

Learning Places Fall 2016  
Chin/Swift

## **SITE REPORT 2 [Part A: Manhattan, NY]**

### **LINCOLN CENTER**



**STEDROY BRAND**  
30<sup>TH</sup>.09.2016

## INTRODUCTION

The scope of this activity was to observe Lincoln Center to understand how architecture influence performance. Then we had to choice, sketch and research one area of interest while at Lincoln Center that we think is allowing performance to happen.

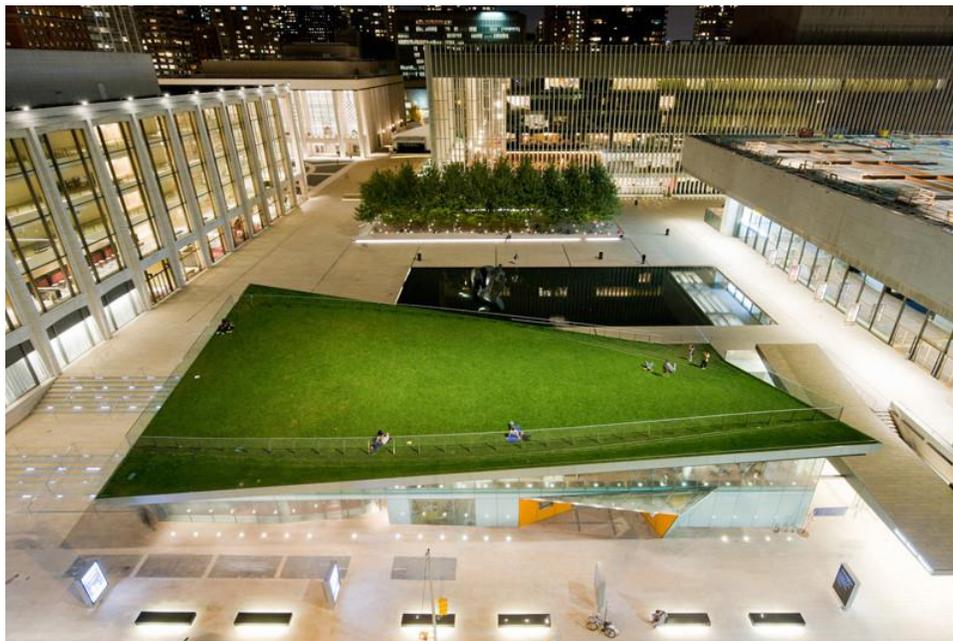
## PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

Prior to the site visit I was expecting to see water shooting up from the center plaza water feature. Additionally, I was also expecting to see inside the buildings theaters to observe if the they have different seating arrangements, or if their designed the same.

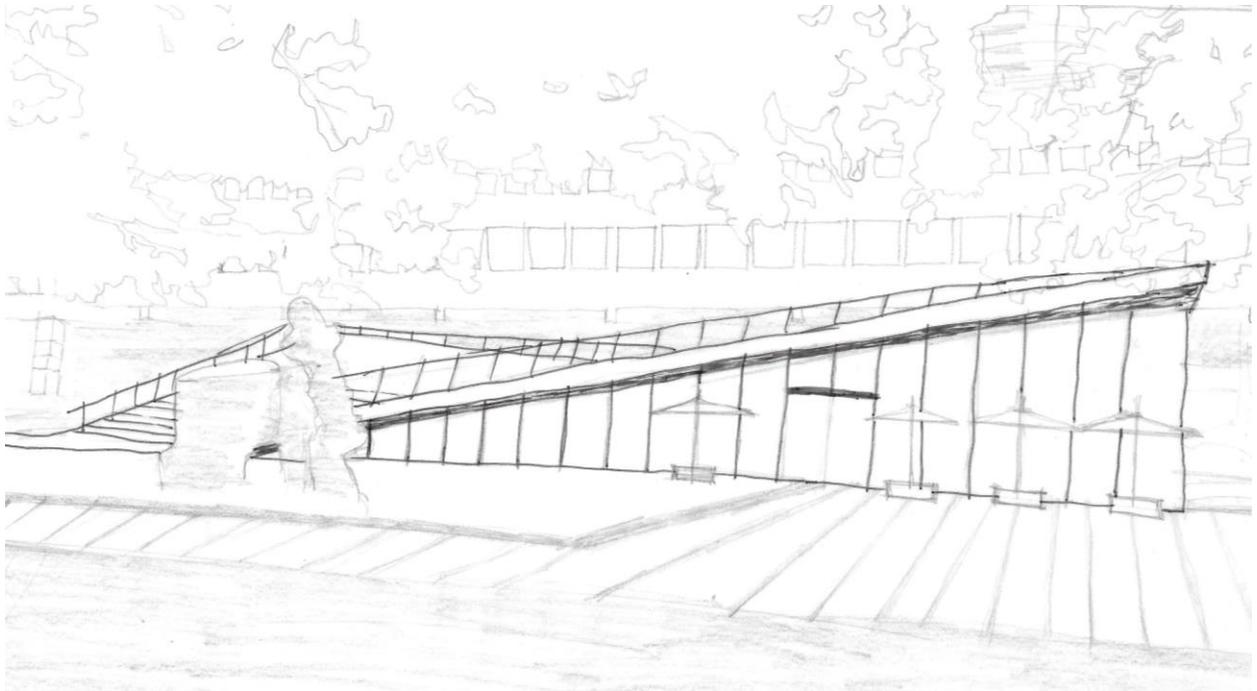
## SITE DOCUMENTATION



This is an image I took of David H. Koch Theater, Metropolitan Opera House and Avery Fisher Hall with Josie Robertson Plaza in the center. While on site the class had a discussion, and we noticed that the datum lines and travertine stone cladding are the same on the three main buildings. However, each building was different due to the design, spacing of the columns in the colonnades, and the very different feeling lobbies. From my observation, I noticed that the pattern around the fountain is designed to draw people into it. This is possible due to most of the tiles being dark, and the lighter color tiles create path ways for people to walk to the fountain.



The two images above show the Lincoln Ristorante (Hypar Pavilion) my choice from Lincoln Center of how architecture influence performance designed by architectural firms; Diller Scofidiot + Renfro and FX Fowle. Additionally, I love how the architects came together to solve the problem of the client which was to create a restaurant and recreational space in the same square footage.



The sketches above are showing my building of interest in context. I think it's architecture influence performance with the incorporation of the green roof (lawn) because people can be seen while they sit there. On the other hand, they can watch some free shows shown by the Lincoln Center theaters while sitting there.

# QUALITATIVE SITE OBSERVATIONS

## 1. Neighborhood / Street Character

- a. Lincoln Square Neighborhood.
- b. Lower stone cladded buildings with areas of glass.

## 2. Vitality of Place

- a. General Description
  - i. Connection to the other parts of the city via Broadway, but the atmosphere there was quiet and more laid back. (Maybe due to the rain)
- b. Pedestrian Activity
  - i. Very few pedestrian activity. A few people were passing through the site, taking pictures, or hanging around at the restaurant.
- c. Vehicular Traffic
  - i. Vehicular traffic was medium to low at times on the streets surrounding the site.

## 3. Age of Buildings (provide evidence for prediction)

- a. I think the buildings are 100+ years because the travertine stone used for cladding.
- b. They additionally show their age how low the buildings are for the size of the lot because most of the new commercial buildings are skyscrapers.
- c. The buildings show their age by the use of Roman Architecture.

## 4. Relationship Between Buildings (urbeme)

- a. The designers use the same materials on the exterior to make the buildings relate to each other.
- b. The designers also kept the three main buildings/ theaters at roughly the same height to make the buildings relate to each other.

## 5. Building Details (historical/architectural styles, morphemes)

- a. Colonnades.
- b. Travertine stone cladding.
- c. Roman Architecture.

## 6. Building Uses

- a. Theater and Opera House.
- b. School, Restaurant and Cafe.

## 7. Other Observations

- a. Bridge over West 65<sup>th</sup> Street connecting Lincoln Center Theater with The Juilliard School.
- b. The architects that renovated The Juilliard School did a great job to me because the entrance is much more inviting to the public, and it also has seating (like times square) to watch people perform from the upper level of the building.
- c. I noticed that the drop off area is parallel with Columbus (9th) Avenue but sunken below the main entry stairs to the plaza to avoid congestion on Columbus Avenue.

## QUANTITATIVE DATA for Area of Study

Subject	Data
Street Name	West 65 <sup>th</sup> Street
Street Width	West 65 <sup>th</sup> Street = 60 feet
Pavement Type	Asphalt Pavement
Building Heights	The building is 23' high from the side walk level, and 11' high from the plaza level.
Building Widths (Window Bays)	A long W 65 <sup>th</sup> St the building is 144', 75' on the west side (lawn / roof measurement), and 70' on the east side (lawn / roof measurement.)
Building Types/Uses	Restaurant and Lawn (recreational area)
Empty Lots / Gardens	Damrosch Park, Barclays Capital Grove and Tilting Lawn.
Shops / Restaurants	Lincoln Ristorante (Hypar Pavilion)
Industrial Shops	N/A
Other Data	Owner: Zoning Map: 8C Zoning: C4-7
Other Data	Block: 1134, Lot: 1 Special Purpose District – Special Lincoln Square District Construction Year: 1995-1996, Retrofit End: 2008

## QUESTIONS TO RESEARCH FURTHER

### QUESTIONS:

1. Why was Lincoln Center built?
2. Was there any special rules and regulations put in place by the developers / sponsors for the architects to follow?
3. How did the architects design the lawn of the Lincoln Ristorante (Hypar pavilion)?

### RESEARCH METHOD/SOURCE FOR EACH QUESTION ABOVE:

#### 1. Question 1

- ✚ According to my research; I think the Lincoln Center built to help the neighborhood to bounce back to its glorious state before residents was leaving the area to live up state. On the 21<sup>st</sup> of April, 1955 the Lincoln Square was designated for urban renewal. Robert Moses's created the urban renewal program which was executed between the 1950's to 1960's. This is when John D. Rockefeller III saw the opportunity to build Lincoln Center as a part of that renewal project.

*Web: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lincoln\\_Center\\_for\\_the\\_Performing\\_Arts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lincoln_Center_for_the_Performing_Arts)*

#### 2. Question 2

- ✚ According to my understanding on page 95 of Gregory Dietrich master thesis paper is; the designers were task with two very important requirements. The first was Robert Moses demanded a park on the southwest quadrant. The second was the notion that a second piece of land would be added at a later date. However, the designers came to an agreement almost three years later which encompasses but not limited to; "Sven Markelius' recommendation that the ballet theater and symphony hall flank the opera house; Marcel Breuer's recommendation that the central part of the campus align itself on an east-west axis; Pietro Belluschi's recommendation of travertine as the principal cladding material; and Harrison, Abramovitz and Johnson's agreement to incorporate glass in some way in all of the buildings." Dietrich, 95.

*Dietrich, Gregory Gilbert. "Lincoln Center: A Case Study Resolving the Conflict Between Preservation, Maintenance and Redevelopment of the American Postwar Performing Arts Center." Page 95. May 2003. Web. 30 Sept. 2016.*

### 3. Question 3

- ✚ According to my research; American Hydrotech (the green roof provider) and the design firms developed GardNet® to meet the demanding requirements to control the forces and grass growth. They came up with “an expandable polyethylene sheet strip assembly, connected by a series of offset, full-depth, ultrasonic welded seams aligned perpendicular to longitudinal axis of strips which, when expanded, form walls of a flexible, 3-dimensional, cellular confinement system. Each section of GardNet® is 8 cells wide by a multiple of cells long.”

*Web: <http://www.greenroofs.com/projects/pview.php?id=423>*

## SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

In closing, the architecture of any building or space really influences performance. Each building defines space and the designers, performers, and audience play a role in making that space be successful. Additionally, I feel like the goal of Lincoln Center was to make a powerful statement because they could have built much higher. With its welcoming open design, I believe that it wasn't about making a profit or cater to one group of people. The use of the same material and height restrictions really makes the buildings stand out collectively. Rather than each architect / designer having free rein which could have led to them out doing each other and being a complete failure collectively. This development shows how checks and balances were used to create a structured public performance space.