

Learning Places Fall 2016

SITE REPORT #3

The MET



STUDENT NAME

10.19.2016

INTRODUCTION

The site visit to the MET was very interesting for me seeing as I went with my wife and 2 kids as opposed to going with the class. The Metropolitan Museum of Art is one of the largest museums in the world and it is located on 82th st and 5th avenue right alongside central park. It's been at its

current location since 1880 and the original structure is now completely surrounded by expansions.

SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos*)

*3 photos minimum required per site visit



This photo shows the dome structure inside the main lobby in the MET. What stands out to me is the puzzle that's solved here -- "How do you fit a round object on top of a square object".

One of the Oculus located in the main lobby inside the MET. I believe the triangular pieces are called squinches and help the dome sit on top of the squared sides.



These oculus allow lots of natural light to filter into the museum and they are everywhere in the main lobby.



In the photo to the left, we see a building within a building, which shows the expansion of the museum. In the middle photo, we see detailing and more windows in the ceiling to also allow lots of light to filter in during any time of the day. The photo on the right is of a wonderful statue in roman wing of the museum.

GENERAL NOTES:

- The first Metropolitan Museum of Art was located in a brownstone at 681 Fifth Avenue, then in a mansion at 128 W 14th Street.
- The Met was built in an area that was seen as undesirable
- There are more than 6 million visitors to The Met each year
- The Met building is comprised of more than 20 structures that were added on over the years
- The Rooftop Garden offers one of the best skyline views of manhattan

INSIGHTS/DISCOVERIES

I personally didn't really discover much about the museum on my visit but I go there with my family at least once a year to see if there is anything new in the egyptian wing. After some digging, I found out

that this wasn't the first home for the MET and that when this location was decided upon, it was actually frowned on because the area was "undesirable" due to it not being near the wealthy mansions and estates at the time. One of the most noticeable things about the MET are the stairs and during the day at anytime of the year, you can find lots of people sitting out front on them and from what I've read, the people responsible for the steps wanted them to feel like an extension to the city. Kind of like inviting the people of the city to come inside and behold it's wonders.

KEYWORDS/VOCABULARY & DEFINITIONS

***5 keywords minimum required per site visit**

Facade: The principal front of a building, that faces onto a street or open space

Dome: A rounded vault forming the roof of a building or structure, typically with a circular base

Microcosm: A community, place, or situation regarded as encapsulating in miniature the characteristic qualities or features of something much larger

Palimpsest: A manuscript or piece of writing material on which the original writing has been effaced to make room for later writing but of which traces remain.

Activism: The policy or action of using vigorous campaigning to bring about political or social change

QUESTIONS for Further RESEARCH

1. Why do the various buildings inside the MET have their own style and flavor? To me, it would be more visually appealing to stick with one scheme even as the times changed.

2. What makes this museum so exciting and great that it's a quintessential part of the city?

3. Why do they rotate exhibits and make them so hard to be able to get into?