

Learning Places Fall 2016
Chin/Swift

SITE REPORT [part 1: Manhattan, NY]

ONE TIMES SQUARE



STEDROY BRAND

04TH.09.2016

INTRODUCTION

The scope of this activity was to observe Times Square on a whole to outline what is performance, and what is allowing performance to happen. Then we had to choice, sketch and research one area of interest while at times square that is showing performance or is allowing performance to happen.

PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

What I expected to see or learn prior to the site visit was difficulty walking due to the vast amount of pedestrians I expected to be traversing through Times Square. Additionally, I also expected the red steps above the TSTK booth to have a long line of tourist waiting in the stanchions.

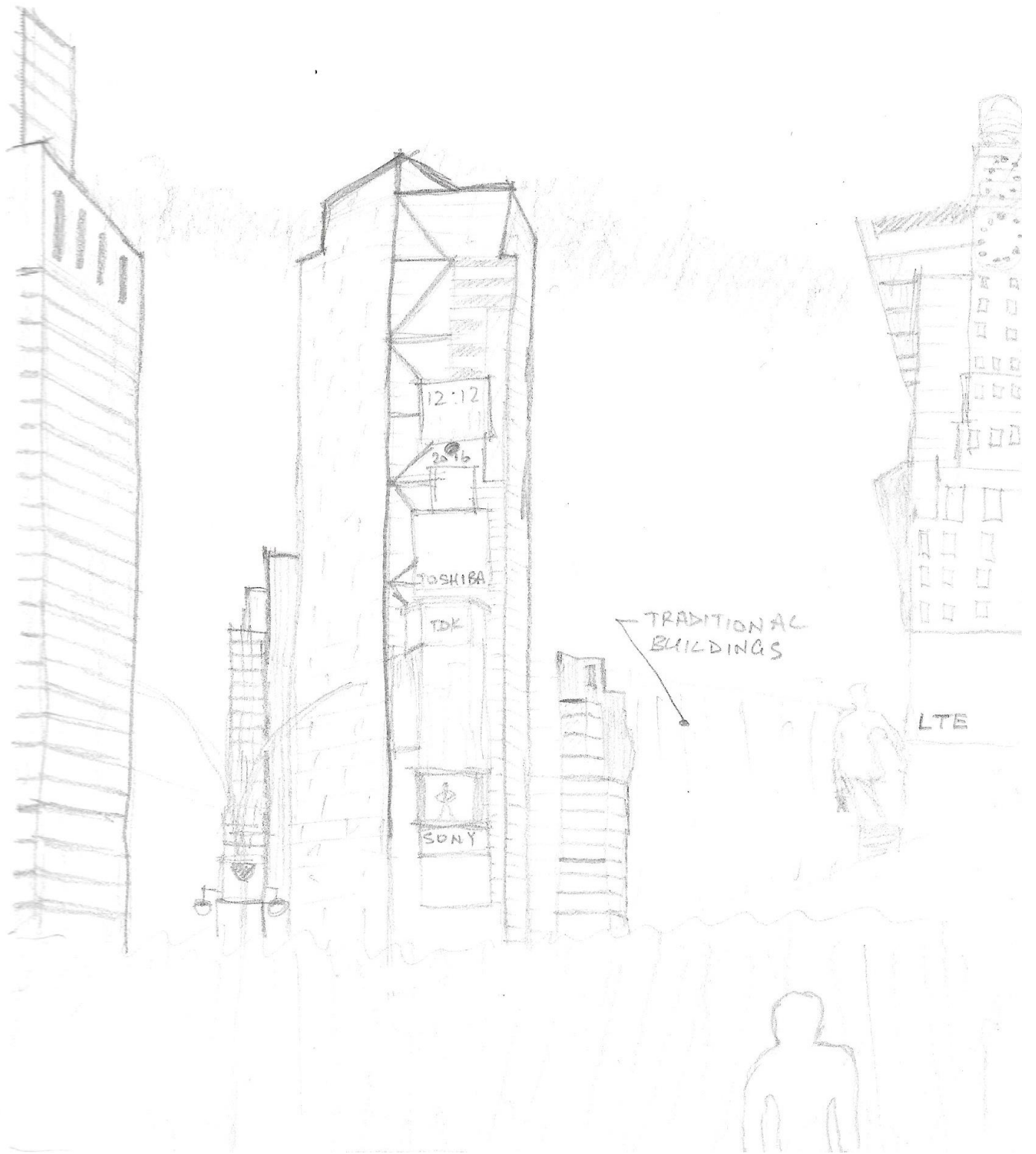
SITE DOCUMENTATION



This image was taken on approach the TKTS booth or “red steps” where there wasn’t a line of tourist nor was it difficult to walk towards said destination.



This image shows my building of interest because it sets itself apart from the other surrounding buildings. It does so not by the usual 24/7 advertising monitors / screens, but by having a special performance annually. This annual performance you all should know because it's one of the most world renowned performances. My building of interest is home to the annual New Year's Eve Ball Drop!



This sketch is showing my building of interest in context, and how blurry the street level was due to all the people and activities.



This sketch is a rendered version of my building of interest in context.

QUALITATIVE SITE OBSERVATIONS

1. Neighborhood / Street Character
 - a. Times Square.
 - b. Jumbo screen advertisements.
2. Vitality of Place
 - a. General Description
 - i. Booming with life and activities; on street level and on building's facade.
 - b. Pedestrian Activity
 - i. High & Dense.
 - c. Vehicular Traffic
 - i. High & Dense.
3. Age of Buildings (provide evidence for prediction)
 - a. 100+ years; sub 25 story building.
 - b. xx
 - c. xx
4. Relationship Between Buildings (urbeme)
 - a. Modernized.
 - b. Traditional.
5. Building Details (historical/architectural styles, morphemes)
 - a. Glass façade.
 - b. Steel structural members.
 - c. Trapezoidal mass extrusion
6. Building Uses
 - a. Commercial.
 - b. Advertisement.
7. Other Observations
 - a. Hotels nearby.
 - b. News television stations nearby.
 - c. Many street performances.

QUANTITATIVE DATA for Area of Study

Subject	Data
Street Names	42 nd St & 43 rd St between Broadway & 7 th Ave
Street Width	42 nd St, Broadway & 7 th Ave = 100 feet. 43 rd St = 60 feet
Pavement Type	Asphalt Pavement
Building Heights	Architectural Height = 363 feet. Top Tip Height = 504 feet.
Building Widths (Window Bays)	143 feet Building Frontage.
Building Types/Uses	Office & Retail
Empty Lots / Gardens	N/A
Shops / Restaurants	Walgreens
Industrial Shops	N/A
Other Data	Owner: Jamestown ots, L.P. Zoning: C6-7 Special District – Mid Town District
Other Data	Block: 995, Lot: 1 Construction Year: 1995-1996, Retrofit End: 2008 Steel Structure

QUESTIONS TO RESEARCH FURTHER

QUESTIONS:

1. When was the first ball drop?
2. What was the weight of the first ball, and what is the weight of ball presently?
3. Why was the ball dropped there?

RESEARCH METHOD/SOURCE FOR EACH QUESTION ABOVE:

1. Question 1

✚ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Times_Square_Ball#History

2. Question 2

✚ <http://timessquareball.net/times-square-ball-facts-2016/>

3. Question 3

✚ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/One_Times_Square#Building_history

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

In closing, I interpret a performance to be an activity that entertain the audience, and such performance is allowed with parameters visible or invisible such as a stage, the performer and audience. When I got to the site, we passed numerous performances such as; lady liberty, partially naked cowboy playing guitar to name a few. In the moment of carrying out my task for this project; I became a performer while I was sketching my building of interest. People kept looking at me!

I picked One Times Square to focus on because it's home to the main performance on New Year's Eve in New York annually since 1904. While doing the research I learned a lot (especially as an international student) that not all streets in Manhattan are created equally; some are 100 feet and some are 60 feet. Additionally, I learned that the building was owned by The New York Times and celebrated their accomplishment on 1904 New Years with fireworks. However, what we know as the ball drop today first started in 1907.