

SITE REPORT [part 1: place]

Times Square



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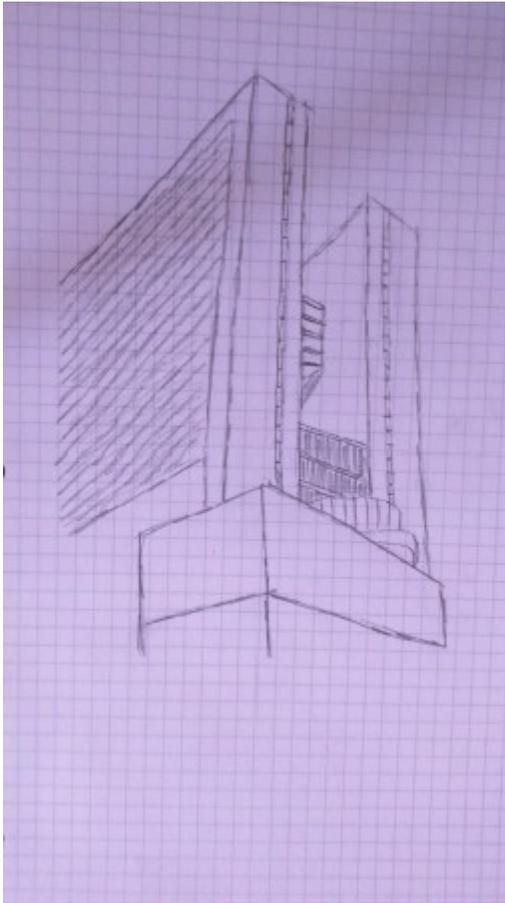
INTRODUCTION

Our task on September 2nd 2016 was to head over to Times Square, and to reflect on the site based on the concept of performance. We were to reflect on the aspects of the site that we thought sparked performance, and what we believed the performing act to be.

PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

Prior to the site visit I anticipated seeing Times Square again, it has been a while since I have been there. Due to me seeing the site before, I knew it would not be a new experience, however it is always refreshing to see, it essentially feels and looks like what people expect New York City to look like as a whole. The difference with this visit and all of the ones I have done in the past, is now I was to look at the area in a different light, in terms of performance.

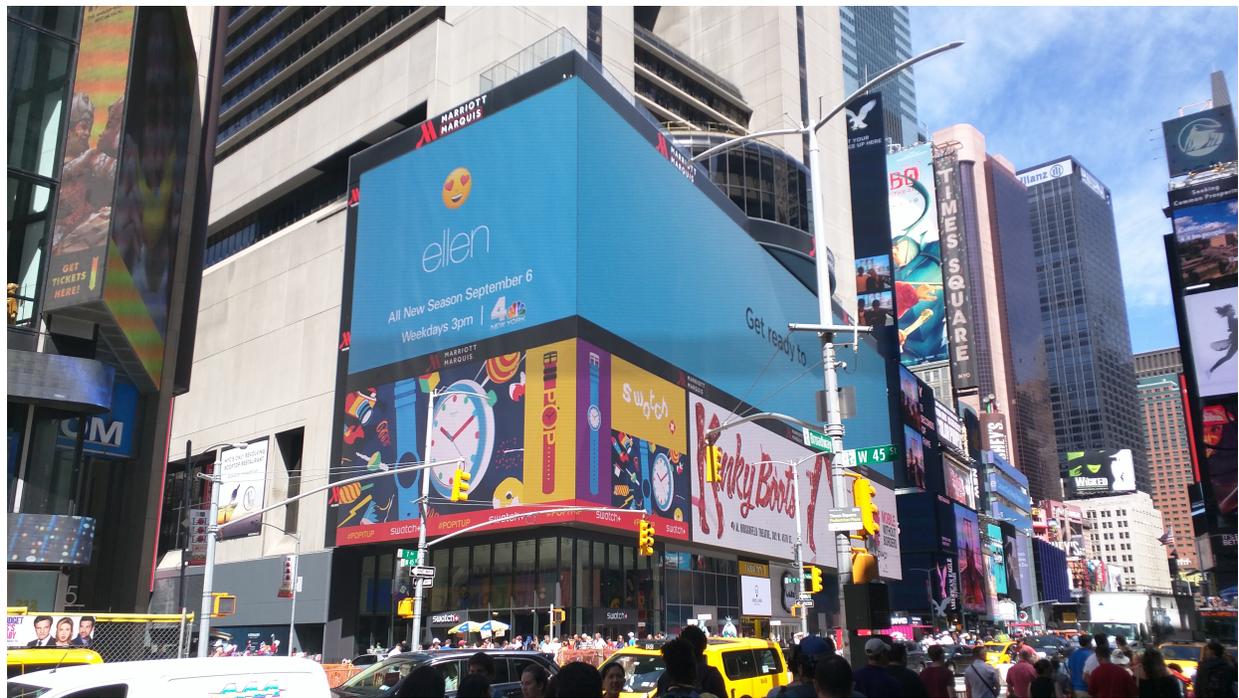
SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos/sketches)



The top image shows one of many beautiful and tall buildings (Specifically the Marriott Hotel) in Times square. I believe even a building such as this can represent performance. The entire Times Square area seems like one massive tourist attraction. Just about every building has a massive set of screens for commercial and entertainment purposes, which further aids the concept of performance.



Another image that is a pure representation of performance. Quite literally you have individuals dressed up as certain characters (this is an example of Iron Man), or performing via the means of an instrument.



More images depicting the large area known as Times Square/Broadway and its many visual tourist attractions. Attractions such as these massive screens are a great representation of performance.



Area across the street from the Marriott Hotel where people gather to relax and watch various street performers, and the large amount of animated building art/ displays. This platform is rather large in size and allows just enough room for performances in terms of its layout.

QUALITATIVE SITE OBSERVATIONS

1. Neighborhood / Street Character
 - a. Times Square
 - b. Advertisement and entertainment.
2. Vitality of Place
 - a. General Description
 - i. Large amount of people, performances, and other types of activities that reflect on performance.
 - b. Pedestrian Activity
 - i. Packed with life, high traffic, dense.
 - c. Vehicular Traffic
 - i. A lot of traffic, an accurate reflection of city life.
3. Age of Buildings (provide evidence for prediction)
 - a. The early history of Times Square spans from the early 1900's according to Wikipedia sources, and articles published in the 1900's, such as New York Times publisher Adolf S. Ochs in 1904. So this would put the majority of structures in the area at 100+ years old.
 - b. The Marriott hotel being 34 years old, according to www.tripadvisor.com
4. Relationship Between Buildings (urbeme)
 - a. Very modern urban environment with many electronic addons to structures.
 - b. Crowded and condensed living space.
5. Building Details (historical/architectural styles, morphemes)
 - a. Modern urban architectural style, typical that of major cities across the world.
 - b. Massive screens attached to most buildings, mainly for advertisement purposes.
6. Building Uses
 - a. Hotels
 - b. Businesses
 - c. Stores
 - d. Advertisement/ Entertainment
7. Other Observations
 - a. Many street performances can be seen as you venture down the street.
 - b. The amount of activities can be very overwhelming.

QUANTITATIVE DATA for Area of Study

Subject	Data
Street Names	Broadway
Street Width	Broadway runs 113 mi (21 km) through the borough of Manhattan.
Pavement Type	Asphalt
Building Heights	The average building/skyscraper in Manhattan is ~450 feet, with an average floor count of 38.
Building Widths (Window Bays)	
Building Types/Uses	Businesses, Hotels, Entertainment
Empty Lots / Gardens	-
Shops / Restaurants	Many shops and restaurants in the area.
Industrial Shops	-
Other Data	Most of the modern building began construction in the 1970's
Other Data	

QUESTIONS TO RESEARCH FURTHER

QUESTIONS:

1. I would like to know more information about early skyscrapers.
2. What type of technology is used for the advertisement screens on most of the buildings?
3. Specifically, how old are the buildings?

RESEARCH METHOD/SOURCE FOR EACH QUESTION ABOVE:

1. Question 1
 - a. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Early_skyscrapers
2. Question 2
 - a. <http://www.timessquarenyc.org/>
3. Question 3
 - a. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_early_skyscrapers

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

Overall visiting Times Square was an interesting experience due to me not going there very often. It was interesting to visit the area and examine it in a different way than you would if you were just passing by. Looking at the area through the eye of “performance” was a different kind of experience. There are many different types of performances, and space to do so in Times Square, and this can be seen by just about anyone. Everything is in constant motion, with visual effects, advertisements, live performances, you name it.