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Scroll-Shaped Skyscraper Design Wins Vote to Replace Iconic Novy Arbat Building in Moscow

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3D rendering of the skyscraper that will be built on Novy Arbat. **ag.mos.ru**

Moscow's city government announced on Monday that a scroll-shaped skyscraper has won an online vote to replace one of the capital's landmark book-shaped buildings on Novy Arbat, which was declared unsafe last year.

In February, media reported that the Mayor's Office had tapped commercial developer Kievskaya Ploshchad, founded by Russian-Azerbaijani billionaires God Nisanov and Zarakh Iliev, to invest in the project.

Authorities launched the online vote on Aug. 15, offering residents three high-rise designs to replace the Soviet-era Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (Comecon) building. The 26-story structure, long known for its book-like silhouette, was deemed structurally unsound in October.

By the end of the poll, 46% voted for a design that preserves the existing tower while adding a new skyscraper shaped like a scroll and twice as tall.

“Considering the condition of the structure, specialists will carry out the necessary reconstruction work,” the mayor’s office said in a statement. It described the scroll tower as a “metaphor for upward movement, aspiration toward the future and openness to fresh ideas, innovation and creativity.”

The city did not provide a timeline for construction.

Kievskaya Ploshchad has said the redevelopment will create a 600,000-square-meter “social and cultural cluster,” with 450,000 square meters for cultural, leisure and business space and 150,000 for housing and technical facilities.

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