

Back of the nyet

**TIM
VYNER**
WORLD CUP
DRAW
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I have spent the past two days sightseeing, along with groups of fans who are waiting for connections home or travelling to the final rounds of matches.

This 45-metre shiny titanium monument to cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin was built in 1980 for the Olympic Games. At its foot is a replica of his "Vostok" descent vehicle that stands like a football about to be kicked into space.

It rises above the busy traffic intersection of Leninsky Prospekt. I am surrounded by the noisy visual language of traffic control and information signs about how to navigate the city. But this monument like, the World Cup, has the ability to engage our imagination beyond the mundane and takes us to a place that rises above all that.

