

Learning Places Fall 2016

REVISED SITE REPORT #1

Grand Central Station



STUDENT NAME

10.05.2016

INTRODUCTION

One of the world's great railway terminals, often referred to as the gateway to the nation and a marvel of civil engineering, Grand Central Terminal is a remarkable beaux-arts design. Covering over 49 acres, in the heart of New York City, a terminus was built, by engineer William Wilgus and the

architects Reed and Stern. This building was constructed using a very innovative plan, with its extensive tunnels, ramp system, as well as upper and lower level concourses.

SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos*)

*3 photos minimum required per site visit



The light structures in this building all stand out, and they should, since they are all bare naked (meaning the bulbs are on the outside) rhodium and gold . This is shot from Vanderbilt Hall where the benches had been removed during the “Great Bum Invasion”.



This shot shows Grand Central Terminal's hidden Staircase as well as a priceless jewel that the terminal displays daily to the public with most people being oblivious to it. Can you spot it? No? Well the Jewel is the clock, priced at over 20 million dollars US, and the hidden staircase is underneath it, allowing the workers to come and go without the need to leave the cage to get to the lower level concourse.

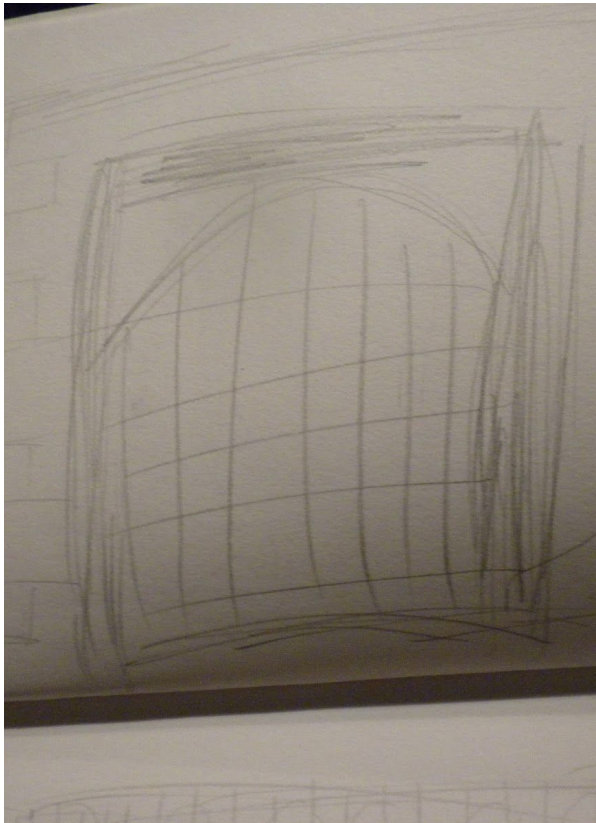


This shot captures the light structure again as discussed above, but also it shows the innovative ramp system that allows individuals to move about freely without the use of stairs to access the various levels.



The shots on the left and the right were taken from the central glass window on the top level, while on the the glass walkway.

SITE DOCUMENTATION (sketches*)



This is a cutaway of the top half of Grand Central Terminal, with the focus on one of the Big Bay windows that faces Park Avenue South.



Grand Central Terminal as viewed from 42nd Street and Vanderbilt Avenue.

GENERAL NOTES:

- Grand Central Terminal has a 98% on time performance and is top 3 in the entire world.
- Acorns and oakleaf clusters can be found adorned on or around most of the light fixtures as well as being adopted as the family symbol.
- The term Rolling out the Red Carpet was coined / started here at GCT.
- Grand Central Terminal is the 2nd most visited site in all of New York City, 2nd only to Times Square.
- It was referred to as the "Gateway to the Nation" and is the nation's largest Regional Railroad

INSIGHTS/DISCOVERIES

During this site visit, I discovered that that Grand Central Terminal has so pretty interesting secrets that the public isn't even aware about. The train schedules are deliberately wrong, and all of the

clocks are off by 1 minute. This is due to what I'd call behavioral engineering, meaning that because people don't want to miss their trains, they are rushing to get there, only to realize that they have another minute before they leave, and the conductors tell the people to slow down, equating to a SAFER environment for said people. In addition to this, GCT also boasts an impressive 98% on time performance and is ranked in the top 3 in the world. Might have something to do with the clocks, I wonder? GCT also plays host to an impressive 10 THOUSAND people per day for just lunch. At one point, it also housed troops with shoot to kill orders in the basement. This was due to Russian spies trying to infiltrate the installation and kill the power turbines that were once housed here. There are also 13 stories below the street level, which kinda makes me wonder what's actually housed there.

KEYWORDS/VOCABULARY & DEFINITIONS

Terminus: The end of a railway or other transport route, or a station at such a point; a terminal.

Meridian: A circle of constant longitude passing through a given place on the earth's surface and the terrestrial poles.

Alternating Current: An electric current that reverses its direction many times a second at regular intervals, typically used in power supplies.

Direct Current: An electric current flowing in one direction only

Beaux-Arts Architecture: Relating to the classical decorative style maintained by the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris in the 19th century.

QUESTIONS for Further RESEARCH

1. How much would NYC be affected by a terrorist attack on the Park avenue train tracks?
2. What is housed in the basement of GCT (It's 13 stories deep, SOMETHING IS IN THE THERE)?
3. Why does the POTUS always stay at the Waldorf Astoria when he comes to NYC (Seems like that would pose a security risk to stay at the SAME place every time)?