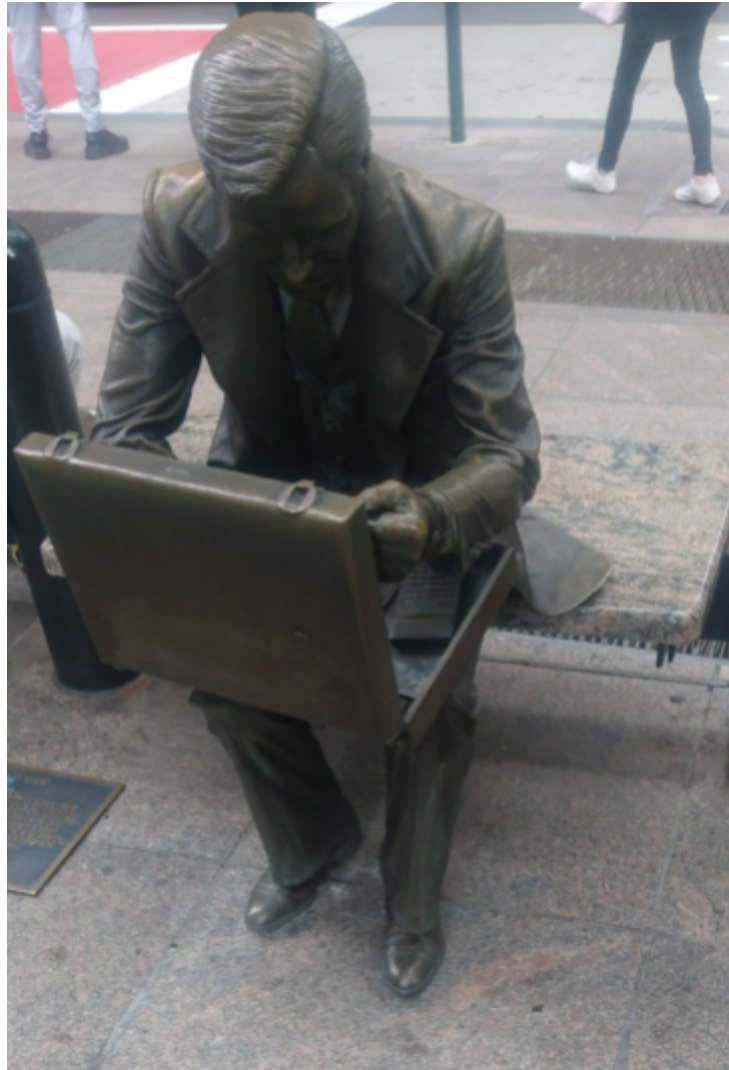


Learning Places Fall 2018

SITE REPORT #1A

Zuccotti Park



History of zuccotti Park

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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?

When I got to Zuccotti Park I was honestly expecting to see mostly businessman in suits eating their lunch and sitting on the benches nearby. This proved to be false as soon as I got to the park, there was a mixture of all types of people sitting on the benches eating lunch tourist taking pictures or people simply taking a break. I also noticed that there were many food stands around the park, since the area looks quite fancy I was surprised to see them on that place.

SITE OBSERVATIONS



Zuccotti park



The metal rose in the concrete jungle



The aftermath

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.

1. Zuccotti Park: I think this photo captures the essence of the park, it is just people trying to have a little break in the middle of the city. This place is like a little hidden spot where people can relax for a bit and the continue with their lives.
2. The metal rose in the concrete jungle: This photo perfectly describes Zuccotti Park, its a bit of nature growing in the middle of a place surrounded by concrete and the city
3. The aftermath: this is a picture of the many rules the were put in place after the events occupy wall street. The sign says that they are for safety and enjoyment of the general public, but it is obvious that these rules aim to avoid the activities that took place during occupy wall street or any other form of protest.

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

There is a funny balance of modern and old, most of the architecture of the buildings surrounding the area seem pretty old, but if you take a closer look they have modern designs on the inside. There is also a few building that seem to have very modern designs. I also did spot a building from the Brutalist era(don't know who thought brutalist architecture was a good idea). There was also a church nearby with a cemetery on the side, the tombstones seem quite old and weathered most of them had their engravings erased.

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

The colors in the surrounding area are very interesting, the whole place has this grayish color to it due to the concrete used to build the floor and the buildings surrounding the area. Then there is this very vibrant green color in the middle of all of it because of the trees that create this very nice contrast as if it should not be there. There is also this big bright red sculpture right at one of the entrance of the park that screams look at me! All of it creates a very interesting experience to the eye.

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.

It seems that the park designers had in mind a place where people would come and sit under the shade of the trees. The hole placement and species of trees in the park where selected in order to create something similar to a roof made out of tree branches. This creates a nice shade where you can hide from the sun and heat during the summer. They also have in place floor lights so people can walk comfortably during the night and at the same time showcase the trees.

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

Judging by the amount of food carts on the side of the park and the sitting areas in the park I would say that it was designed with people having a nice place where they can go and have break from their jobs and eat their lunch in peace. I also noticed that the streets surrounding the area are very narrow and hard to navigate, if someone want to get from broadway to trinity, Zuccotti Park is the place to do it.

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.)?

Zuccotti Park does not have much in terms of amenities apart from the sitting areas and the food carts but I don't think those really count.

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

The design of the sitting areas o Zuccotti Park seems to be mostly for people to sit for a bit and then go on their way. This is because the concrete benches are not exactly comfortable so I guess it was made this way to keep a steady flow of people and avoid the place been overcrowded.

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.

By far this park has the most rules I have ever seen on any of the parks I've visited in NYC. I found a sign that prohibits camping, making tents lying on the ground or lying down on the sitting areas, placing sleeping bags, placement of personal property, removing objects from trash cans, and the usual no skateboarding bicycles and rollerblades. I did try to find anyone breaking any of these rules but there was no luck.

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

There was a lot of people walking by and sitting in the park but I wouldn't say it was crowded, there was plenty of space for everyone. The sitting areas are not that comfortable but they were good enough to sit there if you are looking for a place to eat lunch.

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?

In my opinion the Zuccotti Park it's a nice place to catch you breath while exploring the city but it is not a place where I would spend a long time. It is also a very noisy place to be, which is to be expected since its in the middle of the city but still not a very pleasant experience without the use of headphones.

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?

I believe this place was made mainly with the workers in the area and tourist in mind since its in the perfect location for workers to take a break and go back to one of the many office buildings in the area. Also tourist can take a break eat some the food from the carts and get on one of the many train stations nearby.

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.

I feel that this place is mostly a social place to go get lunch with friends or co-workers, when I went there by myself I was thinking this could have been way more fun if my friends where here. I also noticed that there where very few people there alone.

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.

Although the design of the place is very efficient in terms of avoiding the place been overcrowded I do believe that sitting areas should be a little more comfortable for people who wish to stay there a little bit longer, also I would improve on their idea with the floor lighting by creating something similar to a serpent path with the lights and showcasing some of those small statues scattered through the city on either side of the path.

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. Question? What took place during the event of occupy wall street in Zuccotti Park?
2. Question?what changed in Zuccotti Park after the events of occupy wall street?
3. Question? What is the history of Zuccotti Park?

SITE REPORT #1B

FURTHER RESEARCH

Choose and revise one of your questions for further research from part 1A of this report.

Revised Research Question:

Find a book, government document, or newspaper article that could help you answer your question.

MLA Citation for Book, Government Document, or new article:

Why did you select this source? How does it address all or part of your research question?

Describe the process you used to find this source including any keywords and the search engine or tool you used to search.

What other sources or further information would you need to answer your question? Where would you look for them?