

Learning Places Fall 2018

SITE REPORT #1

Downtown Brooklyn Walking Tours



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09.27.2018

INTRODUCTION

Walking in downtown Brooklyn streets always makes me feel energized and happy. It was such a great experience to walk from New York City College of Technology to the Barclays Center in totally two different ways. Each tour made me discover a lot of new things and learn a lot of information that I never knew before about this neighborhood.

FIRST TOUR

SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos*)



This is a photo of Brooklyn Borough Hall. This was the first place we had visited in the first tour. I feel like this building is the heart of this area because it placed in a big open plaza and it connects a lot of streets together. Also, it is the oldest building there. That is why it makes this area unique and beautiful.



On the day we were walking around on the first tour, there was kind of festival in this street. Everyone was playing and having fun. Also, there was kind of party in the street because we watched a band was singing. It was really good that they have some activity on these streets to let people come out of their homes and enjoy their time outdoors in their neighborhood.



Also, I could see in the streets during the tour that the buildings were built on different scales. Some buildings were very high like skyscrapers and some small houses were on the same street.



The first tour was very busy and noisy. It was very crowded everywhere on all the streets we walked in. It was really hard to walk around to enjoy the tour and look around to focus on the details of the neighborhood.

SECOND TOUR

SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos*)



As we observed in most of the streets we walked in that at the end of each street you can see the buildings are in angle because Brooklyn was not planned like Manhattan that has a grid in 1811.



As we were walking in the streets, I observed that the architects started to use brick in buildings instead of wood because of fire accidents that happened in the past. So I learned that the buildings that were built with wood is old, and the buildings that were built with brick is new.



In the second tour, all the streets we walked in were so quiet because it was full of residential buildings. Also, there was some people walking their dogs in these streets because it was empty streets, so there was room for their dogs to walk freely.



The last thing that I observed on this tour that by the end of the quiet streets, the buildings are changing from townhouses into apartments buildings that have fire escapes and full of windows from all sides.

SITE DOCUMENTATION (sketches*) OF TOUR #1



This sketch shows different scales of buildings next to each other and it also shows how new buildings grow up around the old small buildings with the passage of time.



This is a sketch of the Barclay Center, it is such a great architectural design. The exterior form made of wooden curvy shape which creates this beautiful huge building.

SITE DOCUMENTATION (sketches*) OF TOUR #2



I like this building a lot because this is the only old building in the street and all the other buildings around look more modern which make this building looks so unique in the street.



This sketch shows a series of townhouses next to each other which create a beautiful quiet place.

GENERAL NOTES:

- Trees and buildings height can affect on the street shades.
- Stone sidewalk means it is an old sidewalk.
- I learned a lot of new materials of the buildings.
- Buildings that made of brick are new and building made of wood is old.
- Buildings styles and materials are changing with the passage of time.

INSIGHTS/DISCOVERIES

These two tours in downtown Brooklyn were very helpful for me, I learned a lot during these tours. I went to places that never visit before even I always come here for a long time, I just saw this neighborhood with new eyes. I could clearly compare and contrast between the two tours. Although they both lead us to the Barclay Center, they are totally different. One was quiet, the other was so noisy. One was safe to walk in, the other was not safe. Buildings types are different. The size and the height of the buildings are totally different. This means that every neighborhood has all kinds of buildings and styles of living. Also, this proved to me that Brooklyn is such a great city to live in because you can see and experience all different kinds of living atmosphere in one neighborhood.

KEYWORDS/VOCABULARY & DEFINITIONS

PARTY WALL: A wall common to two adjoining buildings or rooms.

COMMON BOND: A kind of bond in bricklaying, this bond may have between three and nine

courses of stretchers between each course of headers.

CORNICE: The molded and projecting horizontal member that crowns an architectural composition.

TENEMENT: A room or a set of rooms forming a separate residence within a house or block of apartments.

PORCH: A covered shelter projecting in front of the entrance of a building.

LINTEL: A horizontal support of timber, stone, concrete, or steel across the top of a door or window.

QUESTIONS for Further RESEARCH

1. Why we still using wood in buildings although it is not good for fire?
2. Where did the rest of ancient buildings go? What happened to them?
3. Why there are some places grow in population more than the others?