

Learning Places Fall 2018

SITE REPORT #1

The Heart of Brooklyn



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INTRODUCTION

Discovering the unknown to a known place was amazing and surprising. Two different way to the same final spot can be like taking two different roads that led to different cities, and somehow those two cities are still connected. Approaching to Barclays center was an entirely new experience that makes you realized how each community has its identity, and each one is different. Most importantly, it makes you

realized how much a city could change.

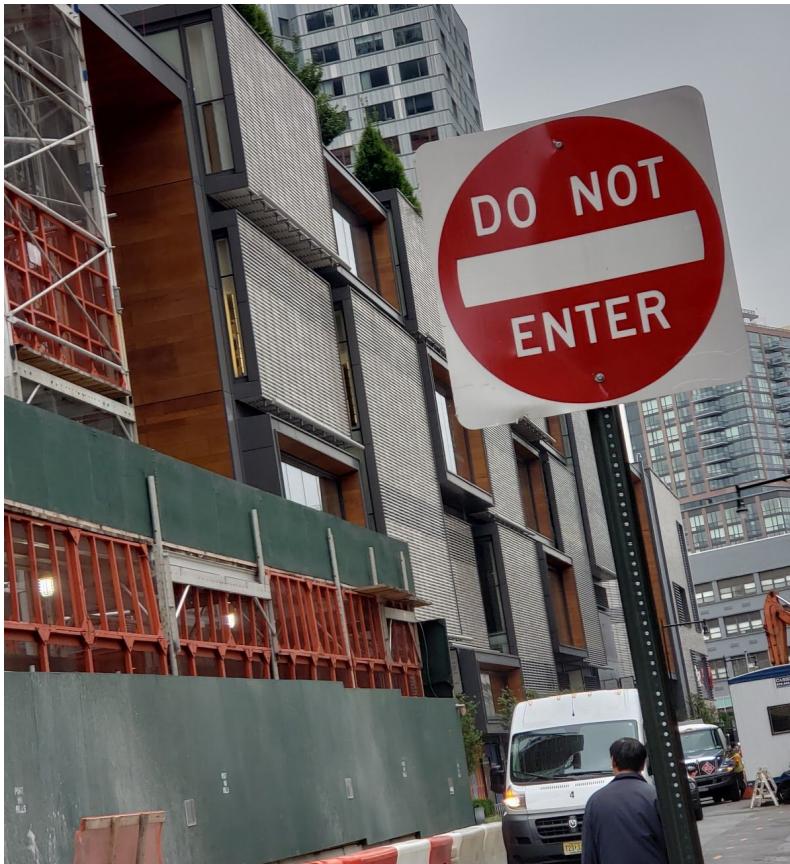
SITE DOCUMENTATION (Photos*)



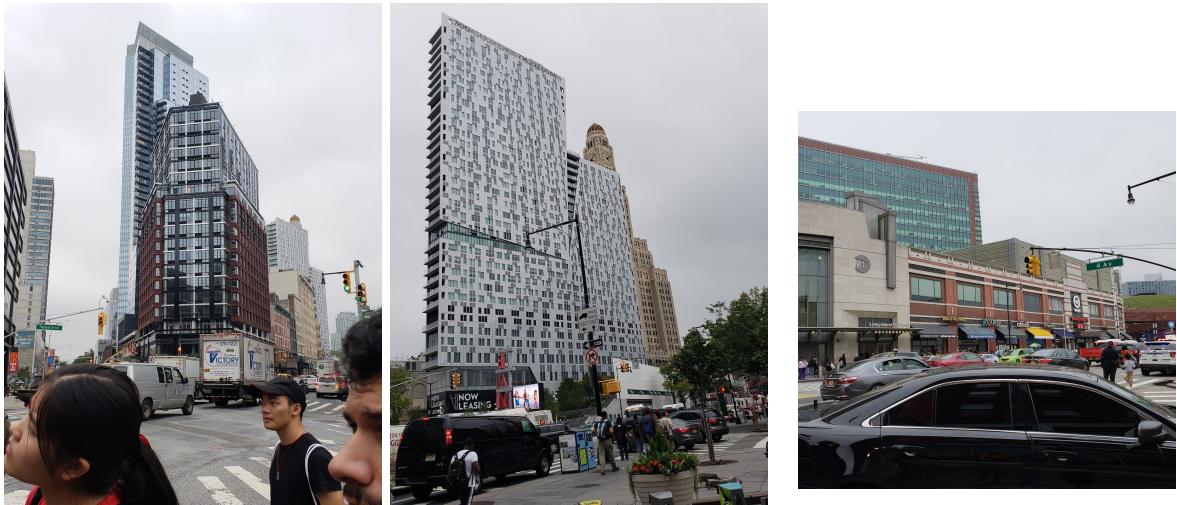
This photograph is the symbolic Borough Hall. Borough Hall is the oldest and one of the most important buildings in Downtown Brooklyn. This photograph shows a normal day in Downtown Brooklyn. It is always with a lot of movements, very congested with people and different activities.



In the last decade, Brooklyn has changed, and gentrification has been the result of the borough. Even though the changed is tremendous, there is something that hasn't change, that is the religious tradition they have. This photograph shows that there have been many high rise building built, and it doesn't change the fact that you can see churches from a distance.



The development of a new city has gone far away with no limits. This photograph shows a construction in the center of Downtown Brooklyn. It doesn't matter what places you go, The entire Downtown Brooklyn is full of construction. As a city we haven't put a limit on all the high rises buildings that are being built every day, sadly most of them don't benefit the local community.



The heart of Brooklyn is now Barclays Center. Due to the impact of the center being built, the surrounding of the center has changed, and it has become as congested as Penn Station. These photographs show how the surrounding of Barclays center, how mostly everything is high rise buildings, restaurants, and shopping center is. They are calling customers to the center by creating more attention in its surrounding.



This house is located between Dean St and Smith St. Around the neighborhood that is the only house that is reminding made out of wood. The wood shows how old the house is.



Smith Street is a neighborhood of family, peace, and friendly. This painting in this building demonstrates the neighborhood identity. It shows how important is to be a community that keeps themselves together. They see the neighbors and stores owners as friends.



One of the most iconic buildings around Barclays Center is this one, not only by its unique structure but because you see it without mattering the path you took to approach Barclays. The structure of the building makes it one of the tallest building in the area. This is one of those buildings that every time you see it, it would always remind you that times pass, but some things never change.



Dean's Street neighborhood is a calm neighborhood, one of the less commuted streets around Downtown Brooklyn. The houses are low townhouses with a particularly friendly welcoming vibe from the outside. Some houses, has a different structure with different materials being used, like the one in the second photograph that shows a



house with marble tiles, and a fancy design in colorful bricks. The neighborhood is very nature-oriented, they live for the green life and the essence of a safer environment. I like what they transmitted, and in a community full of an industrialized development society, a community that preserves their identity and their nature are priceless to be found.

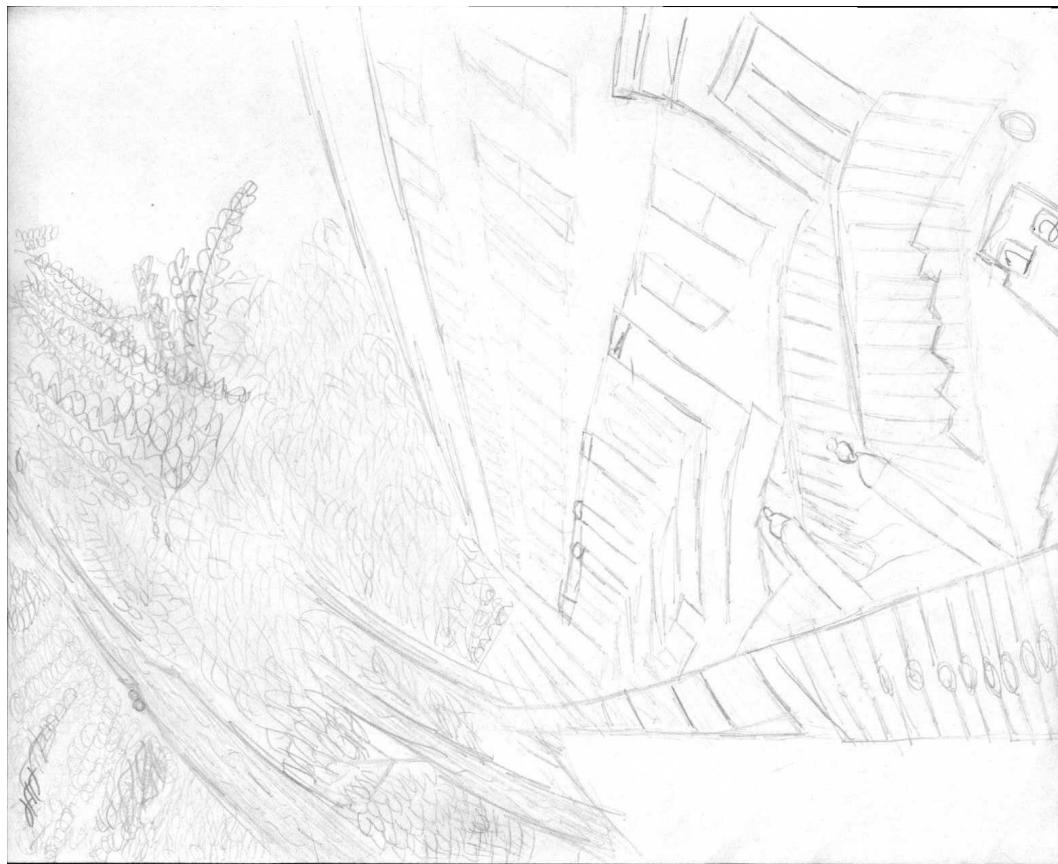
SITE DOCUMENTATION (sketches*)



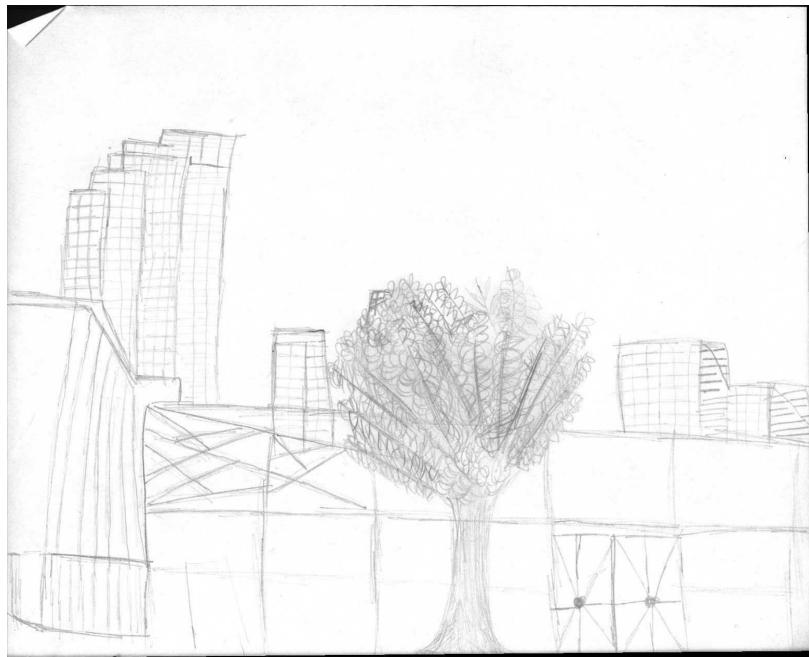
Whenever I think of Downtown Brooklyn, this is a sketch of what I imagine. A street where you can see the diversity of things Brooklyn has to offer, from history, industrial, lifestyle, and food. This sketch shows the main street that goes a long way Fulton mall, from the point of view where you can see different types of restaurants, borough hall building, the supreme court, health care services, and most importantly office building which indicates a hard-working community that won't change over the years. Every time I see this sketch I think of Brooklyn, a place that has gone through a lot and still has so much to offer.

This sketch has made on the outside seating area of Barclays Center. This sketch is important because it was my first time visiting the Barclays Center, which I was excited about it. This sketch shows the first encounter I have with Barclays Center from Atlantic Avenue front side. I was amazed by the structure of Barclays center and how the building is design with a grass ceiling. I thought of the center being so urbanized, and I encounter this building that is promoting a green, sustainable life.





Dean's Street was remarkable to me. Since I was a kid, I always dream about living in a house with a lot of trees and a garden, a place where I can call it home. Dean's Street was that to me, a safe community that is so nature-oriented. This sketch shows trees, townhouses, and a quiet community. For me, it was phenomenal to see that communities still thinks about the environment and them being safe in a place they call home.



As we keep walking down on Dean's Street, this was the first encounter you faced with high rise buildings that are a short distance away from this amazing community. The importance of this sketch is that shows how a low rise community has kept away the urbanization of the modern century. I felt that when I was walking on Dean's street, I was lost in a different place that is not NYC. It is a feeling that you don't often feel because the high rise buildings make you feel so small from a humans scale point of view.

GENERAL NOTES:

- Between the 1980s and 1990s Metrotech was created.
- Metrotech was created by re-routing roads to others street, as well as making other streets wider.
- A major park area is being constructed by the city point shopping center which will be called Willoughby Square Park.
- In one of our school entrance by Adams street, there used to be another building. There is still the party wall that divided them.

INSIGHTS/DISCOVERIES

I only knew the part of Brooklyn that was around my school, being able to experience a different part of Brooklyn was new to me. I enjoy being able to walk to Barclays Center from two different angles and see basically two different worlds within a closed perimeter. From of the angle, it was fun to discover a different Brooklyn that is calm, safe, and most importantly is not gentrification. I remember watching the film “My Brooklyn” they show how things had changed in less than ten years, but walking in the same path as the film most of the things had changed completely. It has changed to a level that most of the stores are now brand store or high rise building that are either condos or office building. It will also continue to change since there are many constructions still going on. I learned about the impact Barclays center caused on its surrounding area. People were left out, community changes and residential building were demolished to create offices, condos, and commercial buildings.

KEYWORDS/VOCABULARY & DEFINITIONS

Bonding pattern: a systematic arrangement of bricks or other building units composing a wall or structure in such a way as to ensure its stability and strength.

Common bond: A bond in which every fifth or sixth course consists of headers, the other courses by stretchers

Running bond: A masonry bond involving the placing of each brick as a stretcher and overlapping the bricks in adjoining courses.

Party wall: A wall used jointly by two parties under an easement agreement, erected upon a line dividing two parcels of land, each one a separate real estate entity; a common wall.

Cornices: The uppermost division of an entablature; a projecting shelf along the top of a wall supported by a series of brackets; the exterior trim at the meeting of a roof and wall, consisting of soffit, fascia and crown molding.

Settlement: The downward movement of a building structure due to a consolidation of soil beneath the foundation

Lintol: A horizontal structural member, such as a beam or stone, that spans an opening, as between the uprights of a door or window or between two columns or piers.

Steel Lintel: can be suitable when the superimposed loads are heavy and the opening gaps are large. Steel lintels are more preferable when the depth of lintel plays an important role because the designer cannot ignore the depth of reinforced concrete lintels due to heavy loads.

Brownstone: a reddish-brown sandstone popularly used as a building material in the 19th century

Stone sidewalk: If stone of a texture that readily splits into flags can be obtained, it will probably make a better and cheaper sidewalk than will concrete.

Scale: Scale refers to the size of an object (a whole) in relationship to another object. Scale refers to the relationship between two or more objects, one that has a commonly known size. In most cases, the size of objects is compared to our own human scale.

QUESTIONS for Further RESEARCH

1. What income is contributed to the community in Barclays Center?
2. Has the city planner has tried to create a plan for Dean's neighborhood? Have they preserved their neighborhood from upcoming constructions?
3. How much Brooklyn will change in the upcoming years? When are we going to put limits in our city?