

Learning Places Fall 2016
Site Report #2
The Morgan Library and Museum



Maryse Maurice

9/30/2016

Introduction

The Morgan Library and Museum is a museum, and also a research library located 225 Madison Avenue at East 36 street of Manhattan. This place opened in 1906 as the private library of J.P. Morgan, and became public institution in 1924 by J.P Morgan's son John Pierpont Morgan. The building designed by Charles Mckim. I did not have a chance to visit with the class. Later, on the Saturday I plan a visit with my little nephew. As I walked to the Morgan library, I did not know what to expect. It is a small museum in terms of exhibit space and floor.

Site Documentation (photos)



This photo was taken inside J.P Morgan's private study area in the library where he spent much time, away from the wall street offices of his banking firm." Pierpont Morgan's portrait hangs over the fifteenth-century mantelpiece, and that of his son, J. P. Morgan, Jr., is displayed

between the west windows” (The Morgan Library & Museum). This picture shows a very brilliant guy who invested his time in reading books. As you stared at the image, it shows a very powerful message “focus”.



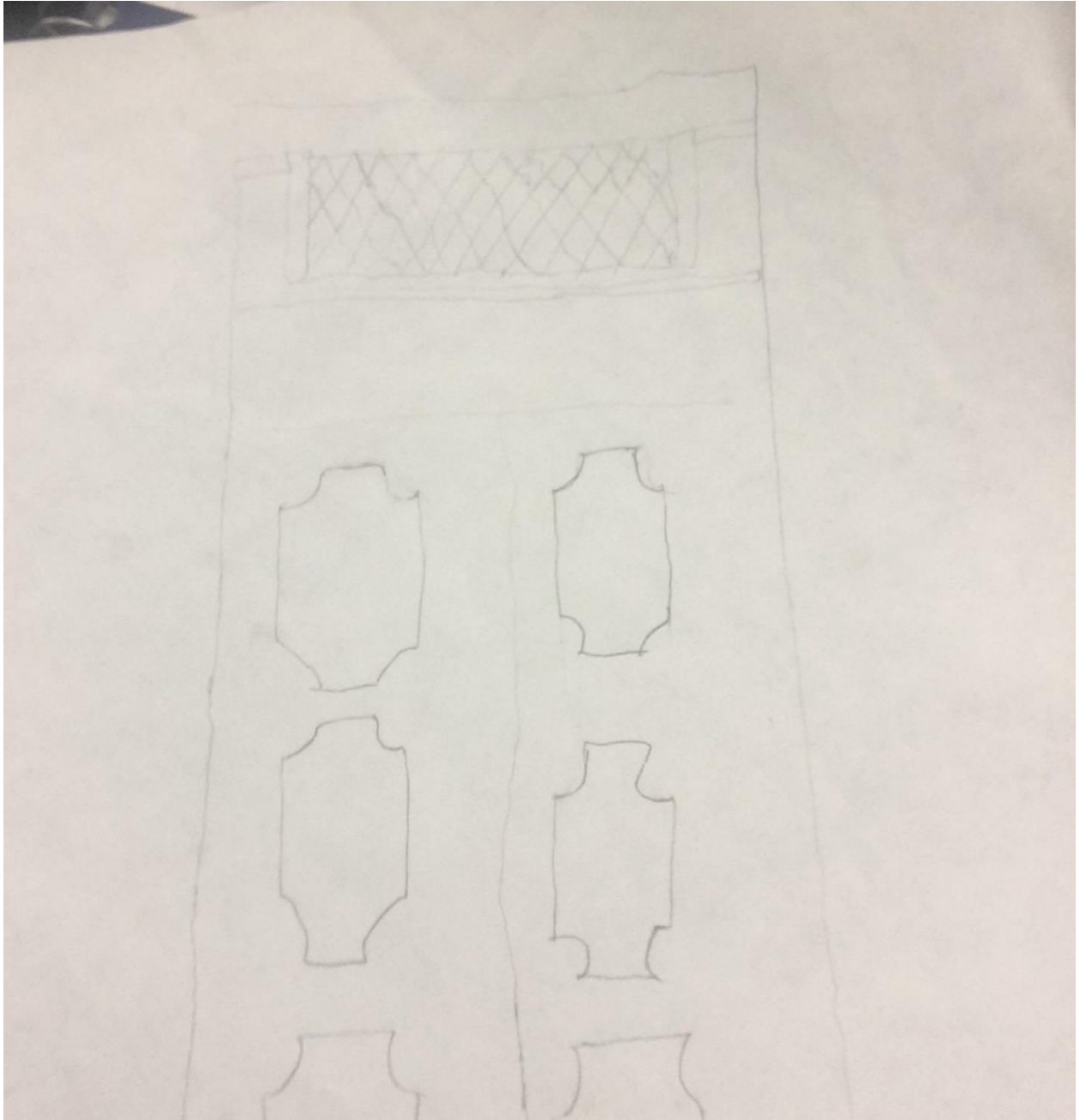
This photo is “The Rotunda”. As you walked to the room, you passed through a pair of monumental bronze doors. The room is very rich in detail; marble columns, an ornately patterned floor, and fine mosaic panels that line the curved walls. In this picture, the doors and the walls

are very tall. The Ceiling, designed by an American artist named H. Siddons Mowbray (1858–1928).



This picture shows “The West Room Vault”. It is a very small space filled with books, where Morgan spent his entire time for the private study. It has a door with a combination lock. Showing how valuable books were for J.P Morgan in the library.

Site Documentation (sketches)



This is the monumental bronze door from the Rotunda.

General Notes

The Morgan Library & Museum Located 225 Madison Avenue at 36th Street, New York.

The East Room was designed as a treasury for Pierpont Morgan's remarkable collection of rare printed books.

The Rotunda ceiling was designed by an American Artist H. Siddons Mowbray (1858–1928).

The Morgan Library and Museum was completed in 1906.

The Lobby looks like an outdoor space.

Insights/Discoveries

I did not really know what to expect from the Morgan library. The museum consists parts of the library by J.P Morgan and parts of his collection. It has some beautiful/outstanding architecture and decor. A phenomenal vaulted library. I spent the time exploring the library, and what amazed me was the J.P Morgan Private study room. During my visit, I joined people who came to visit. It was a great experience, and I learned a lot of new terms and some historical information from their tour guide. Also I found out there are hidden staircases inside the library.

Keywords/Vocabulary & Definition

Jack Morgan: J.P Morgan son.

Charles Follen Mckim: he designed the Morgan Library

Piazza: Public space in a city or a town, especially in Italy (dictionary.com)

Vault: an arched structure

Post and Lintel: refers to a system of construction that uses vertical Supports.

Coffers Ceiling: in architecture, is a series of sunken panels in the shape of a square, rectangle, or octagon in a **ceiling**, soffit or vault (Wikipedia)

Annex: in 1928, replacing Pierpont Morgan residence on the corner of Madison Avenue and 36th Street

Questions for Further research

In 1924 J. P. Morgan, Jr. gave his father's library to the public. Is there a specific reason he changes the library from private to public?

Do people have ever questioned why he spent all this time for a private study?

Do people have done anything to keep Penn Station?