

Learning Places Fall 2016
SITE REPORT #2



Street View of the Morgan Library and Museum at East 36th Street and Madison Avenue

Victor Ramirez

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the visit to The Morgan Library and Museum was to have the opportunity to see a building from the neoclassical style, one that is similar to Grand Central. The Morgan Library and Museum was the home of J. P. Morgan, an aristocrat from the late 1800s. He commissioned the architects McKim, Mead and White to create a building that would evoke a sacred place to worship and study.



Courtyard

One major feature of the renovation is the open space of the property that enables visitors to appreciate the site as they enter the building. Several sections of the building are connected in between the courtyard. The courtyard connects the gallery, the basement, and the library store while providing access to the second floor of the adjacent building. This picture shows the height of the building, the ceiling, the frost glass panel, and the stairs leading to the basement. In addition, the courtyard works as a display section.



This picture shows a model of the Morgan’s residence. The architect applied unique masonry technique to join the façade stones.



This picture shows the ceiling located at the J.P. Morgan study. The design resembles the coffers style from the Roman Architecture.



This picture shows the mosaic vestibule of the library and museum.

It is a high decorative ceiling composed of a dome resting on pendentives.

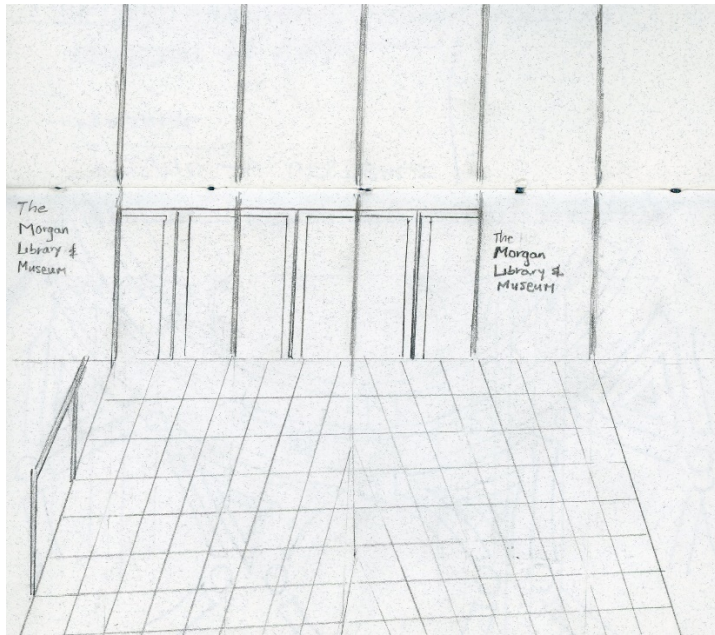


This picture shows the interior to the J.P. Morgan book collection.

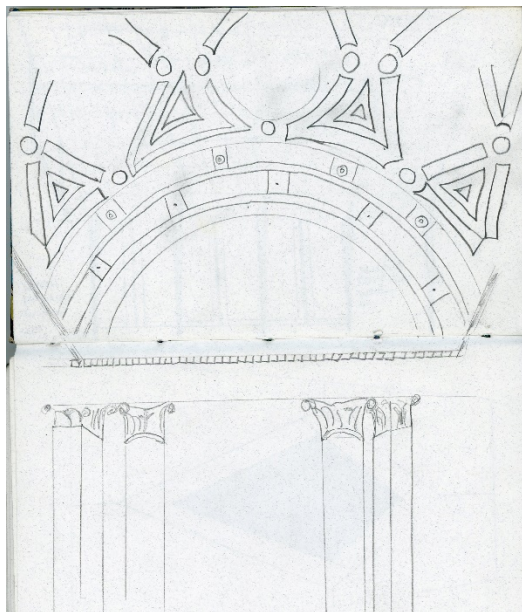
Decorated arches and mahogany wood shelves embellish this section.

The public can have access to the books.

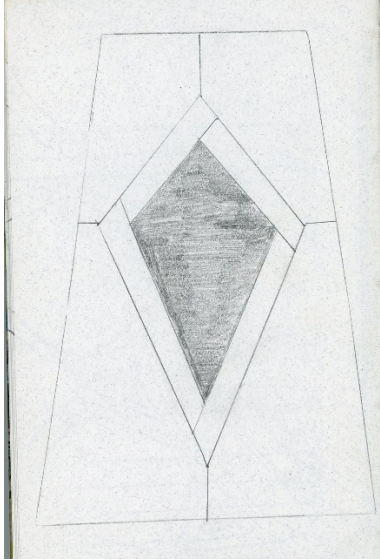
SITE DOCUMENTATION



This sketch shows the new entrance at Madison Avenue.



The Corinthian columns support the decorated dome at interior of the vestibule of the library.



Elegant symmetry in all flooring spaces are cover by the terrazzo floor.

Terrazzo floor

GENERAL NOTES:

- Pierpont Morgan was a collector during the late 1800s.
- The Architects McKim, Mead and White design the building to resemble the Renaissance style in 1906.
- In 2006 the Morgan’s library was renovated by the architect Renzo Piano.

INSIGHTS/DISCOVERIES

In 2006, the owners of The Morgan Library and Museum decided to expand or connect their buildings. They commissioned the Architect, Piano, to provide a design of simplicity, aesthetic and abstraction. For instance, the new façade consists of a steel frame with metal and glass panels.

Inside of the library, the main open space (piazza) connects the adjacent buildings and provides a clear path toward the library and gallery. The vestibule of the library resembles the Greco Roman style structure. The columns and dome are decorated with fine detail and painting. The walls are covered by mosaic tiles. Both study and library spaces are decorated with fine detail as well as paintings that J.P. Morgan liked.

KEYWORDS/VOCABULARY & DEFINITIONS

Facade: The face or front of a building towards a street or other open place, esp. the principal front. Also attrib. or as adj., of an architectural design concerned with elegance, etc., in the façade of a building alone.

Dome: rounded vault forming the roof of a building or chief part of it, and having a circular, elliptical, or polygonal base; a cupola.

Corinthian column: Archit. The name of one of the three Grecian orders (Doric, Ionic, Corinthian), of which it is the lightest and most ornate, having a bell-shaped capital adorned with rows of acanthus-leaves giving rise to graceful volutes and helices.

Pendentive: Each of the concave curved triangles lying between the arches supporting a dome, cupola, etc., and the baseline of this structure; an analogous curved region between the groins of a vaulted roof, etc.

Mosaic: The process of creating pictures or decorative patterns by cementing together small pieces of stone, glass, or other hard materials of various colours. Also: work produced in this way; the constructive or decorative materials from which it is made.

Reference: The Oxford English Dictionary

QUESTIONS for Further RESEARCH

1. How can a student have access to the Morgan's book collections?