

**Learning Places Fall 2016**  
**SITE REPORT #2**  
**The Morgan Library**



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**INTRODUCTION**

The Morgan Library is a very different library compared to your own public library. The Morgan is unique in many ways illustrating the use of technique. Every room of the Morgan was carefully and timely built showing what the architects back then were like. This library cannot be

compared to any other library in my opinion in which it costs about 1.2 million which is not comparable to a regular library.

SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos\*)



As you can see this looks very similar to the Grand Central Terminal. I wasn't able to take such a great picture of the library realizing I should have took it at an angle. It can be illustrated how architects during that time period had similar thoughts and ways of designing.



This is probably the best thing i liked about the library. In fact, i was curious in how people would get to these books and how these architects designed this in a way that people can't tell of the entryways. The whole room in general reminds me of a church or temple in which there are vast pictures of mary and many other people from the bible. You can tell it took time and dedication for this room to be done. Major respect to the architects for building this historic masterpiece.



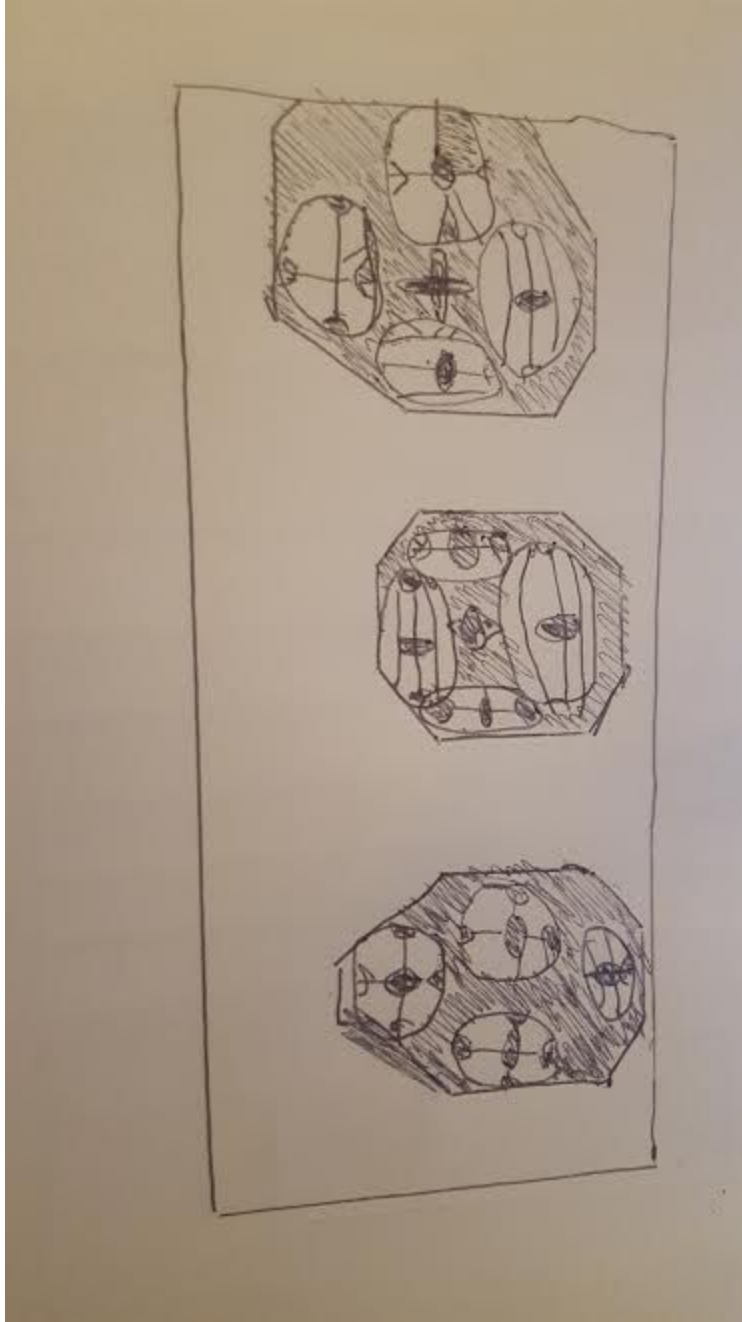
I also found this part of the library fascinating as well. It seems as if the ground is coming out of the wall. I like how they decided to use glass for the elevators as well as for the ceiling and part of the wall on this side of the building. Doing that brings in more light and texture in which the architects can be honored for. In my opinion, their use of glass was perfect in which they

placed every piece where it's supposed to be. It also seems like the entrance into the second building although it is actually attached.

SITE DOCUMENTATION (sketches\*)



This is the front of the Morgan Library. It illustrates how the architect wanted to make the building look modern separating the Morgan from other libraries. You can see the reflection of the light through the top and how a certain type of glass was used to hold the building. (Not such a great drawer as you can tell)



The sketching doesn't look too great but this is the ceiling of one of the rooms. This ceiling had been brought from Italy and shows how it is not cheap and is quality material. I found it very fascinating in which the architect made it in a way so that light can be reflected throughout the whole room.

**GENERAL NOTES:**

- The ceiling of the room we were in was brought from Italy.

- The Chigi family had sponsored the crest on most of the walls.
- JP Morgan was the most wealthiest person of the time and was the owner of the Morgan.
- Most of the library had been renovated in 2006
- Took approximately 6 years to build

#### INSIGHTS/DISCOVERIES

I found it very interesting how the Morgan can very well be compared to the Grand Central. Just the structure of the two buildings can be compared. In fact, a part of the Morgan looks exactly like the Grand Central in which it has the rectangular structure and the designs are very similar. I like how I was able to see the prints and drawings of European artists including Leonardo da Vinci and Michealangelo. As seen in my Sketch, Renzo Piano had set the reading room with a roof in which it allowed scholars to examine manuscripts in natural sunlight. Compared to the Grand Central Terminal, the Morgan has similar prints in which artists had exchanged during that period. We were also able to see symmetry and proportion as we learned in class.

#### KEYWORDS/VOCABULARY & DEFINITIONS

\*5 keywords minimum required per site visit

Piazza: A piazza is a public square or marketplace.

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

Sacred/Profane: connected with God (or the gods) or dedicated to a religious purpose and so deserving veneration.

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

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

#### QUESTIONS for Further RESEARCH

- How many times was the Morgan renovated? What was actually left original since it was built?
- Who is the Chiggi Family and where are they from?
- What problems did architects and builders go through when building and designing the Morgan?