The University of International Relations

Why would people build buildings with such gloomy appearance – that is what I have been always wondering about. The University of International Relations is a white 5-storey building with a massive monolithic facade. It belongs to a public university, where international relations are taught. Its sight overwhelms me with cold and ruthless officiality. When I look at this building from the outside, it reminds me of the Socialist Classicism for some reason. Who knows, perhaps my perception of this building was influenced by the fact that whenever I got to see it, the weather was gray (sometimes rainy).

The interior of the building is much human-friendly, though. When one enters the front doors, the first noticeable thing is an enormously large hall with marble floor. There are comfortable leather sofas at each corner of the hall. They make it less official and warm up the atmosphere of the building. The second remarkable thing is principal staircase. It is also made of marble and is covered with a red carpet. This staircase looks grand and brings a spirit of sublimity to the hall.

As I have already mentioned, the hall is huge, and there is a lot of space in it. Nevertheless, once one enters the hall, there is no feeling of oppression; there are feelings of amazement and solemnity instead. Aseptic white is the dominant color in interior, and perhaps this is the cause of uncomfortable feeling one has while staying in the building. The interior looks impressive and beautiful, but the atmosphere is very far from a cozy one.
If to exclude the fact that the interior of the building is more human-friendly than frightening monumentality of the exterior, there is still one important feature they share – sublimity. I think, though I did not feel quite comfortable neither outside, nor inside the building, the officiality and solemnity of the building are appropriate for the style of the University of International Relations.