

Learning Places Fall 2016

SITE REPORT #3

Metropolitan Museum of Art



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INTRODUCTION

The Metropolitan Museum of Art was built on April 13, 1870. In 1866, a group of Americans in Paris wished to make a place where it would provide education of art and art history to the American people. John Jay helped bring the idea back to the U.S.,

gathered artists, businessmen, and civic leaders and began work on the project. By 1870, the MET Museum was complete, and by 1871, it had 174 paintings and a Roman sarcophagus entered the museum. Thanks to John Jay and the Union League Club in NY, the MET Museum is now a well-known institution for art and its history.

SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos*)

This is a bronze statue of Artemis in the Greek and Roman art section of the MET. When I saw this statue, it reminded me of what the statue atop the Grand Central Terminal looked like. Statues like these look grand and majestic, since these of the gods and goddesses.

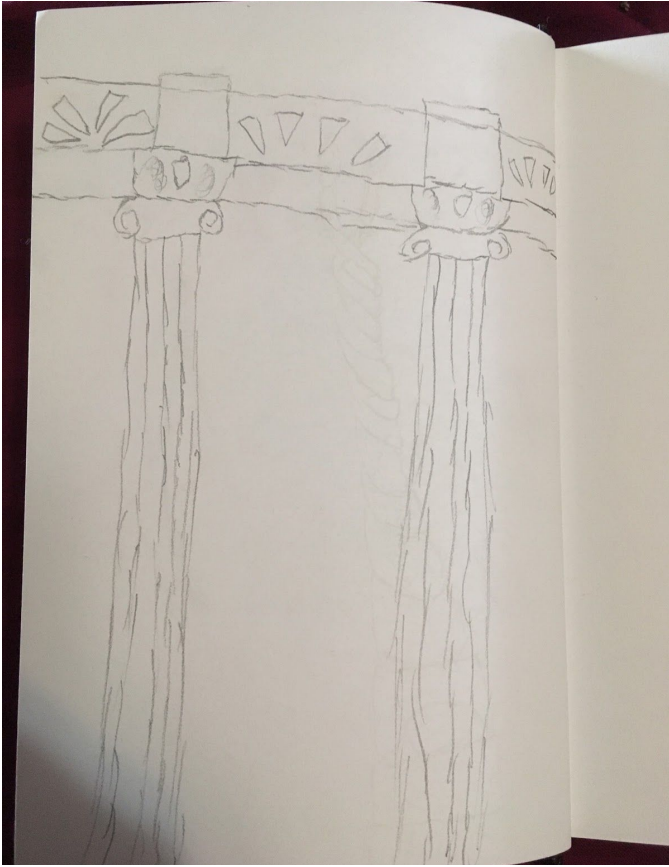


This room was part of the European art area in the MET. It has a large resemblance to J. P Morgan's private study in the Morgan library. When I entered the room, it felt just as private and intimate as before, with the red velvet cloth walls, and the grand design on the fireplace. It's very obvious that a wealthy person like JP Morgan would take this approach to his study.



This photo really caught my eye during my visit. This was the intersection between the Greek art area, on the left side, and the European art area, on the right side. It seems that the Greeks went for straight lines and simpler designs on their buildings, while Europeans had a more neoclassical design, making the building stick out more.

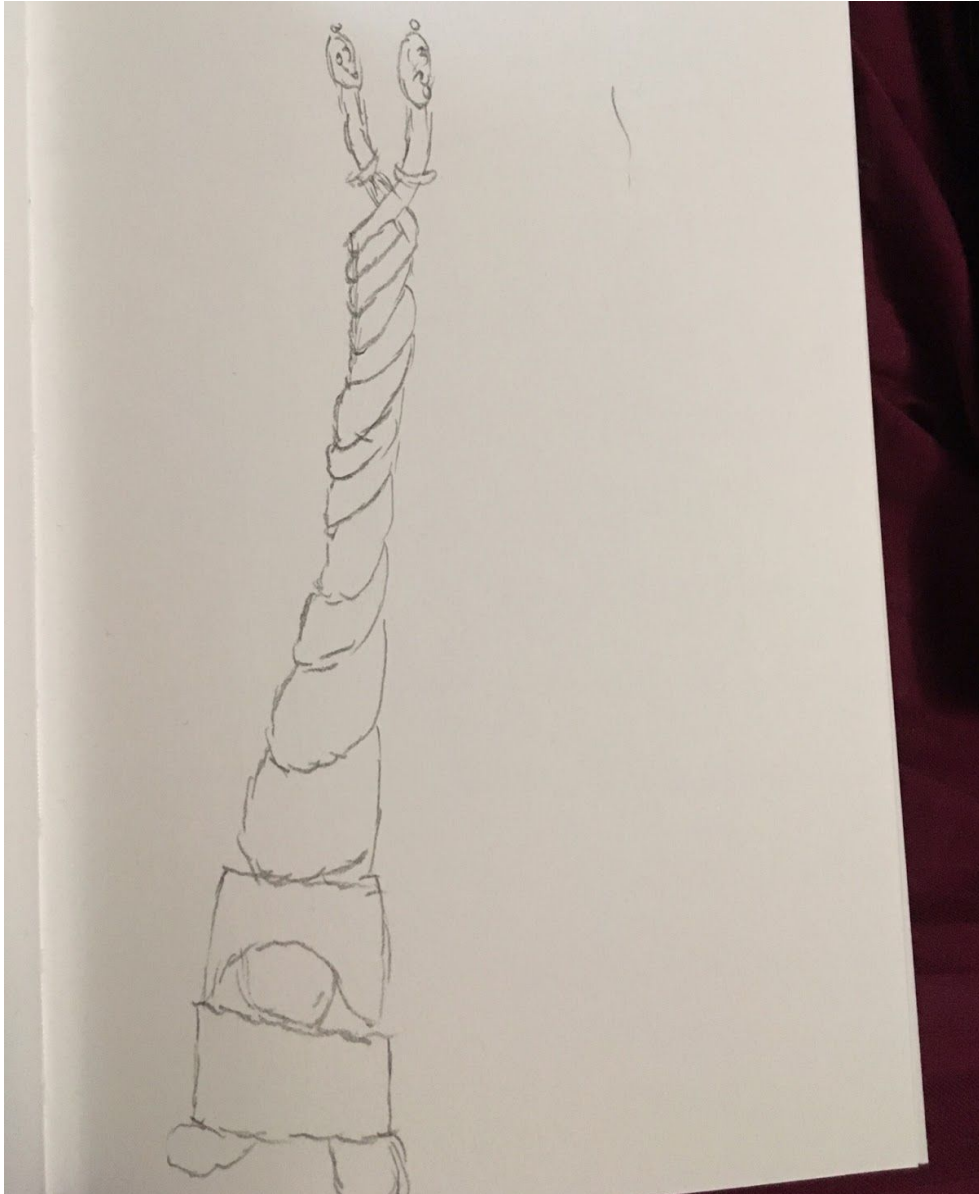
SITE DOCUMENTATION (sketches*)



This sketch is of the front of the of all the entrances to each section in the MET. Of course it follows the classical style with the columns and marble material. It does show that this building was made in the late 1800s, where the classical style was on the rise.



A sketch of a large column in the Greek art section. It's interesting for me to see a part of a column of this size. But I get the appeal, as Grand Central has the same sort of columns at grander scale.



This is a sketch of a marble candle holder in the Greek artifacts section. I noticed that the acorn on the top is still a running thing with the classical style. I remember it meaning “the acorn of knowledge” to the Greeks.

GENERAL NOTES:

- April 13, 1870- The day the MET Museum was finished being built.
- John Jay- grandson of the original founding father John Jay, and was the lawyer who got the Met Museum to come to life.
- The Union League Club- a social club with an interest of art who helped John Jay create the MET.

INSIGHTS/DISCOVERIES

- The Met Museum has over 434,000 records of paintings, artifacts, and statues.
- The MET has two other branches in the city, the MET Cloisters and the MET Breuer.
- The same acorn symbol can be seen here in the MET, as it has been seen in GCT.

KEYWORDS/VOCABULARY & DEFINITIONS

Neoclassical pillar- a stone support that has a neoclassical style of Rome or Greece.

Brownstone- a reddish-brown sandstone used for buildings.

The Great Hall- the hall in the main entrance of the MET.

QUESTIONS for Further RESEARCH

1. Who were the architects who worked on the MET Museum with John Jay? Was it a architecture firm or a lone architect who worked on the project?
 2. Did the architects who made GCT take inspiration from places like the MET, or was it just the idea of the neoclassical style a the time?
- All general information was found from <http://www.metmuseum.org/>