

Learning Places Summer 2019

SITE REPORT #2

Newtown Creek



This Newtown Creek's green roof above the trash collections near the water.

STUDENT NAME: Darwin Diaz

SITE OBSERVATIONS



**Sewer Collector
Building**



**Prohibited Swimming
& Wading**



**Birds Hunting in
Polluted Waters**

1. Historically, what are some of the important developments that have created the current landscape of the Newtown Creek area. Refer not only to the reading and Prof. Spellane's lecture, but also what you learned on the Newtown Creek Alliance tour (hint... estuaries, for instance)?
 - Some important historical developments in the landscape of Newtown Creek are the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) are creating public areas that playfully invites people to explore the entrance that looks like a boat, Stairs that are descending towards the non swimming waters with full exposure of the trash machines crashing metals and plastics while observing a rusty bridge.

2. Discuss the historical remnants that you observed in the current landscape.
 - I observed many historical references in the landscape. There are some plants that were conserved such as cactus plant. The landscape near the water looks like a native american design in the ground bricks giving us some sort of direction towards the waters and the plants around.

3. In what ways is the natural environment contained or shaped by the architecture of the Newtown Creek Nature Walk designed by George Trakas? In what ways is the natural world repossessing spaces that have been over-polluted or industrialized?
 - George Trakas wanted to bring the waterfront park to be used on its full potential and respecting the waters. The waters has been the most affected in the area of Newtown Creek. This means that you can smell the issue even away from the waters. The plastics and metals recycling industry are floating in the canal which is damaging the waters and the environment. This takes away the desire to keep visiting this place even though the park was well designed.

4. Discuss one instance of architectural semiotics. **Choose *only one* building or built structure.** If the building or designed structure could talk, what would it say?
 - I pick the Waste Building in Newtown Creek. This building would say "I wish I can have more friends because most of the time I can't hold all the sewer to myself"

5. If you were to stage a performative intervention in a *specific* site (i.e., a single structural aspect of the walk or industrial remains) where would you stage it and what message would your performance convey?
- I would stage my performance in the circle where amplifies sound by the entrance of the Newtown Creek Park. I would play Titanic and say “the ship has sunk by the trash berg”.

FURTHER RESEARCH

Research Question (*should follow directly from your above observations, and be complex, specific, and researchable*):

- How the trash/used plastic products can be reused?

Find an article from a journal, website, or newspaper that you believe will help you answer your question

MLA Citation for source:

- "The Practice and Challenges of Solid Waste Management in Singapore." *Waste Management*, Pergamon, 6 Feb. 2002, www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0956053X02000144.
- <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0956053X02000144>
- Google scholar. plastic used to generate electricity in Singapore https://scholar.google.com/scholar?hl=en&as_sdt=0%2C33&q=plastic+used+to+generate+electricity+in+Singapore+&btnG=

How many sources did you look at before selecting this one? Why did you select this source? How does it address all or part of your research question? Be specific.

- First I searched information about reusing wastes from plastic products. But I was not satisfied with the results. Because the amount of trash is super dangerous to the environment and we have to think about using massive amount to use. Then I went on google scholar to search. After reading and changing the questions to search, I finally found an article that talked about the methods that have been proved.

Is this source credible? How can you tell (what criteria did you base your evaluation on)?

- Yes because it's been proved by Department of Chemical and Environmental Engineering, National University of Singapore. They have all the contacts in case readers have questions.

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

- How this method can be used in other countries/ how much money
- If it safe for people to work in that factory?