

# SITE REPORT #3



Street view of the Met

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## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the visit to The Metropolitan Museum of Art (The Met) was to identify some architectural elements of the neo-classical style. The Met is a New York City Landmark that is visited by hundreds of people everyday. The monumental steps, Corinthians capitals, pendentives and domes are the elements discussed in this report.

## SITE DOCUMENTATION



Monumental Steps of the Met

This picture shows the main entrance to the building and the partial façade of the neo-classical style. In addition, the steps are an emblematic feature of the building because they invite the visitor to rest and enjoy the street view and the building as well. For instance, in this picture a lot of people are sitting and enjoying the surrounding atmosphere.



Corinthian & Ionic Capitals

This picture illustrates two different columns of the neo-classic style. The large column is known as the Corinthian Capital because it is the most decorative column of the Greek and Roman Style. The small column is known as the Ionic Capital because its decorative feature is a spiral with other ornaments combined. Like the Greek and Roman temples, this building evokes a sacred place in which many historical artifacts are displayed to the public.

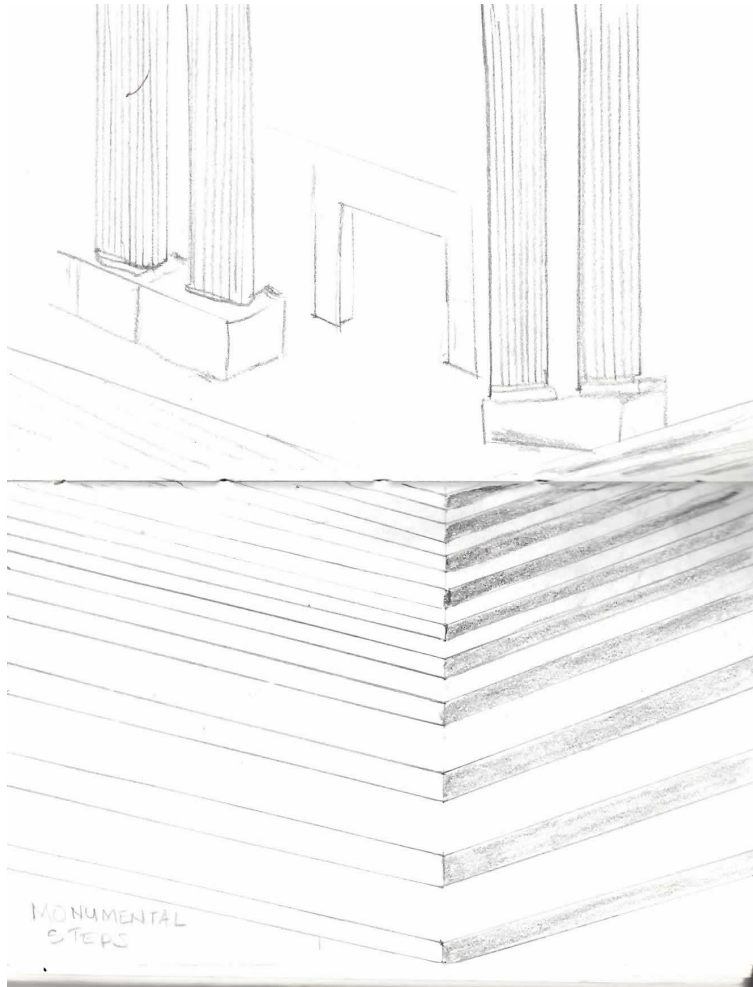




Pendentives at the Great Hall of the Met

This picture shows part of the structural elements of the great hall. From an engineering point of view, the dome transfers the load to the arch and the arch transfers the load to the columns. Several pendentives support three domes and each dome contains an oculus that provides sunlight to the building. The size and proportion are characteristic features of the neo-classic style.

## SITE DOCUMENTATION



This sketch shows partial steps and the main façade of the building. The monumental steps are known to be an architectural feature of public spaces because they enable the visitor to have access to the building without tripping or falling. The access for people with physical disabilities is located to the right of building.



This sketch shows a partial elevation inside of the Great Hall at the Met. The tri-partite composition is illustrated with the dome resting on the arches and the arches resting on the columns. These three elements are the simple form of architectural design of classical buildings.

#### GENERAL NOTES:

- Ecole des Beaux Arts was the training school for the designer of the Met.
- New York City Landmark Preservation Law in 1965 saved Grand Central from destruction.
- Neo-Classicism style refers to the simplicity used in many New York City Landmark Buildings.
- The Metropolitan Museum of Art is an educational institution that serves the community and the visitors all over the world.
- Façade is an architectural name designated to the main face of a building.

## INSIGHTS/DISCOVERIES

The Metropolitan Museum of Art was established during the early 1870s and ever since, the building has been renovated and several sections have been added to the building. The Met is a contemporary building in the movement of the Ecole des Beaux Art.

During this short visit to the Met I found out that the steps are known to be a place to rest rather than to be an access to the building. It seems to be an architecture feature that the designers are unwilling to change over the past renovations.

The main façade of the building contained, the tri-partite elements of the neo-classic style. For instance, the arch combined with the post lintel and Greek columns are the components of the tri-partite elements. Another distinctive feature of the main façade are the large columns known as the Corinthian style. Two sets of columns support a partial component of the roof that emphasize the style.

The Great Hall, contains several architectural components found in the Greek and Roman style. For instance, large columns, large arches and domes and a high ceiling are distinctive features that embellish the building.

## KEYWORDS/VOCABULARY & DEFINITIONS

**Corinthian Column:** *Archit.* The name of one of the three Grecian orders (Doric, Ionic, Corinthian), of which it is the lightest and most ornate, having a bell-shaped capital adorned with rows of acanthus-leaves giving rise to graceful volutes and helices.

**Dome:** A rounded vault forming the roof of a building or chief part of it, and having a circular, elliptical, or polygonal base; a cupola.

**Façade:** The face or front of a building towards a street or other open place, *esp.* the principal front. Also *attrib.* or as *adj.*, of an architectural design concerned with elegance, etc., in the façade of a building alone.

**Great Hall:** The running or flocking together of people; the condition or state of being so gathered together. †to have concourse: to resort in crowds to, unto.

**Ionic Column:** *Archit.* Belonging to, characterized by, or designating one of the three Greek orders of architecture, characterized by a column with scroll shapes on either side of the capital.

**Pendentive:** Each of the concave curved triangles lying between the arches supporting a dome, cupola, etc., and the baseline of this structure; an analogous curved region between the groins of a vaulted roof, etc.

**Oculus:** Classical Latin oculus eye, also bud, knob at the centre of the spiral scroll adorning capitals, marking resembling an eye. Compare French oculus small round church window (1852; compare sense 2).

**Tri-partite:** Divided into or composed of three parts or kinds; threefold, triple.

Reference: Oxford English Dictionary

## QUESTIONS for Further RESEARCH

1. How many renovations has the building had over the past years?
2. Why were the main steps of the museum not renovated to allocate for ADA access?
3. Are the renovation and maintenance of the museum funded privately or publicly? Why is the cost of the admission pay whatever you want?