

Learning Places Fall 2018

# SITE REPORT #1A

## Zuccotti Park



*A place for people to eat, chat, or relax away from corporate responsibility.*

### STUDENT NAME:

Patrick Chan

### INTRODUCTION

**What were your expectations of the place, before arriving? Did your experience of the place match your expectations? How did it, or did it not, live up to your expectations? What did you notice about the place that you didn't already know from reading or previous visits?**

I know of the area but did not know this location was actually zuccotti park. When I hear park I think jungle gym and basketball courts not only an area to sit and relax surrounded by corporate buildings. A space with so many different occupations gathered here. (Student, business, personal, food vendors, etc)



## SITE OBSERVATIONS

Insert 3 photographs and provide a title for each image. The title should be a a word or short phrase that sums up the subject matter of the photo or a visual theme present in the photo.



*This side is the entrance to the park with the stairs going up while the other side of the park have stairs going down into the park.*



*A family resting and enjoying a lunch break in the park. There are benches or tables with chairs for people to sit and enjoy the area.*



*This guys was enjoying his lunch until he started to share it with the pigeons in the area. It's illegal but the food is gone before any evidence can be collected.*

**Why did you choose these images? Do they summarize a feeling you have for the place? Do they focus on prominent objects or features of the place? Explain.**

There are areas for selected occasions. There are two to four seat tables that can be shared by a group to eat or chat, long benches with individual cut out space, trees that line up in certain angles, gardens with flowers, art sculpture

**Describe the sizes and shapes of buildings in this area. Is there general uniformity or heterogeneity among structures?**

Surrounded by tall corporate buildings mostly. Have commercial fast food and shopping in the area.

**Describe the patterns, textures, colors, and ornamental features of the surfaces of the buildings and structures in and around the place.**

Each building is different but they have similar layout designs. The park is designed with a linear and curved pattern. Trees line up together in diagonally from one corner to the other corner of the park. There are a strip of lights on the floor.

**How is the natural world integrated into the built environment? Were trees, plants, lawns, and bodies of water established *around* existing architectures, or were the buildings and walkways built to observe preexisting “wild” areas? Describe patterns and methods of integration.**

Plants and floor are well maintained.

The park is very clean and there are workers there making sure it stays clean. People come here for as a resting area. People would eat, sit, chat, read, or people watch. The area is a public space but there are seats where you can be by yourself.

**Other than buildings, what are the functions of the designed / built structures (walkways, seating, etc)?**

People can pass by the park to seat, eat, or read. It can be an area for workers to get away and take thier break.

**What public amenities are offered to users of the space (water fountains, wheelchair access and other supports for the disabled, public telephones, phone charging stations, WiFi, subway and bus stations, etc.)?**

Subways, bus, food vendors, shopping area, fast food

**How have the planners and architectects communicated the purpose of the place, via signage or design elements?**

They have a small area to work with. Since that land is owned by a company in the area they are the ones in control of the designs.

**Are there any restrictions or rules (either explicit or implied) about how to use the space or interact with other people? Do you see anyone using the space in a manner that exceeds or violates the intentional design? Describe.**

I would assume that there are restrictions and rules of the park but they were not being enforced. From what I saw that day there were children doing illegal activities in the park and there was no one to stop them. There are others that will respect the space and others that won't.

**How do people generally interact with the environment? Is this place crowded? Walkable? Easy to navigate? Comfortable?**

Most people were sitting there either eating or talking to one another. There are multiple spots for people to sit. If you walk around the area it is crowded but you can't miss the park since it is the only area with trees within the area.

**What is your personal experience of the place? Think about sound/smell/touch, your body's movement, contact with the ground and physical comfort. How does the place make you feel?**

The area was relaxing. Even though Zuccotti Park is in the middle of a busy area it can still create a peaceful environment.

## ANALYSIS/DISCOVERIES

**Use this section to reflect on your observations. Remember to refer to your observations when drawing general conclusions.**

**Thinking about the neighborhood in which the place is embedded, who is this space designed for and for what general purpose?**

The place is designed for anyone in the public to enjoy.

**More specifically, what kinds of social interactions does the place encourage or support? How do noise and light affect social interaction? What about the proximity of design elements (walkways, benches, etc.)? Mention specific design elements in your answer.**

There are benches and tables for people to sit and either talk to another person, enjoy the weather, or watch their surroundings.

**How might you use the space in a creative way that exceeds the intended use of the designers? Think about behavior, physical movement and organization, numbers of people, etc.**

The area can be used as a stage for a performance.

**QUESTIONS for FURTHER RESEARCH.** Write down questions that require further research to answer. These should follow directly from your analysis section and be complex and specific enough to serve as the basis of a research project; do not include questions you can answer with a quick google search.

1. Why did the company that owned the plot of land make it into a park and not another corporate building?
2. What was the company's real intentions of making this area? Was it for people to protest or for people to enjoy the area away from business?
3. Why did they make it into a park and not a stage for people to use as a protest ground?