

Learning places fall 2016
SITE REPORT #1 Expanded
Grand Central Terminal



Maryse Maurice
9/19/16
Introduction

For a second time, we went to visit Grand Central with a tour guide where we have a better chance to learn more about Grand Central history. Grand Central Terminal is one of the most popular historic landmarks in New York City. Located on 42nd street and Park Avenue, and renamed “Grand Central Terminal” after the reconstruction of Grand Central Depot. Major renovations made to expand its facility. A great site visits for those who want to learn and see extraordinary works by engineers and architects from neoclassical. Also filled with beautiful sculptures, arches, gorgeous chandeliers...

Site documentation (photos)



This photo taken inside Grand Central Terminal's main concourse that shows a gorgeous chandelier, but the most important thing is the natural light on the top. Light is one of the important things about Grand Central Terminal. As you can see, lights are everywhere. Why? Because the importance of the electricity at that time which played a major role in GCT's development. What makes this picture so important to me is because they were not only used electricity lights but they also gave opportunity for natural lights traveled inside each rooms.



This picture shows a night sky. A majestic astrological ceiling mural above the main concourse. When you look up, all the zodiac symbols are above. The mural intended to depict the astronomical map the way it looks. Grand Central Terminal is not just a place to grab a train. You can also have some fun and learn more about the designs. This really captured my attention.



This is a photo of Vanderbilt Hall sitting area. This area used for people to wait for the trains, but always filled with homeless. It is no longer open to public. They only used it for special events. The best thing, we got a chance to get in and sat down on the bench.

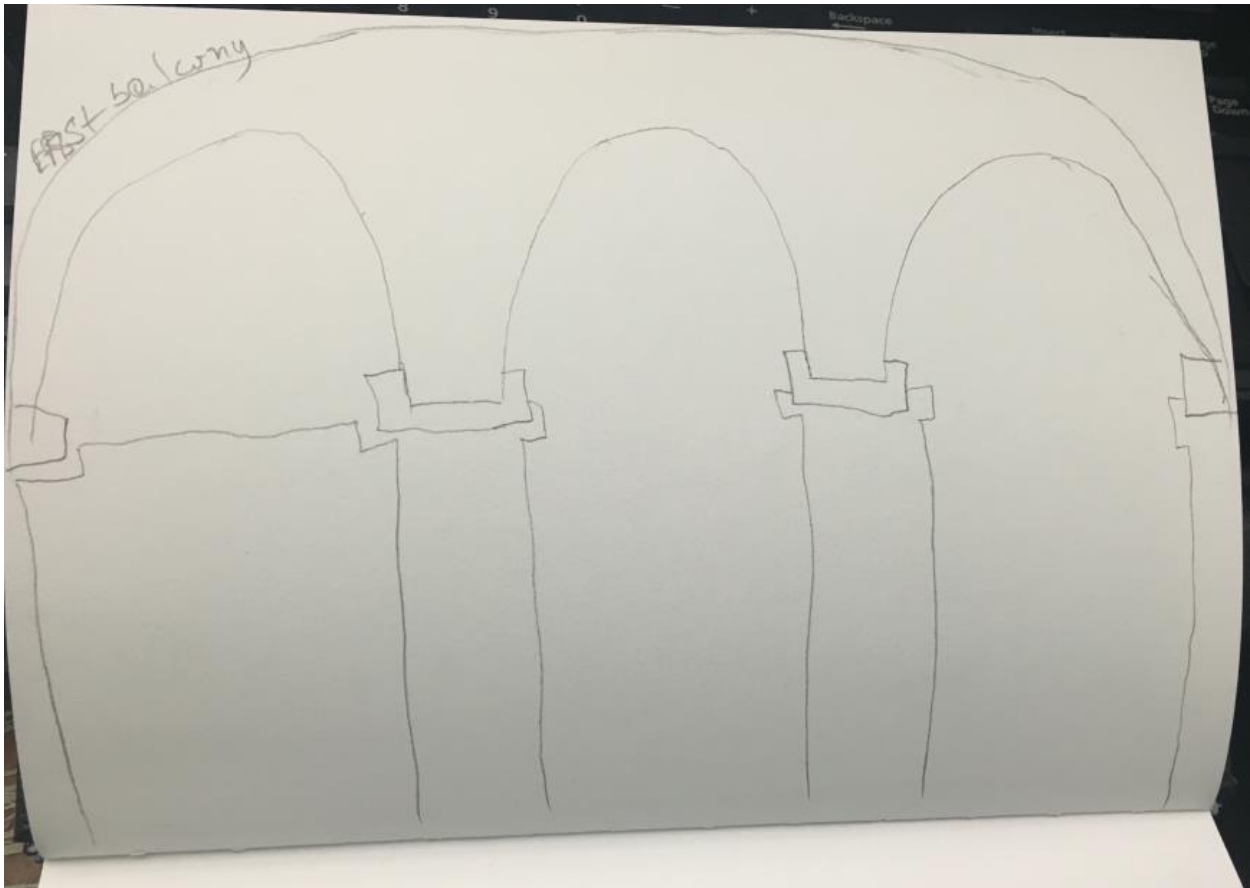


This is Grand Central terminal whispering gallery. Located on dining platform near the Oyster Bar & Restaurant. If you stand in one corner of the room and whisper into the wall people can hear you clear. “The tiling on the ceiling is work of Raphael Guastavino, he installed glazed terra cotta tiles to create arches”.

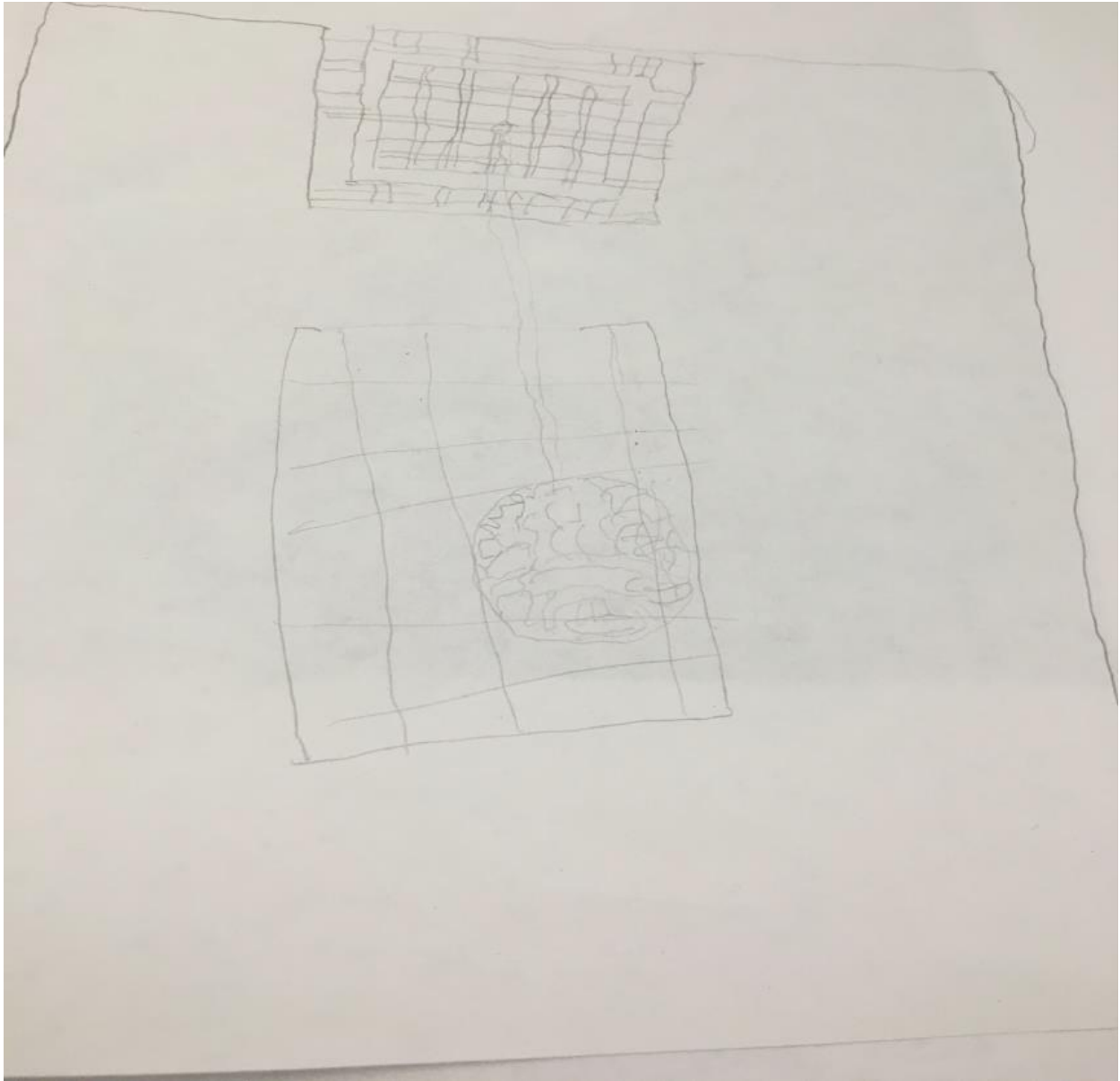


This is a picture from 110 ft. up from the catwalk. When up there, you dominated the main concourse.

Site documentation(sketches)



The arches on the East balcony at GCT's main concourse. Why did I sketch the East Balcony? Each of these arches have a window. The architecture has allowed natural light to travel throughout the main concourse. At the same location located the Apple Store.



This sketch was inside the main concourse where the natural lights are coming in from the top window and a chandelier. Lights were very important during GCT's construction.

General notes:

French sculptor Jules Felix Coutan designed grand Central sculptures.

The space Vanderbilt Hall is no longer open to public.

Grand Central Terminal's main concourse is the center fills with crowds.

The main concourse has an astronomical ceiling.

Vanderbilt Hall serves as the entrance area from 42nd St.

The president has seated inside the limo as the train arrived, and with secret service would drive from the train to the elevator.

The train's times displayed are wrong.

The main concourse has a secret underground rail.

The Astrological ceiling is upside down.

Insights/discoveries

The site Visit to Grand Central was great experience, very acknowledgeable. I learned that the base of the building is always heavier, and as it goes to the top, the walls are taller. I saw some fascinating decoration, especially the astronomical ceiling with all the zodiac signs. In addition, I learned people have to be careful of what they have to say under the whispering gallery because others can hear what you said loud and clear. Also at the entrance on 42nd street lights are everywhere, shows the significance of lights. For our second visit, we learned more about Grand Central. We learned that the president had her own private train, and there is a second black square spot follows the entire terminal. Every year they spend one Million dollars to clean.

Keywords/vocabulary/definitions

Meridian Line: a north-south line; (also) an actual line on the Ground for indicating the course of a portion of a meridian.

Beaux-Arts: the fine arts, classical style

Vanderbilt Hall: the entrance on 42nd street

Concourse: crowds where people come together

Whispering gallery: a vault covered in Gustavino tile

Tripartite: composed of three parts

Terminus: The deity who presided over boundaries or landmarks

Neoclassicism: Neoclassical style or principles in the arts

References (class notes & OED)

Questions for further research

Why Grand Central had a place for the people to sit?

What happened when they realized most of their works at Grand Central were wrong?

Will we expect some changes in the future about Grand central in terms of renovation?