

Learning Places Summer 2016

# SITE REPORT #1

## Grand Central Terminal: Thru the Eyes of a New Yorker



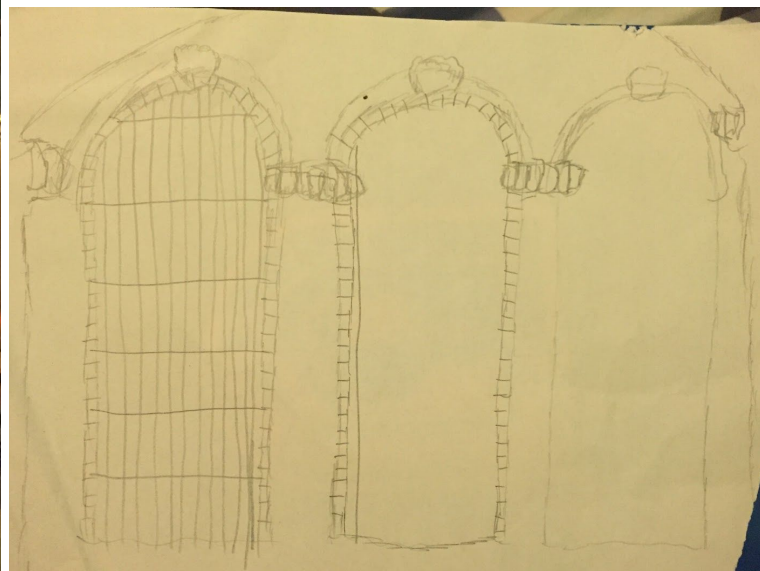
Josue Kersaint

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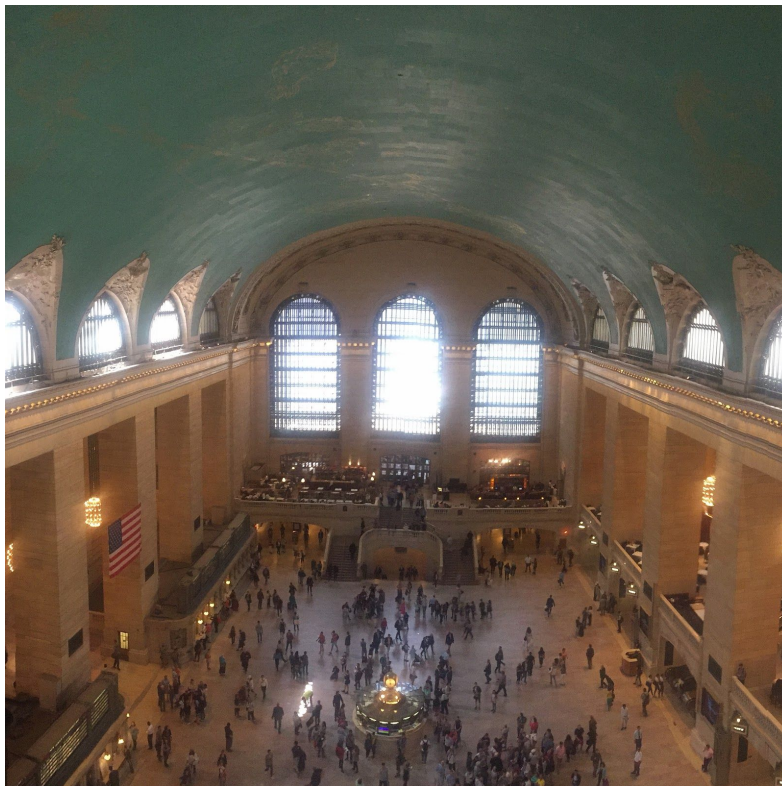
## INTRODUCTION

It's been said that the eyes are the doorways to one's soul, so the question would be are the doors to Grand Central its eyes. Grand Central is one piece of architecture that has a long history in New York City; first being known as a depot back in 1871, then transitioning to a station by 1900 and in 1913 making its final transformation into a terminal. Grand Central Terminal is a structure that reveals the true beauty of New York City, and it was brought to my attention during a site visit to Grand Central with my entire Arch/Lib 2205 class. So Much of this grand structure was revealed within two visits (June 8th and 9th), hearing and seeing these new discoveries has allowed to look at New York with so much more awe and amazement.

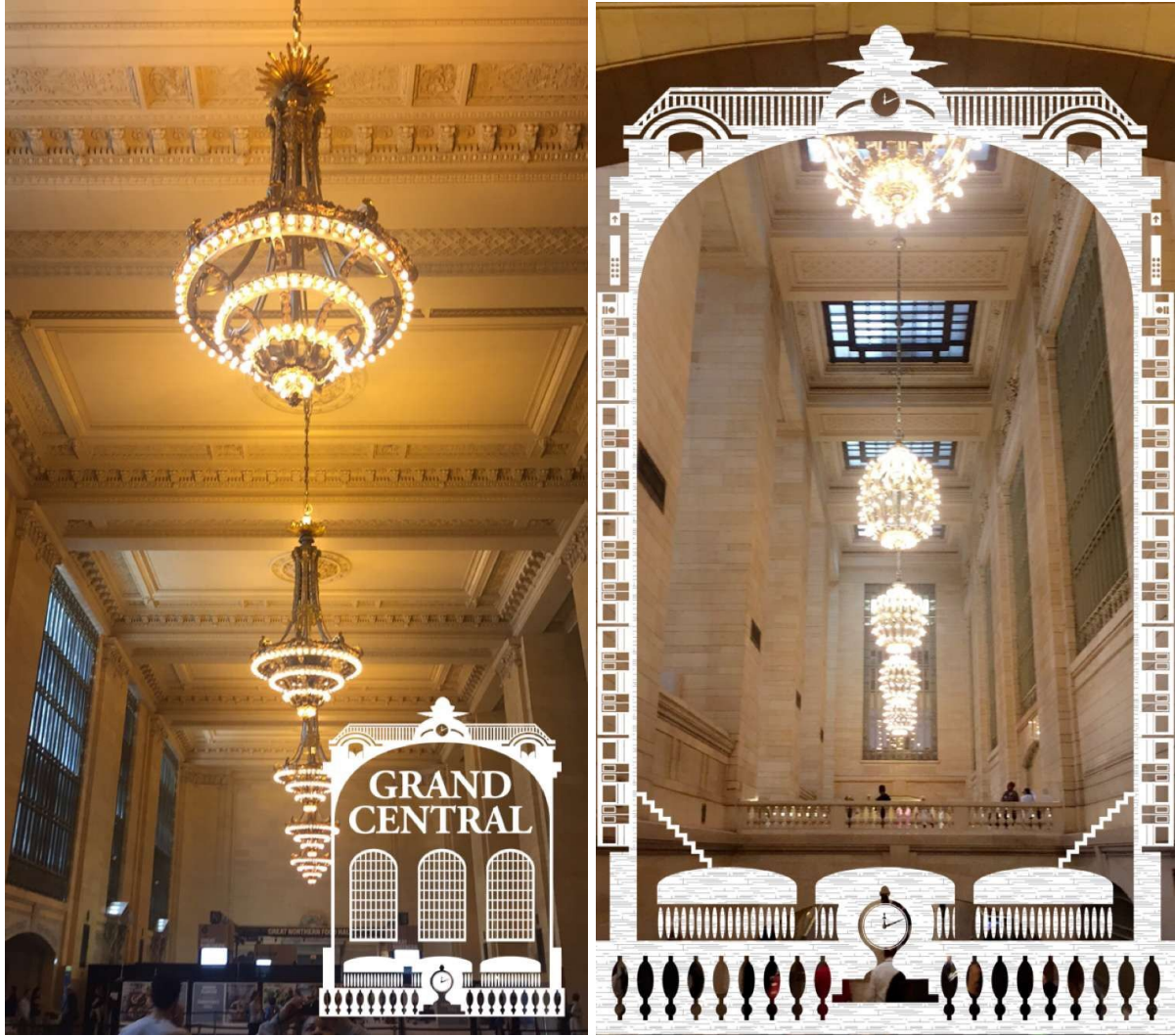
## SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos/sketches/notes)



These two photos above are quite influential to since one is a picture of the west side of the main concourse which I took with the SnapChat application. I took this photo because of the beauty of the three tall windows and the fast paced activity people moving about the concourse trying to get to where they need to go. The photo next to it is a tracing of the windows that caught my eye from the time i walked into the main concourse. What I find intriguing is that the windows look so divided but yet so much natural light is capable of entering into the room through all this division. What I noticed is that division must be the walkways and the support system for the walkways. And in my sketch I was trying to capture the essence of the walkways and their support system.



I used the panoramic option on my camera to take this picture, which I took from the top walkway from the east side windows. I quite enjoy this photo because it shows everyone walking thru the concourse as just a tiny speck of dust in a large universe. I get to enjoy the thought of us humans are not the center of the universe and are not big and bad but are tiny and simple creatures in this universe that have no control of what's going on around us.



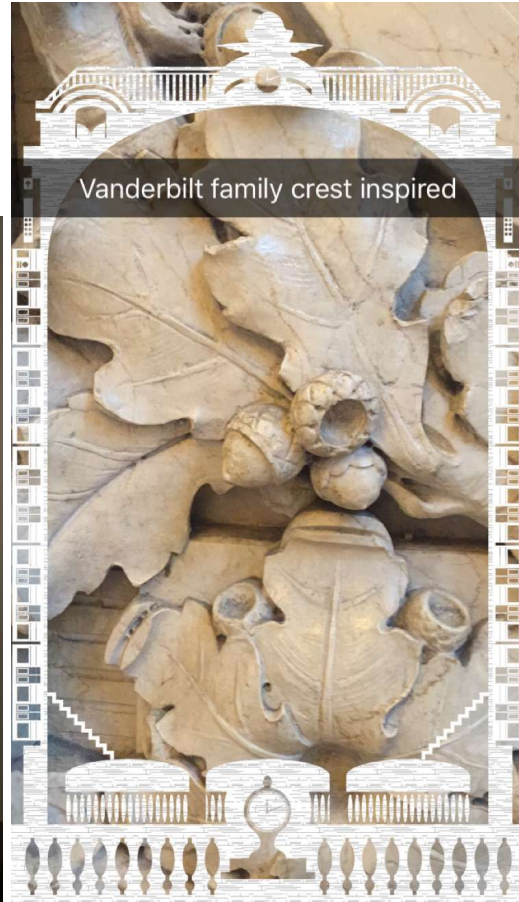
These two photos are grand sites of innovation and beauty, which once again I took with Snapchat, thru these photos I truly see the bragging that its architects and main investors were doing their best to display. What we have here are light fixtures that have their light bulbs on the outside of the fixtures and are fully exposed to the world. Electricity is normally used for just necessity but in the instance of Grand Central, electricity is used to exude art and true beauty. These fixtures truly add to inner architecture of Grand Central. These chandeliers are a true accessory to this grand architecture known as Grand Central Terminal.



The following photo was taken with Snapchat, what we have here is a photo of the Whispering Gallery which is in front of the Oyster Bar. The tiles of the whispering gallery are known as Gustavino tiles named after the patented material and methods of the spanish tile worker Rafael Gustavino (Black). My experience with this gallery was incredible and creepy all at one time. To stand in one corner and have someone stand in the opposite corner and talk into the corner and hear them so clearly was a complete shocker. But it is one thing that i will continue to show so many others.



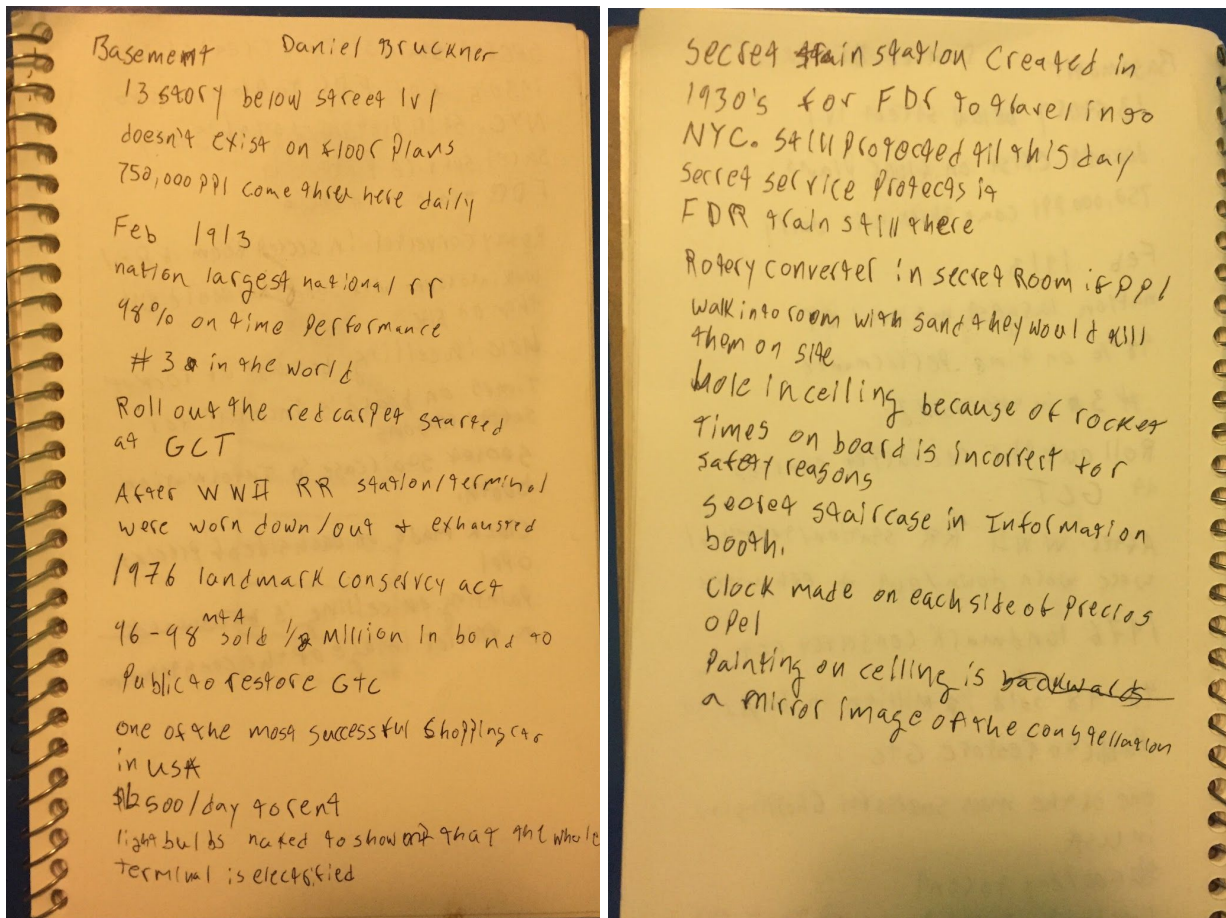
Light fixtures



The first picture is of a light fixture we are walking past during our tour through Grand Central, once again I see even through this one single light bulb, the bragging of the buildings grand use of electricity is revealed even thru this one light fixture.

The second picture is of the Vanderbilt's family crest, which is the acorn, the presence of their family crest is strategically placed throughout the terminal and I find that quite interesting, what I also find interesting is that the Vanderbilt's family crest is the acorn, since the acorn is quite common in New York, which tells me that this family must have felt that they are the heart of New York. Their pride and confidence is evidently on level that could be compared as almost extraterrestrial or extreme thoughts of grandeur.

## DISCOVERIES



The following two photos are of my notes from my classes Grand Central Terminal tour, these notes display major discoveries I made of terminal which surprised me and even caught my attention. One of the most influential facts from the first photo is that Grand Central is 13 stories below street level (making it the deepest basement in the city). In the second photo the most influential fact is the secret train station created for FDR traveling into the city and still being currently used for the purpose of the US presidents traveling into NYC safely and secretly.



A major discovery for me, is learning the fact that there was now an Apple store located on the east side of the terminal and it was wide open to the public with no doors or protective walls. It being there in such a historical site, shows me that the future is embracing the past and vice-versa. And thru this picture you see it all, the history and grand architecture surrounding the people of the present as they venture about these ancient hall ways and in the bottom of the photo you see technology slowly creeping in to leave its mark on the world.



In the following picture, I discovered a chair with the Grand Central Terminal symbol on it, so I decided to take the photo with Snapchat upside down to reveal the secrets of the symbol, which symbolizes the original primary source of the Vanderbilt's money which is boating. The GTC on top of each other as such reveals to be an anchor, when viewed upside down.



## KEYWORDS

Vanderbilt

Grand Central

Grand Central Terminal

New York City

Architecture

Electricity

Gustavino

Whispering Gallery

Main concourse

Chandeliers

Snapchat

## Bibliography

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[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand\\_Central\\_Terminal#Restorations\\_and\\_expansion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_Central_Terminal#Restorations_and_expansion)