: downpour

By **Michele A. Berdy**

Moscow-based translator and interpreter, author of “The Russian Word's Worth” (Glas), a collection of her columns.



YEVGENY PARYONOV

It started out with a couple of drops. На голову капнуло. Это что, дождь что ли собирается? (A few drops fell on my head. Is it going to rain or something?) Then there were more than a few drops. You begin to remember poems and songs: А на улице капает дождь, В подоконник упрямо стучит ... (Rain is falling outside, Knock-knock-knocking on the window sill ...).

But still, sometimes it looks like we're in for a big storm and then the rain passes us by. A neighbor came out of his dacha, held his hand out, and said: Накрапывает дождик (It's sprinkling.) Накрапывать or капать (spit, sprinkle, splatter) describe those first splatters of rain. As a writer explained: Начинают капать первые капли. Народное слово “крапать” хорошо передаёт возникновение дождя, когда ещё редкие капли оставляют тёмные крапинки на пыльных дорогах и крышах (The first drops of rain splattered down. The colloquial word for this (крапать) conveys beautifully the first appearance of rain, when the still infrequent drops leave dark spots (крапинки) on the dusty roads and roofs.)

Then it began to drizzle — very peculiar fine rain that seems like moisture in the air: Асфальт перед домом на глазах темнел — моросил мелкий дождь (The asphalt in front of the house turned dark as I watched — there was a light drizzle.) Drizzle can be warm or cold: К вечеру моросил тёплый дождь (Toward evening a fine warm rain came down.) Моросит холодный дождь (It's drizzling cold rain.) When there is a strong wind from the north, the cold stuff — морящий дождь (drizzle) — can hit your face like a thousand little needles.

At first шёл дождик (there was a light rain), дождик being a nice diminutive of дождь that implies a gentle rain, something pleasant. And then it just rained: Дождь шёл. (It was raining.) That is a bit neutral — not too hard, not too light. Just your average rainfall.

But by late Sunday night: Шёл сильный дождь (It was raining hard.) In fact, шёл проливной дождь (it was pouring). In fact, it was pouring down constantly everywhere. For this you might use the adjective обложной (steady, widespread). Когда настала пора уходить, пошёл сильный обложной дождь (When it was time to leave, there was a steady, heavy downpour.)

In fact, дождь лил как из ведра (it was raining buckets). First we used rather neutral constructions: На улице ливень (It's really coming down.) Льётся ливнем (It's a deluge.)

Then we stopped being neutral and got more expressive. By the next morning, after a night of steady rain, it felt like we'd been hit with something really bad. Сильный дождь обрушился на Москву (Heavy rains hit Moscow.) Хлынул на нас сильный ливень (We were hit with driving rain.)

The newscasters were fey: В осаде осадков: к чему привёл многочасовой ливень в Москве? (Besieged by precipitation: what did the hours-long downpour do to Moscow?) And then grim: Пролились сокрушительные ливни (The rains came crashing down in torrents.) And then really grim: Ливень затопил проезжие части 45 улиц и пять подвалов жилых домов (The torrential rain flooded 45 streets and five apartment house basements.)

But perhaps a lesson was learned? Не пора ли построить ливневую канализацию? (Isn't it time to put in storm drains?)

High time, I'd say. **TMT**

"And there is no way ever to apologize,
repent or make amends
No release and no redemption
The hunger never ends."
Lyrics from **"Dance of the Vampires"**



Oct. 29

"Dance of the Vampires" will
arrive on the Moscow stage.

\$12M

was lost when "Dance of
the Vampires" flopped on
Broadway in 2003.



In 1841 **Alexei Tolstoy** wrote the short
story "Vampire."

'Dance of the Vampires' Back in Russia

By **Lara Kempbell** artsreporter@imedia.ru

An interview with director Cornelius Baltus.

Moscow audiences will soon have the chance to see "Dance of the Vampires," a musical that took St. Petersburg by storm during a three-year run that ended in 2014. Directed by Cornelius Baltus, the show is second in popularity only to "Phantom of the Opera" in Europe. The song-filled story of vampires, lust, and love will do a short run in St. Petersburg at the city's Musical Comedy Theater later this month before arriving at Moscow's MDM Theater.

The show's director, Cornelius Baltus, has also staged musicals including "The Lion King" and "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." In April his newest show, "Hollywood Diva," received Russia's highest theater award, the Golden Mask. In an interview with The Moscow Times, Baltus talks about the Russian musical scene, his childhood dreams coming true in Russia, and why "Dance of the Vampires" is a musical about our modern lives.

TMT: "Hollywood Diva" is the second musical you have directed (after "Dance of the Vampires") that has been awarded The Golden Mask award. Did you expect this?

CB: Absolutely not! With all the other great competitors and the turmoil between Russia and Europe, I did not expect it at all. From a cultural point of view this country is so rich and the competition is strong. The award was very unexpected.

TMT: When did your Russian professional journey begin?

CB: It began a long time ago, when I was a ballet student learning the Vaganova technique at the ballet academy in Amsterdam. I dreamed of seeing the Mariinsky Theater ballet, and I did on one of my first trips to St. Petersburg. I was invited there by the head of the Musical Comedy Theater, Yuri Schwarzkopf. He had previously seen "Dance of The Vampires" in Vienna, and his deepest wish was to stage the musical in Russia. I asked him several times if he was sure, since producers tend to underestimate the technical complexity of the show. Yuri was, and the show became a huge success and was awarded The Golden Mask.

TMT: When you introduced your first musical, "Dance of the Vampires," in St. Petersburg in 2011, did you encounter any obstacles?

CB: Oh, dozens. We were boycotted both in-house by reluctant workers and outside by people who were not open to change. It



Cornelius Baltus

was the same with "Hollywood Diva" [an adaptation of the 1936 opera "Axel at the Gates of Heaven"]. People were whispering that it would be a failure, but we knew what we were doing. Another serious challenge was that regular Russian theaters do not have European technical standards and a lot of effects are done by hand so many adjustments had to be made.

TMT: Many foreigners say that Russian challenges make the work much more interesting...

CB: And they are right. You need to stay calm and overcome a lot of problems and you need to know what you want. After all, it's a theater. Where in Europe do you get an orchestra of 36 people? Where do you get a cast of 64? Where

would you say to a producer: "I need 30 dancers on stage?" In Europe they would say: "Are you crazy? It's way too expensive." But I love making real theater, not an LED wall with three people and an orchestra on a click track.

TMT: What would you say about the standard of musical actors and dancers in Russia?

CB: Fabulous! I love working with these people. They are well-trained and have amazing talent. I work in a peculiar old-fashioned way, and I think they are very thankful for my approach, instead of the "I am the big director and you are a small actor" attitude. I believe in equal energy and collaboration. "Dance of the Vampires" launched the careers of many actors who later became stars — like Ivan Ozhogin, who performed the same role in Berlin.

TMT: Was "Dance of the Vampires" adapted for Russia?

CB: I try to adapt the show according to local tastes. For instance, in Berlin it feels more British in style. In Budapest I worked with a local designer and we were very close to Transylvania — where the story takes place — so we needed a set that was darker, grander and more sinister. When I staged the musical in Russia I learned village stories about "vurdalaki," or vampires, so we were quite creative and introduced new elements to the show.

TMT: What can the audience expect from the new production of "Dance of the Vampires"?

CB: A wonderful evening with a dark fairy tale-like story that's witty, intense and full of sensuality and hidden danger.



"Dance of the Vampires" proved to be a huge hit with audiences during its previous run in St. Petersburg.

There will be no new adaptations because we want to share the same high level performance with the Moscow audience as in St. Petersburg.

TMT: Why do you think the musical is in such high demand?

CB: This story connects to the times we are living in. Krolock's main song "The Insatiable Creed" speaks of his unsatisfied hunger: that's us — many people who want bigger cars, more beautiful wives, bigger houses, more success. When does it stop and when we go start truly caring for each other? Krolock is in fact unhappy in his world of insatiable greed. I can't wait to share this wonderful spectacle with the Moscow audiences. I am also working on a new project for St. Petersburg, a very interesting Russian story, but I cannot disclose the details yet. **TMT**

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Bekmambetov Revives Ben-Hur

By **Ali Sar** artsreporter@imedia.ru

One of Hollywood's newest movie moguls is getting a lot of attention these days. Timur Bekmambetov — the founder of Moscow's Bazelevs Productions — has directed "Ben-Hur," a \$100 million budgeted epic re-adaptation of the 1959 Charlton Heston classic. The Russian-Kazakh producer-director's two-hour "Ben-Hur" is backed by two mega studios — Paramount and Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer — and will hit the screens across Russia on Sept. 8. Bekmambetov previously produced "Stalingrad," the highest grossing Russian film ever made. The 55-year-old filmmaker and visual effects maven becomes the first Russian director to tackle a film of this magnitude, which in its previous reincarnation garnered 11 Oscar awards, including the best picture laurels. For Bekmambetov it represents the most

expensive effort of his career.

"It's a great book [Lew Wallace's 1880 novel] and it's very unique because it's a fictional version of the biblical story," Bekmambetov said when he accepted the challenge. Naval battles and chariot races make Ben-Hur an action-packed entertainment package. Unlike the earlier versions — the first versions of "Ben-Hur" were silent films — this new production employs the latest cinematographic technology and mounted mini-camera gadgetry to capture the chariot race's close-ups. The races in Bekmambetov's version were staged at Cinecitta Studios near Rome, just as in the 1959 version. "Ben-Hur" is the epic story of Judah Ben-Hur, a prince falsely accused of treason by his adopted brother Messala, an officer in the Roman army. Stripped of his title,

separated from his family and the woman he loves, Judah is forced into slavery. After years at sea, Judah returns to his homeland to seek revenge, but finds redemption. The leads of Judah and Messala are portrayed by relative newcomers Jack Huston and Toby Kebbell, respectively. A veteran of the American cinema, Morgan Freeman, plays the part of Ilderim, the African owner of the Arabian stallion Judah nurses back to good health. Freeman once again proves to be an indispensable cast member. Reaction to the film's advance media screening was somewhat mixed when compared to the previous version. The producers are hoping that the younger audiences will react more positively.

Although "Ben-Hur" represents Bekmambetov's costliest effort to date, bringing him much public recognition, his American portfolio has been in the making for some time. His first Hollywood film, "Wanted" with Angelina Jolie and Morgan Freeman, brought in a whopping \$340 million in ticket sales. "Morgan Freeman and I worked together before. I couldn't wait to collaborate with him again," explains Bekmambetov. Freeman recalled, "I noticed that the director and producers laugh a lot. Where there is a lot of laughing that means they are happy with what they are getting."

Other films from Bekmambetov include social media-themed "Unfriended," the vampire franchise of "Night Watch" in 2004 and "Day Watch" in 2008 and "Stalingrad" in 2013, which earned \$52 million, mostly in Russia and China. "The emotional themes of the film, vengeance vs. forgiveness, are timeless. The conflicts the characters experience are as relatable today as they were in Roman times or 1880 when the novel was written," producer Sean Daniel told The Moscow Times.

When he was convinced to direct the film, Bekmambetov observed: "In many ways we still live in the Roman Empire, we still live with its values. Power, greed and success rule the world, people try to achieve everything in harsh competition and only a few realize that true human values are collaboration and forgiveness." "Timur is a very unique director," said producer Daniel. "He is cutting edge contemporary in his vision, but also a very classical thinker. He's really the perfect combination for a project like this." **TMT**

Aug. 18 – 24

FESTIVAL Gardens and People Flower power

Have green fingers and looking for a way to enjoy the last few days of summer? This weekend the "Gardens and People" festival kicks off at VDNKh. While there will be a professional element to the program, which will draw horticulturalists, florists and avid gardeners under one roof, the festival is also a chance for plant lovers to admire stunning floral displays, discover more about the latest developments in the industry and view magnificent entries in the landscaping competition.

VDNKh
vdnh.ru
199 Prospekt Mira
Metro VDNKh
Aug. 19 — Sept. 4

EVENT Antiques flea market Old Moscow

Moscow has almost everything, but it still doesn't have a great European-style flea market where you can poke around for hours among piles of old lace hankies, boxes of postcards, and tables of porcelain figures. Once a month the Central House of Artists opens their doors to more than 200 antique dealers and flea market mavens, who sell everything from high-end 19th century silver to low-end vintage magazines. The flea market runs 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and once you're done you have all of Muzeon to explore.

Central House of Artists
10 Krymsky Val
Metro Park Kultury, Oktyabrskaya
Aug. 20–21

FESTIVAL Indonesian Festival Dance, music and theater

This weekend, Hermitage Garden will be filled with the sights, sounds and delicacies of Indonesia. Visitors will be able to enjoy traditional Indonesian dance, music and even a performance by a shadow puppet theater. If you're feeling peckish after your foray into Indonesian culture, head over to the culinary zone to feast on some traditional favorites. The festival offers a real family atmosphere, with the Kid's Camp providing plenty of activities to keep the little ones entertained.

Hermitage Garden
mosgorsad.ru
3 Ulitsa Karetny Ryad
Metro Tverskaya, Chekhovskaya
Aug. 20–21

FILM Love & Friendship

A must-see for Jane Austen fans

Love & Friendship, directed by Whit Stillman, is a classic period romcom. In typical Austen style, Lady Susan Vernon (Kate Beckinsale) is desperate to find a husband, not only for herself but for her daughter too. Filming for the feature took place in the beautiful Irish coastal town of Donabate and at Russborough House, guaranteeing stunning visuals. Following its premiere at the Sundance film festival earlier this year, Love & Friendship has received almost unanimously positive reviews. The promise of romance plus a witty take on society makes this a charming tale you won't want to miss.

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