

Learning Places Summer 2016

SITE REPORT #2

New York Public Library-The Schwarzman Building



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INTRODUCTION

The New York Public Library is an immense building with an aesthetic easily recognized as being of Beaux Art style (a type of architectural design derived from the École des Beaux-Arts—The Royal School of Art, Paris, France). The building is as beautiful in the inside as is on the outside.

This site report will focus on specific details that makes this establishment more than just a public library. All images contained in this site report are taken by me with the use of my cell phone.

SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos/sketches/notes)



The high ceiling with intricate designs is apparent through this image. Comparing this image with the one in the beginning of this report, one can notice the presence of pediments over the doorways outside as well as inside. There are archways all over the place that leads to various areas of the library and eye-catching candelabras making this area seem intriguing and mysterious at the same time.



The following two images relates to the ceiling and the lamp that is hanging. The ceiling is exquisitely designed with scrolls, leaves, and rosettes with colors in green, gold and red. The bottom image was taken while I was standing directly underneath the lamp, a procedure I learned from Dan during the first official tour in Grand Central Terminal.



In the upper photo one can see that the lamp is round. Looking at the photo on the left, the lamp seems to be a flat spider-webbed octagonal shape.

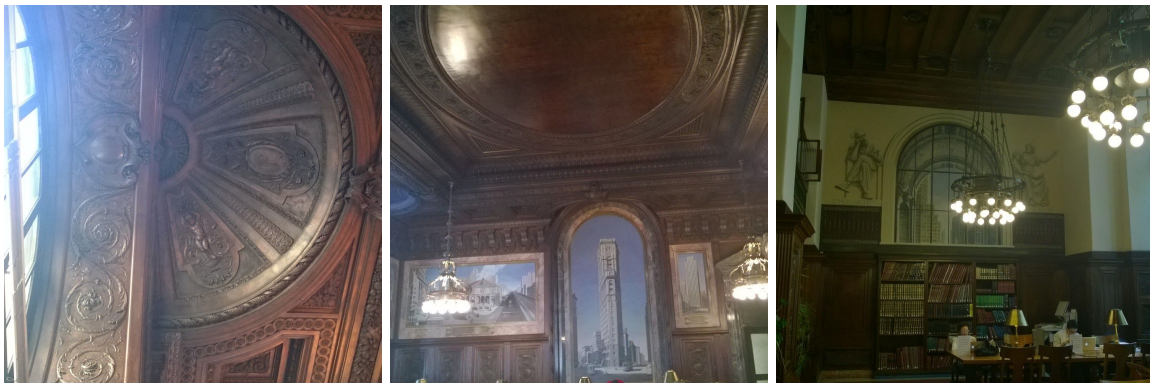


I created this image by using two photos. This image is representative of modern structure within an old edifice. I was aiming to take photos of the windows of NYPL's original structure but could not get a good angle due to the modern element. Jeury, a fellow classmate, seems attentive to the podcast given. Hi Jeury! Below are more images within the media room. The staircase leading downwards is not open to the public.

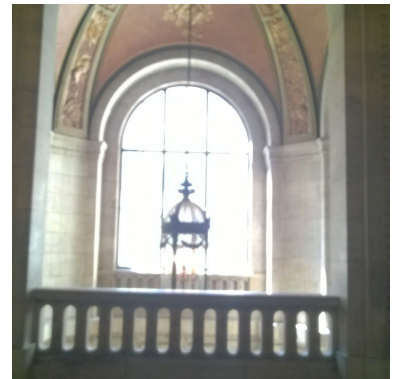
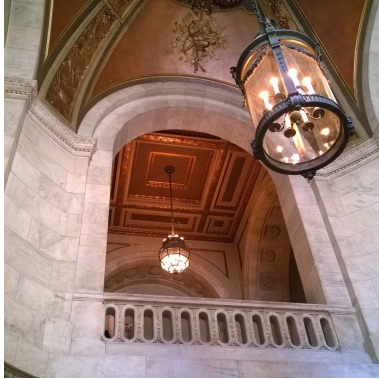




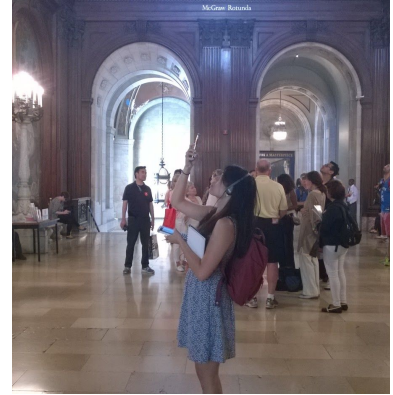
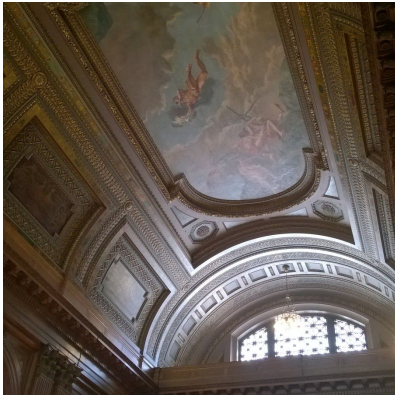
Along the corridor of marbled stones there are doorways. Some are not accessible to the public.



However, the last doorway to the left leads you into a large reading room that is handsomely designed with wood giving that old world feeling. The niche on the lower left side is detailed with rosettes and other delicate designs. The reading room is full of titillating portraits. Walking further down the room, to the left hand side is another reading room that contains unique chandeliers and amazing drawings on the wall.



A balcony seen from the bottom of the stairs that leads to the third floor. The archway over the staircase is grand as all other archways all over within NYPL (New York Public Library). The last image is taken of the opposite side of the picture taken on the left side--two different viewpoints that are distinguishable even though it is one and the same. This illustrates that the same area may look different depending on where the viewer is located. It is wonderfully delusional.



Coming upon the third floor (which I believe is the last top level of the building) you can instantly see a stunning mural befitting for the NYPL on its barreled ceiling. It is breathtaking. The giant candelabras demands respect and have detailed designs a pleasure for the eyes. Facing the way one comes through you see two huge archways: one is where I came up from, the other leads to other passageways that leads you to other private research rooms, and behold, there is one of my

classmates ,Keriann, taking pictures of her own. Hi Keriann!

DISCOVERIES

I have discovered that this particular branch of the New York Public Library is called the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building and is referred to as the “main” branch. The NYPL is a combination of the Astor Library and the Lenox Library. In the process of transferring contents of these two particular libraries, NYPL is now home to the Gutenberg Bible, one of the items of the Lenox private collection. NYPL has a children section in the sublevel and is the home to the original Winnie-the Pooh stuffed bear. During our visit, Winnie-the-Pooh was not present since it is in the process of restoration. According to www.nypl.org/about/locations/schwarzman “in 1910, 75 miles of shelves were installed to house the immense collections,” and within those collections are questionable and controversial materials. The website gives details of the collections.

KEYWORDS

Restoration - the action of returning something to a former owner, place, or condition.

Balustrade - a kind of low wall that is placed at the sides of staircases, bridges, etc., and that is

made of a row of short posts topped by a long rail

Pediment - A pediment is an element in classical, neoclassical and baroque architecture, and derivatives therefrom, consisting of a gable, originally of a triangular shape, placed above the horizontal structure of the entablature, typically supported by columns.

Rosette - a disk of foliage or a floral design usually in relief used as a decorative motif

Merriam-Webster.com.