

Learning Places Fall 2016

SITE REPORT #2

Morgan Library and Museum



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INTRODUCTION

The Morgan Library began as a private library to J P. Morgan himself. It was built between 1902 and 1906, right across from his home at Madison and 36th st. Throughout Morgan's life, he collected books, drawings, and other rare manuscripts,

all for the knowledge. After his death, his son, J P. Morgan Jr., decided that the library should be shared to all. In 1924, Jr. made his father's library into a public institution. The buildings have a Renaissance- style architecture to it. The library was also renovated in 2006, for repairs. Today, it stands as a center for art, architecture, and knowledge.

SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos*)



This is a plaster model of Mr. Morgan's Library. Morgan and commissioned architect Charles McKim thought of the design of this building in 1902. The goal of these two was to design a building that would keep the growing collection of books Morgan was obtaining. The building itself was finished in 1906 in marble.

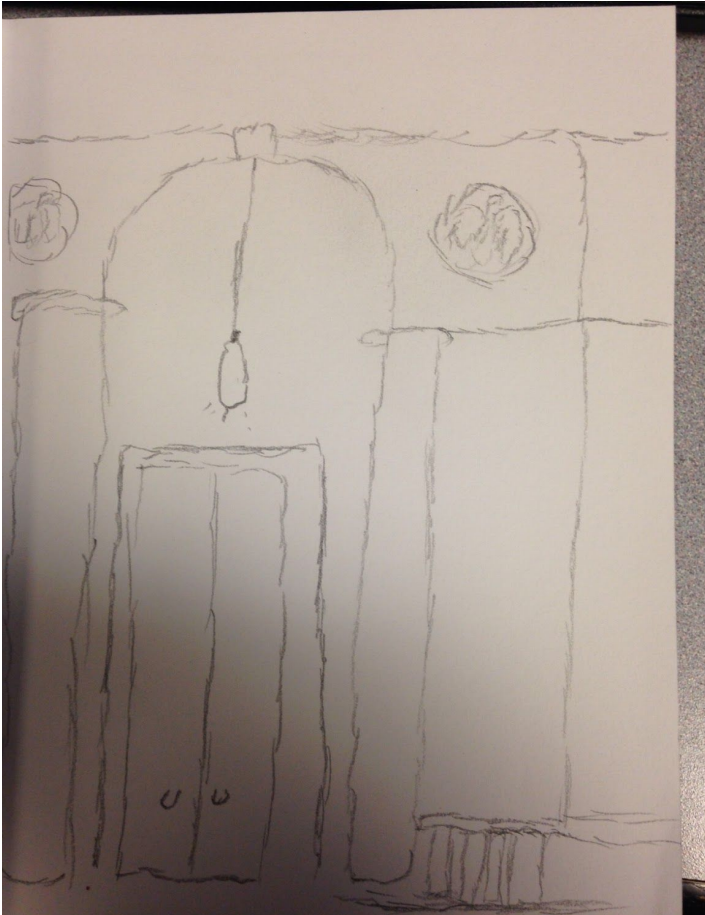


This portrait and fireplace was part of Mr. Morgan's study in the library. The study has these red velvet walls and mark furniture, to give off this sense of privacy. This could be important because it could be that Morgan made his study like that cause perhaps people would try and eavesdrop on him. When you're one of the most richest men in New York at that time, even your associates may want to know how to get your success.



This mural is in Mr. Morgan's Library, pass the Rotunda. It's to represent the sin of greed, personified by King Midas. I believe it's important because Morgan must have had this mural to remind him one thing... To never take the wealth he made for granted. This is a reminder of what he as a wealthy person could've become, and thankfully he didn't.

SITE DOCUMENTATION (sketches*)



This sketch is the original front of the library on Madison and 36th St. It's supposed to show the marble pillars , the metal door , and the lamp that hangs in the middle. The model above shows how much more detail the building has.

A sketch of the ceiling in Morgan's library. The design in the ceiling captures the Renaissance-style Morgan was going for in the building.

GENERAL NOTES:

- J P. Morgan Jr. (1867-1943), son of J. P. Morgan.
- Charles McKim (1847 -1909), architect who was commissioned to design the Morgan Library in 1902.
- 2006: The year when the Library was renovated for repairs.

INSIGHTS/DISCOVERIES

- In the library, there aren't any staircases that can be seen in the open. So the staircase is in the bookcases , and it takes a keen eye to notice it.
- Morgan himself was known to be extremely generous,. When he wasn't looking for rare texts and books, he donated to charities and such.
- During the Panic of 1907, Morgan brought some of most well- known bankers of the time to his study, and locked them inside until they found a solution to the crisis.

KEYWORDS/VOCABULARY & DEFINITIONS

Pavilion- a usually highly decorated projecting subdivision of a building.

Brownstone- a reddish-brown sandstone used for buildings.

Repository- a place or building where are or may be stored.

Benefactor- a person who gives money or help to a person or cause.

Palazzo- a palatial building, especially in Italy.

QUESTIONS for Further RESEARCH

1. What if businessmen today were always as generous as J P. Morgan?
2. If you're wealthy, why not spend it on knowledge as Morgan did?
3. What kind of other bankers did he had to deal with at that time?