

Site Report 1 [Time Square / Performance]

Time Square Performance



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December 22, 2016

INTRODUCTION

In the beginning of the semester, my class and I went to Times Square to explore areas that demonstrate performance. I chose these chairs for two reasons.

(1) People can sit back and watch performance on the billboards.

(2) This space is also a performance due to its attractive architectural appearance.

I believe this area can be suitable for performance because these chairs accommodate people to sit back and watch what is going on. The purpose of this site report is to find an area in Times Square that supports performance. Here, these people can observe traffic, people and most importantly the billboards. Also, the people who walk by and observe the people in the chairs are watching a performance. The area takes up space, and within the space there is architectural value. So therefore, these lounge chairs are promoting the billboards as a form of performance and the people sitting in the chair themselves are performance.

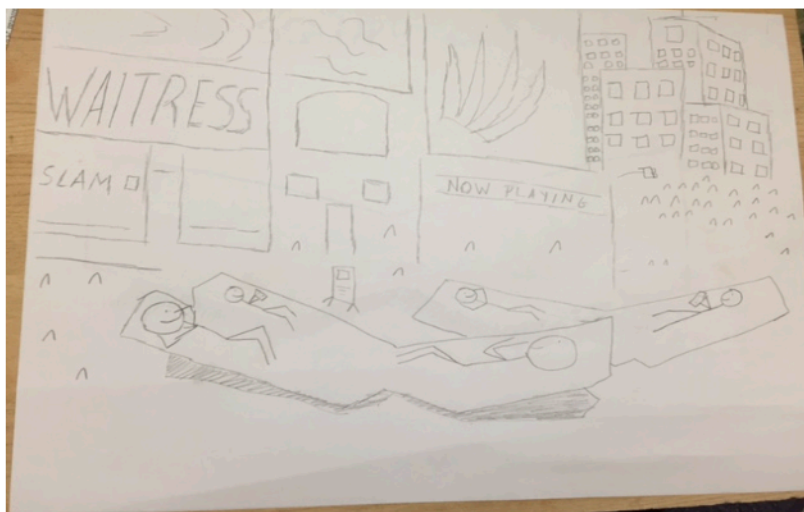
PRE REFLECTION

Prior to going to this site, I thought I was going to have so many things that I wanted to do my site report on because Times Square is filled with so many areas of attraction. There's theatre, billboards, live performances and so much other activity. I knew it was going to be hard to pick. But after walking around for a while, it wasn't long before I saw the pink chairs. The pink chairs stood out so much. There was something very bright about these chairs that remind me of myself. Not only is my favorite color pink, but I love how comfy the people look. I was glad to finally find something that represented performance. If I ever wanted to watch the billboards this is where I would come.

SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos/sketches)



These chairs were built in 2014 by an artist named Juergen Mayer. It was built to allow visitors to sit and take in the atmosphere while watching the billboards or taking a picture. According to Juergen Mayer H./J.MAYER.H and Partners, "The three X-shaped outdoor loungers are custom designed for Times Square, each of which can accommodate up to four people who can literally lie back, stare up and send a snapshot of either themselves or the mix of signs and sky above them."

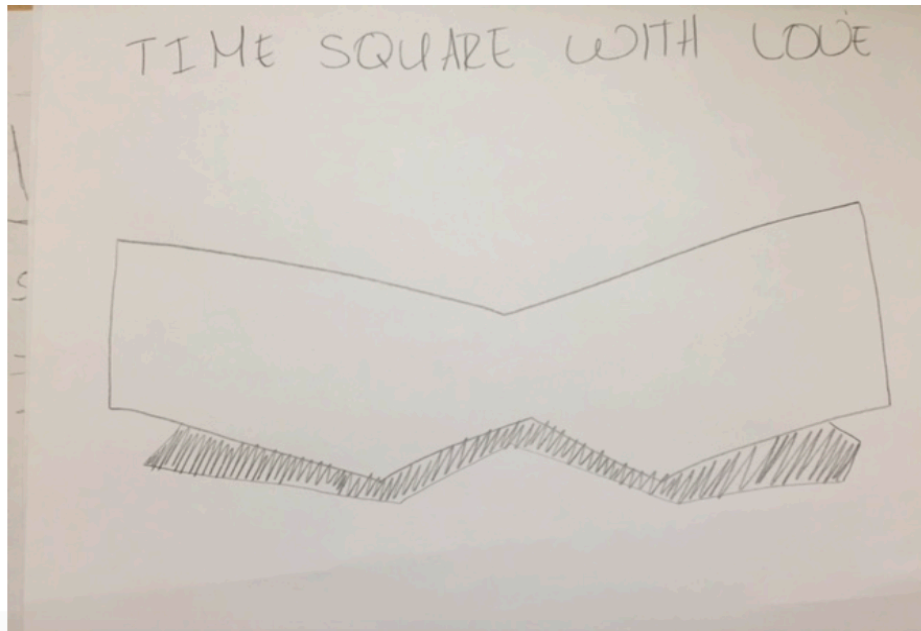


The artist has also offered tourists a new way to appreciate the signs adorning the surrounding buildings, according to Sherry Dobbin, Times Square Arts Director. "He has given us a way to drink in the signs and presents a view of the office-workers and hotel guests in the towers above. Why would we want ordinary street furniture in the futuristic landscape of Times Square?" she added.



The location of the chairs are located on Broadway Pedestrian Plaza between 43rd and 44th streets. This image was found at:

<http://inhabitat.com/nyc/take-the-ultimate-times-square-selfie-on-these-giant-x-shaped-loungers/xxx-times-square-with-love/?extend=1>

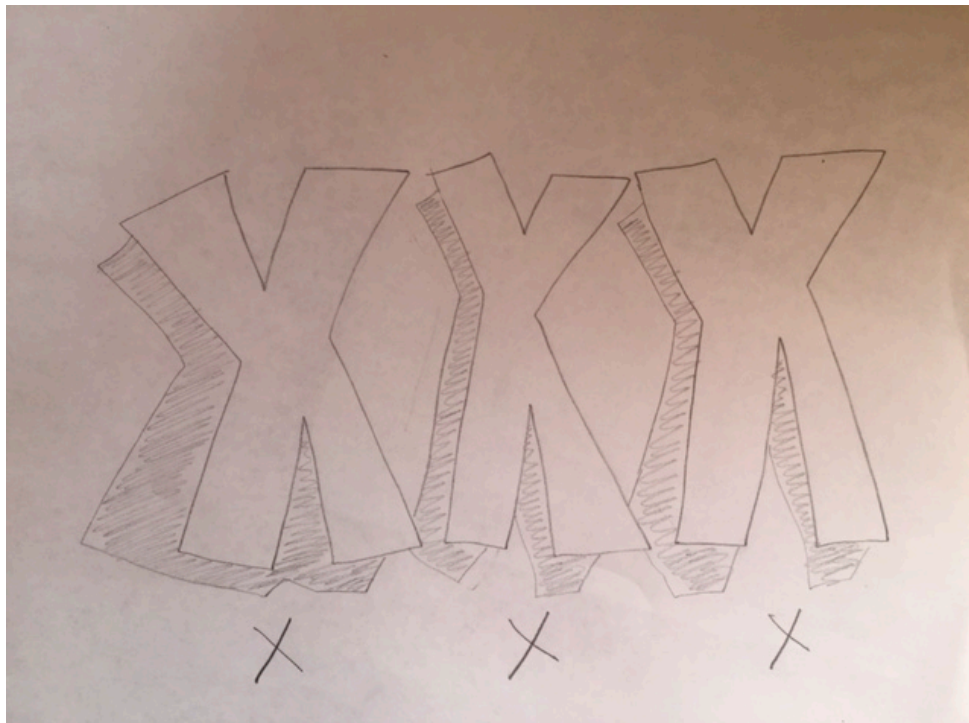


For lucky visitors, the chairs provide a moment of leisure not usually associated with the fast-paced streets of Midtown Manhattan.



According to an article found on archive daily (site below). “Originally inspired by the “X-like” intersection of Broadway and 7th Avenue, the name also serves as a cheeky reference to the adult theaters and sex shops that once lined the square before its revitalization in the 1990s.”

This birds eye image was found at
https://www.google.com/search?q=times+square+with+love+chairs&biw=1170&bih=750&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwi-hdGK8orRAhUDPCYKHUopCAoQ_AUIBygC#imgcr=rVbfkrlonqVUCM%3A



Further detail on how this demonstrates performance:

In class we were assigned to read an article titled Performance/Architecture. It was an Interview with Bernard Tschumi. At the beginning of the article it stated “there is no space without event.” My interpretation of that statement is, the space that is being perceived can always be viewed as performance or an event regardless of what occupies that space. Because space is something that can be seen by a person, it is always capable of having a spectator, therefore space is an event. Tschumi states “We were simply trying to deal specifically with what architecture is supposed to be—space and use, space, and its experience. As I would always say, concept and experience is what makes architecture.” In other words, what you observe can determine what you experience in that space. For example, these pink chairs are occupying space and who ever observes what it going on in that space is viewing a performance. Therefore, Tschumis article supports my concept of these chairs being a performance.

QUALITATIVE SITE OBSERVATIONS

1. Neighborhood / Street Character
 - Time square
 - Tourist Attraction
2. Vitality
 - a. General Description
 - i. Time square is filled with people, traffic, stores, billboard advertisements, street performances and outside vendors.
 - b. Pedestrian Activity
 - i. Highly Busy
 - c. Vehicular Traffic
 - i. Severe. A lot of vehicles. No place to park.
3. Age of Buildings (provide evidence for prediction) a. Approximately 100 years old
4. Relationship Between Buildings (urbeme)
 - a. Time square has a lot of building that are tall with glass windows. Outside of most of the building there are fancy advertisements on them. There may be billboards in front of a building and you can hardly see the whole building.
5. Building Details (historical/architectural styles, morphemes)
 - Tall building
 - Some more modern than others
6. Building Uses
 - a. Business / Retail
 - b. Some apartments
 - c. Theatre
7. Other Observations
 - a. Lots of stores
 - b. Lots of activities to do.

QUANTITATIVE DATA for Area of Study

Subject	Data
Street Names	Broadway Pedestrian Plaza between 43rd and 44th streets.
Street Width	Approximately 20 feet wide
Pavement Type	Cement
Building Heights	Approximately 2000 feet high
Building Widths (Window Bays)	Approximately 90 yards wide
Building Types/Uses	Business, Homes
Empty Lots / Gardens	No empty lots
Shops / Restaurants	High rate of restaurants
Industrial Shops	Yes
Other Data	Traffic, high tourist rate.

QUESTIONS TO RESEARCH FURTHER

QUESTIONS:

1. What trains go here?
2. What is the closest Broadway theatre here?
3. Approximately how many people can fit in these chair comfortably?

RESEARCH METHOD/SOURCE FOR EACH QUESTION ABOVE:

1. The 1,2,3,N,R,Shuttle and A,C,E (Penn station)
2. Shubert Theatre
3. 12 sitting in all three chairs

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

This was really fun. I enjoyed sketching and watching the people sit back and enjoy Time Square. I didn't get a chance to actually sit here myself but I hope to one day come to this site in the summer and take a nice selfie here. Pink is so great for photos so this is definitely on my bucket list!