

Kremlin Is Spending \$43M to Renovate Imperial Mansion for Orthodox Patriarch, Media Reports

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Anton Kardashov / Moskva News Agency

The Kremlin's property management department is financing luxury renovations for the residence of Russian Orthodox Church leader Patriarch Kirill near St. Petersburg, The Bell business outlet [reported](#) Tuesday.

The former residence of Russia's imperial family, which is being converted for use by the patriarch, occupies almost 2.5 hectares (6.1 acres) of land south of St. Petersburg and was designated as church property in 1994.

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The presidential property office awarded the renovation contract valued at 2.8 billion rubles (\$43.4 million) to St. Petersburg-based design and construction company Geoizol in 2018,

The Bell reported.

Patriarch Kirill's residence will occupy the equivalent of 14 typical three-bedroom homes, the outlet cited one of several sources in St. Petersburg's construction industry as saying.

It will be equipped with smart home technology and will include a private church, library, pool hall and possibly an elevator, according to the report.

Patriarch Kirill's spokesman later [confirmed](#) that the property is being renovated for him and noted that the church "has no immediate connection" to the works.

"It's all being done by the presidential property management directorate and contractors," the spokesman, Alexander Volkov, told the ura.ru news website.

Renovations of the residence on the grounds of the Theodore Sovereign's Cathedral in St. Petersburg's suburb of Pushkin are expected to wrap up in December 2021, The Bell reported.

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