

Savva Morozov Castle or “Margarita house”, and 17 layers of whitewash.

"Ivan is removed out from the place and are always on the same route through Spiridonovka passes kerosene shop where rickety old gas lamp hanging and creeping up to the grid, for which - Gothic mansion." Mikhail Bulgakov's "Master and Margarrita"

Architect Franz Shekhtel commissioned by Savva Morozov for his wife Zinaida Morozova, built a "small" castle in 1898 on Spiridonovka street . For the project of this castle Shekhtel used motifs of English castles, particularly (as is thought), Manchester, where Savva Morozov studied at the textile enterprises. But the interior and decoration of facades had used a motive of Art Nouveau style, already rapidly developing at this time. Shekhtel invited artist Vrubel, on whose sketches stained glass, sculptures and other elements of an interior were made. And on the castle facade overlooking the Spiridonovka, there are two small, but very expressive male masks, slightly sarcastically observe what is happening in the garden (these photos were early posted).



These two "medieval" (?) Characters, as if to emphasize the freedom of the Art Nouveau style on a background of English Gothic austerity, still continue to surprise. Away from prying eyes,



behind a pillar of the portal - facade of exit to the garden (far from "Garden Ring") , these two Heroes, obviously desperately fight not divided something among themselves. But they can be seen now from the

opposite side of Spiridonovka street only: forged fence is transformed here into a solid fence, and there is no entrance into the territory of the mansion, now owned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



At the porch there is a small cast fence decorated by lions, posture and form of which obviously refers to "rise up" England heraldic lions. On the wrought-iron fence can be seen fantastic



"muzzles" - an obvious replica of sculptural decoration of the grand staircase of the castle designed by Vrubel (there are a photos of the interior in Internet).



Facade of the main entrance hasn't a "liberties" of Art Nouveau style, and is decorated in medieval tradition: chimeras and a few gargoyles (although modern form) to gutters, as well as men's mask, made in the same style

The mansion on Spiridonovka street immediately became noticeable architectural creation, followed by several more mansions and apartment buildings in the neo-Gothic style were built in Moscow. But, most likely, that Bulgakov in his novel "Master and Margarita" described exactly this mansion in the Gothic style was described as the "Margarita house": gothic castle, tricuspid window, the house is separated from the "red line" of the street and the garden fence. Researchers of Bulgakov's creation does not get tired to look for arguments "for" and "against" of this. One of them - a description of the flight of Margarita and a more detailed description of the route of Ivan Nikolaevich Ponyreva (Ivan Homeless), coinciding with Margarita's flight (kerosene shop, lop-sided lantern) - says it all also in favor of this Gothic mansion. Bulgakov repeatedly gives clear indications specific locations in Moscow, while adding thereto imaginary parts, or combines several locations, so search of literal matching likely would not be reasonable. For example, at the Patriarch's Ponds tram tracks has never been ... (almost certainly!) And as to the Gothic castle on Spiridonovka, the researchers of Bulgakov creation

continue also to look up here various allusions connected with Maxim Gorky, who had repeatedly been here.

The following year, 2017 has passed exactly 100 years !, Riabushinskii, last owner of the mansion left out from it. Truly, he had hoped that after a little "commotion" of 1917 "all" will be recovered soon, and he will return to his home. Therefore, as he was hoping for a short time, Riabushinskii had concealed family values and some items from his collection of art in the cellar basement, closing the hatch by heavy wardrobe. Another part of the collection he passed into Tretyakov Gallery, as it turned out, forever. Accidentally less than 10 years, in 1924 paintings of Bryullov, Tropinin, Repin, Bakst, Vrubel, Serov, Kustodiev, and watercolors by European masters of the nineteenth - early twentieth century were discovered in the castle on Spiridonovka.... In the same hiding-place even marble bust Victor Hugo created by Auguste Rodin, and ancient manuscripts were stored.

Since 1929 the house Savva Morozov settled the Foreign Ministry (FM), and so is still ongoing. Some time ago (5-7 years) there were a possibility a couple times per year to get excursion into the castle and take a look at the restored interior. But the further the safety of current residents become most important an high priority, so there is only one way for enthusiasts - find out the photos of the interior in books and internet and something to read. For example, according to the director of the "House receptions" of FM Eugene K. Baikov, who held the post from 1973 to 2003, almost all the ceilings and walls were (presumably still 70th years of the last century) covered with a thick layer of whitewash. During restoration specialists counted about 17-19 layers. The paint was applied over frescoes, stucco and even gilding. Said that before each Stalin's visit into the "House receptions", the gothics castle was "refreshed" in such a peculiar manner each time too.

If after a fire in 1995 Vrubel's stained-glass windows (Polish masters of the late 19th century technology), and wood carving, and other elements of the interior have been actually recreated, the decor of the facade of the mansion, most likely, can be assumed authentic - relating directly to the time it of creation by Shechtel and Vrubel