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Learning Places Summer 2019

SITE REPORT #1

name of site report

NAMING PROTOCOL. When saving and posting your site reports on OpenLab, please follow the following format: SiteReport#.LastnameFirstname. Here's an example: SiteReport2.SwiftChristopher.



Select a meaningful image to that captures your perception of the site we visited and provide a caption explaining what the image is.

STUDENT NAME:

SITE OBSERVATIONS

Insert 3 photographs and provide a *creative* title for each image. The title should be a a word or short phrase that suggests a theme or conceptual association related to the photo.



Joseph giving us a tour



Coroll St

bridge



The neighborhood in the Carroll Garden

1. What are some general observations about the character of this neighborhood? What does it remind you of? How does it make you feel?

In general, Gowanus is a historical area with luxury apartments and a few numbers of landmarks. I remind me of Hong Kong, where I came from. A lot of historical districts has been remodeled into chinese style from the british style. I feel good and bad because we have to come to a balance between the development and historical preservation.

How is the natural world contained or shaped by human activity or architecture in Gowanus? In what ways does the natural world invade or disrupt human activity or architecture in Gowanus?

Gowanus was used to be an industrial area so there were empty factories.

There is Gwanous canal for sewage treatment, So that this area is highly polluted. There is a lot of black mayonnaise built up on the surface of the sewage. And there is abandoned boat in the canal which was not used anymore.

Also, as there is a water canal, the caroll st bridge was built to let people go across it.

And in the past 15 years, since it has been changed to be a residential area. Real estate company renovated the empty factories to condos such as The Mills.

2. What people did you observe in the neighborhood and what activities are they engaged in?

I saw parents walking with their kids and dogs, staff from EPA(environmental protection agency) working on the sewage issue on a boat, people who live in this area jogging around, pickup trucks going back and forth to deliver goods from factories.

3. Reflect on a **specific** space you viewed in this neighborhood:

a. who was the space designed for and what is its general purpose?

Caroll St bridge designed by Robert Van Buren. It is a retractable bridge used for crossing the Gowanus Canal

b. what are the implied rules of this **specific** space? How are people meant to interact with one another and with the environment?

I think there is an implied rule that the tourists would not disturb the residents. It is understandable that the tourists visit the bridge and take photos there but they are not doing any activities which would cause any damages to the bridge such as painting and throwing garbage.

At the same time, the residents would be happy to ask questions from the tourists, so there is a harmony between the tourists and the residents.

c. describe a possible creative reuse of this **specific** space for a theatrical event:

a) Which areas are best for actors and which areas are good for observers? Do these spaces overlap? Mention specific objects and structures in your answer.

It would be the neighborhood of Carroll Garden . It shows the timeline of the change of Gowanus from industrial to residential. The expensive material used for the pavement and the remodeled condos.

Describe the potential audience. Who are they (workers? inhabitants? recreational users? tourists?) and

why would they be passing through? Where are they going and where did they come from?

The potential audience would be tourists. They usually pass through the neighborhood in the carroll garden to the President st, then get to the carroll st bridge and finally walk further to the Gowanus canal.

b) Discuss how light and sound would support a theatrical event.

Sound from music instrument such as guitar can increase the interest of audiences.

c) What kinds of performance would work best (intimate or grand; processional or stationary; text and/or music; interactive or passive audience; etc.)?

Singing would work best because it is flexible. We can play songs with guitar in 2 or 3 minutes to have a brief introduction of the history of Gowanus. 2 to 3 minute would be moderate because tourists would like to move on to the next spot.

QUESTIONS for FURTHER RESEARCH. Write down 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 include questions you can answer with a quick google search.

1. Question? How has the city planning been changing in the past 20 years? What strategy did the city use to make that change?
2. Question? Why the sewage hasn't been improved ?
3. Question? Why are there so many apartments?

FURTHER RESEARCH

Choose and revise one of your research questions for further research.

Revised Research Question: How does the rent in Gowanus reflect on the residential planning? What strategy did the city use to make that change?

Find a book or newspaper article that could help you answer your question.

MLA Citation for source:

Krisel, Rebecca Salima. "Gentrifying a Superfund Site Why Gowanus, Brooklyn Is Becoming a Real Estate Hot Spot." *Consilience* 14 (2015): 214-24. Web.

Why did you select this source? How does it address all or part of your research question?

This source explains Gowanus has gentrified to be a high class residential area from just a superfund site.

This article unveil the rent and price of the condos in Gowanus. The uprising of rent is the result of the change of the city/ residential planning. This article is very relevant to the question as it shows data to describe Gowanus has changed to a high class area.

Describe the process you used to find this source including any keywords and the search engine or tool you used to search.

I used the library database . The keywords are Gowanus and resident.

What other sources or further information would you need to answer your question? Where would you look for them?

For further information, I would need to look other similar case to strengthen the data or as a reference.

I could look up in the library database to see if there is any other city transformed from industrial to residential area such as Red Hook.

