

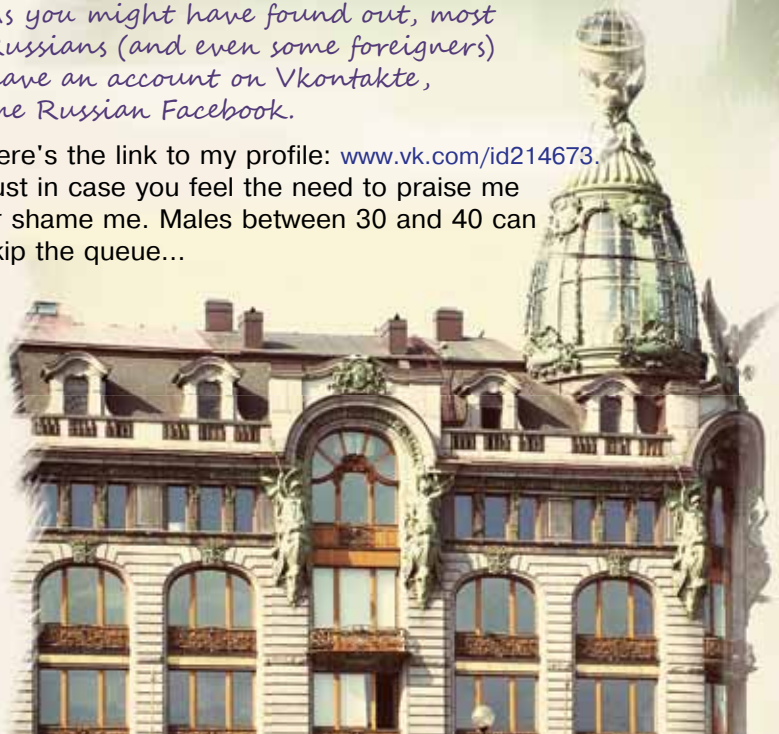
# Dom Knigi – The House of Books

NEVSKIY  
PROSPEKT 28

*As you might have found out, most Russians (and even some foreigners) have an account on Vkontakte, the Russian Facebook.*

Here's the link to my profile: [www.vk.com/id214673](http://www.vk.com/id214673).

Just in case you feel the need to praise me or shame me. Males between 30 and 40 can skip the queue...



Sorry, I got distracted. So, if you are a member of this Internet community you might be interested to know where the brain of the project resides. Which is right here, under this very cupola! Leaving the metaphors for now: the headquarters of “Vkontakte”, Russia’s biggest social network, is located on the address Nevsky prospect 62.



Do you remember when in 2011 Pavel Durov (*that is, the founder of Vkontakte, Russia's Mark Zuckerberg*) updated his status, saying

**“tank pv roofers hi boat girl and co”.**

For some time the Russian-speaking virtual community merrily discussed whether Pavel had lost his mind, but then it was found out that “roofers”

*(that's the people whose passion is climbing roofs, a fairly popular pastime in St. Petersburg),*

had climbed the roof and while sitting on the glass cupola they just could not miss the chance of fraping Pavel. The young hooligans felt no remorse and, quite the opposite, boasted about the delinquency *(a criminal offence, by the way)*, uploading photos about their accomplishment.

*The prank got a bit out of hands but thanks to them we now know how amazing the glass globe looks from the inside.*

Originally the building was built for the American manufacturing company Singer *(a Singer sewing machine that used to belong to my great-grandmother has still not made it to the landfill).*

At that time seamstresses would sit behind the huge glass windows all day, exhibiting the glorious features of their sewing machines to the passers-by.



However, since 1919 and hopefully forever, the building has been associated with books.

For the inhabitants of St. Petersburg “Dom Knigi” is not just any bookshop but a **symbol of the cultural city**.

The shop remained open even during the harsh years of the city’s blockade during the Second World War.

When the shop was closed for renovations a couple years ago and rumours spread that the building was about to be transformed into yet another huge shopping centre, the city’s inhabitants got seriously worried.

Thank God it didn’t happen.

Although Dom Knigi is not the most reasonably priced shop in the city, **I do enjoy buying my books here..** Choosing the right book is a real adventure: you spend hours walking around, picking and choosing, and when you’ve finally decided on something interesting and purchased it, you can go up to the cafe on the second floor, order a delicious coffee and some kind of yummy pastry. Behind the huge windows, the most spectacular view of Nevsky Prospect lies before your eyes and, without haste, you can embrace the pleasure of reading away.