

Learning Places Fall 2016

# SITE REPORT #2

## The Morgan Library



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### INTRODUCTION

The Morgan Library; when the name is first heard of you naturally begin to think about books and computers. Naturally the name is quite misleading when you begin to compare this destination with any other old standard library. Although this is a library it is unlike any other library you have ever

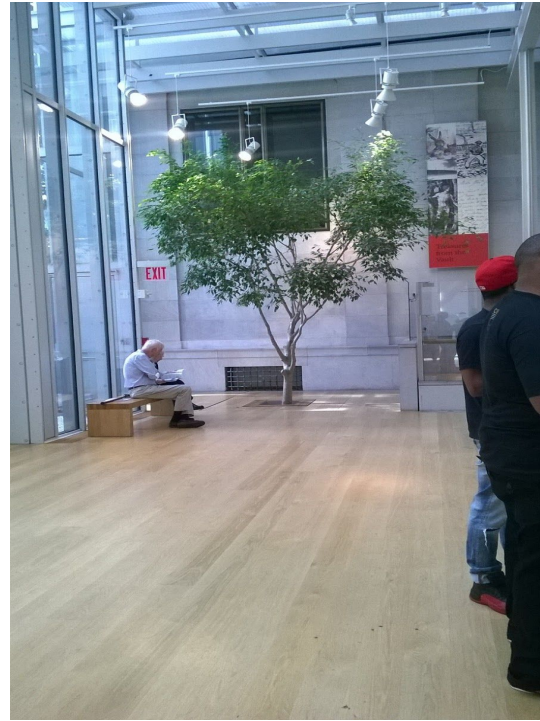
seen. It is quite marvelous both inside and out. The secret rooms are beautifully decorated and the overall structural integrity is quite spectacular. It is definitely a building that will have you wondering how in the world did they do that.

## SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos\*)



This is an outer view of the Morgan Library. I did my best to try and fit the entire building or at least to show both sides of the structure. It was not as easy capturing the whole building as I did with Grand Central Terminal since this building was actually on ground level and not elevated. I still took it at an angle like the previous photo. This was also to show the symmetry in the building. I did notice that this building looks very much like GCT. I concluded that architects back in the day had similar likes and dislikes.





I actually wanted to put these two photos together in order to sort of compare them. I know these two look absolutely different from one another but there is something that is quite unique about each of them. In both these photos we can see how much the architects cared about including natural lighting within the building. You can see how much light is blasting through the window within Morgan's study. In the second photo there is so much natural lighting that they were even able to grow a tree within the piazza itself. Although these architects are from completely different times they still use similar concepts when building their structures.



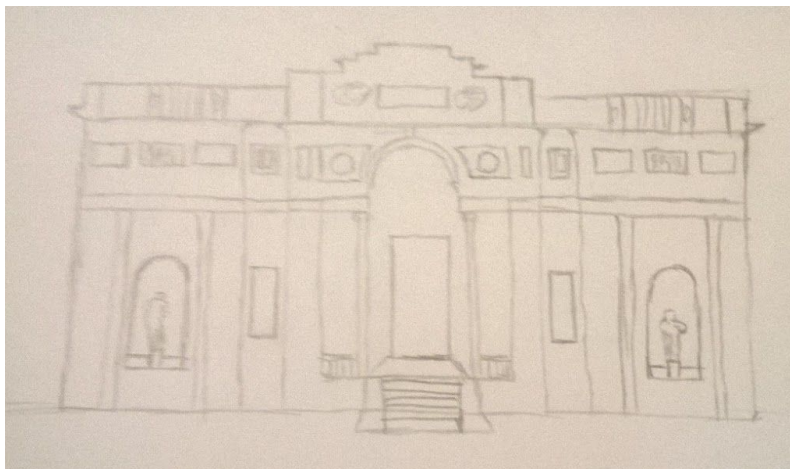
This photo is actually one of my favorites. I know what you're thinking, what could possibly be so exciting about books? Well it's not really the books that I am referring to, it's the path you need to go through in order to get up to the books. You notice that the books are elevated and actually enclosed in order to be protected. In order to get up there and choose a book you would actually have to find the staircase. You can clearly see from the photo that there is no staircases on sight. That's what makes it so amazing, these staircases are hidden in the corners of the walls. It's like something out of a Harry Potter book. I was astonished at the fact that someone during these times would actually think of something so clever. Truly something quite amazing.

## SITE DOCUMENTATION (sketches\*)



\*2 sketches minimum required per site visit

This is my sketch of Morgan's fire place located within his study. I decided to sketch this in order to illustrate how comfortable his study actually was. It was made to cater to his own specific tastes. Looked rather cozy if i do say so myself.



This is my sketch of the miniature sculpture of the morgan library. I wanted to sketch it in order to study the similarities between GCT and the Morgan. I could tell right away that they both use similar strategies, one being the use of the golden ratio.

## GENERAL NOTES:

- Morgan's study is a sacred and private space.
- The glass in his study is from Switzerland.
- The ceiling in his study was brought from Italy.
- The crest on the walls of his study is from the Chigi family..
- The Chigi family was also known as a banking family in the European region of the world.

## INSIGHTS/DISCOVERIES

To be honest the only thing I really knew about Grand Central Terminal was that it just recently turned one hundred years old and that it holds a massive amount of trains. After coming to this class and actually going to the station I realized that there is much more to the Terminal than I most recently thought. It is considered one of greatest architectural structures as well as a massive innovation in industrial engineering. The fact that railroads were built underneath each other during these times was quite astonish. The progression from steam powered trains to electric powered was also quite fascinating and a very monumental discovery. During my trip there I also discovered many cool features in the building. Like the fact that you can talk into a wall and hear it on the opposite wall blew my mind. The high ceilings just kept me wondering how in the world they clean them. It is a marvelous place that I never once thought I would be fascinated by. Overall I've learned a lot and I

hope to learn much more.

## **KEYWORDS/VOCABULARY & DEFINITIONS**

**\*5 keywords minimum required per site visit**

Piazza: a public square or marketplace.

Studiolo: a small room, often lavishly decorated, dedicated to reading, studying and writing.

Schist: a coarse-grained metamorphic rock that consists of layers of different minerals and can be split into thin irregular plates.

Sacred: religious rather than secular.

Rotunda: a round building or room, especially one with a dome.

## **QUESTIONS for Further RESEARCH**

1. Who exactly was the Chigi family?
2. How close was J.P Morgan with his son?
3. What exactly do the readings in the library contain? Is it also sacred?