

Learning Places Fall 2018

SITE REPORT #2 - Brooklyn Collection



A Brooklyn Street Map, from the New York Public Library Maps Division. When I compared this map with the recent map, I will know that there are a lot of changes.

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DATE: 10/11/2018

INTRODUCTION

I have been to the New York Public Library and Brooklyn Library before. The purpose of why I went there was because I had a job interview over there. But, I didn't go to this Maps Division and Brooklyn Collection. I expected the collection place is like a warehouse, with full of dust, but when you get in there, you can smell the smell of the old stuffs, like old books, old maps, etc. However, they both are very clean, neatly and also technology oriented. The interior design is close to modern but also historic.

ARCHIVE OBSERVATIONS



These images represents the building changes at Fifth to Sixth Avenue, Atlantic Street and Dean Street in a different period of time.

Why did you choose these images? Do they summarize a feeling you have for the place? Do they focus on prominent objects or features of the place? Explain.

All these images shows how building changes due to the urban development. In recent years, with the rapid development of the United States' economy and the continuous improvement of urban civilization, urban construction is developing at an unprecedented scale. Especially in large and medium-sized cities, modern cities, commercial outlets, and residential buildings. It promoted the economic prosperity of the city and the improvement of housing conditions for residents. From 1880 to 1902, it is easily to see that buildings are getting more and more.

Describe a few of the archival documents you examined. What purpose do they serve now? What purpose do you think they served when they were published or created?

All the archives that I had were maps, but I was focused at the Fifth to Sixth Avenue, and Atlantic Street and Dean Street. Pink color on those maps represents residential building, and yellow represents commercial buildings. According to the sources, we can see that from 1880, there are few residential around that location, then in 1886, we started to see residential buildings getting more and more. And in 1903, more of that location is full of buildings.

Consider that the Brooklyn Collection is part of the Brooklyn Public Library, Central Library. What public amenities are offered to users of the space (water fountains, wheelchair access and other supports for the disabled, public telephones, phone charging stations, WiFi, subway and bus stations, etc.)? What public amenities are missing?

Central Library offers wheelchair access, phone charging stations, water fountains, public telephones, and a small cafeteria. They have elevators, escalators and stairs. They also have a security room, when you walk in, it is at the left hand side. For the transportation, you can walk 5 minutes to take the bus or 7 minutes to take the subway. I think they are missing a playground for kids. It would be better if the playground is create it in an individual room, so people can read books without noisy sounds.

How have the planners, designers, and architects communicated the purpose of the place, via signage or design elements?

Well, I remembered I ask one of my classmate where the women's bathroom is, and you now what, I was standing in front of the men's bathroom, because this was my first time to use the bathroom in this library. He told me that the women's bathroom is located at the opposite side. It is very important to have signage to show ways. Signage helps people a lot, when someone really needs to use the bathroom, but he/she is shy, then he/she won't ask and keep finding the bathroom by himself/herself. Signage definitely saves people time.

Are there any restrictions or rules (either explicit or implied) about how to use the space or interact with other people? Do you see anyone using the space in a manner that exceeds or violates the intentional design? Describe.

I think every library restricts food and drink, making unreasonable noise, including loud talking on a cell phone, smoking,etc. But this library does have open spaces for people to interacts with others. It makes the patrons feels welcome in the places.

What is your personal experience of the place? Think about sound/smell/touch, your body's movement, contact with the ground and physical comfort. How does the place make you feel? Briefly compare your experience visiting the Brooklyn Collection to your experience visiting the Map Division of the New York Public Library.

I felt satisfy and peaceful experience in the Brooklyn Collection and Maps Division, when you on your way to the library, because of its ancient style building, you may feel like you are travel thought the time, where the library open. I like when I see the bookshelf are full of books, and smell from those old and new books. Both libraries are very old and the building also full of history. The Maps Division has a lot of people taking pictures outside the building, because its iconic design, and it is busy and noisy out there. On the other hand, the Brooklyn Collection meets the name of the library. It is quiet and peaceful in and outside the building.

ANALYSIS/DISCOVERIES

Use this section to reflect on your observations. Remember to refer to your observations when drawing general conclusions.

Thinking about the neighborhood in which the place is embedded, who is this space designed for and for what general purpose?

This place is designed for neighborhoods, public schools, kids, and adults. I do see a few tourism around the New York Public Library. The general purpose of this library, of course is for people who likes to read books.

Reflect on your experience examining and studying the materials from the Brooklyn Collection. Did you encounter anything unexpected or surprising, and if so what and how? Why do you think the articles, maps, books, and other information is preserved, if so much information is available in digital form? Who is it preserved for?

I do encounter something that's surprised me, which is the maps. When you look at the earliest map, you can see there's a few housing located at the Fifth and Sixth Avenue, Atlantic and Dean Street. But, as the time goes by, more housing were developed.

QUESTIONS for FURTHER RESEARCH. Write down THREE questions that require further research to answer. These should follow directly from your analysis section and be complex and specific enough to serve as the basis of a research project; do not use questions you can answer with a quick google search.

1. How can we help the homeless people ?
2. How can we protect the old building for not to be renewed?
3. Is Barclays Center the only iconic project at the Atlantic Ave?