

A View from the Window

Last Arctic night, a neon sign reading "apartment repairs" started to shine over the arch leading to our courtyard. I would have to give it some thought, as the wife had already intimated that the time had come. Before, when there was only one self-financing centre for apartment repairs for the whole city, I could excuse myself on the grounds of there being a waiting period of six months...

"We are still not satisfying demand, but last year we managed to repair 8,000 apartments, and this year we'll do 10,000," says A. Semenov, department head. "We will gradually get to the point where anyone who submits an application will not have to wait longer than two months for repairs."

"Noril'skremstroiusluga" accepts orders at specially-equipped centres where one may view models of the finished repairs or consult with a designer. This service is not just for those who would like to "freshen up" their dwelling. Should someone who has obtained an authorization to an apartment under construction wish to have some "above-limit" finishing done to their unit, they may do so.

Some information. "Remstroiusluga" is part of the Noril'sk Mining and Metallurgical Combine's "Noril'skbyt" Production Association (municipal housing management, children's pre-school institutions), in the non-productive sphere of which approximately 40,000 people work. "Noril'skbyt" (a) maintains the entire housing stock of Noril'sk, Talnakh, Kaierkan and Dudinka, (b) takes in laundry and delivers it back pressed, (c) "rents" out hotel and bath-house rooms, (d) provides delivery services... Last year the enterprise undertook the