



ERASMUS HALL HIGH SCHOOL

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ARTH1130- OL 17, Survey of Art History

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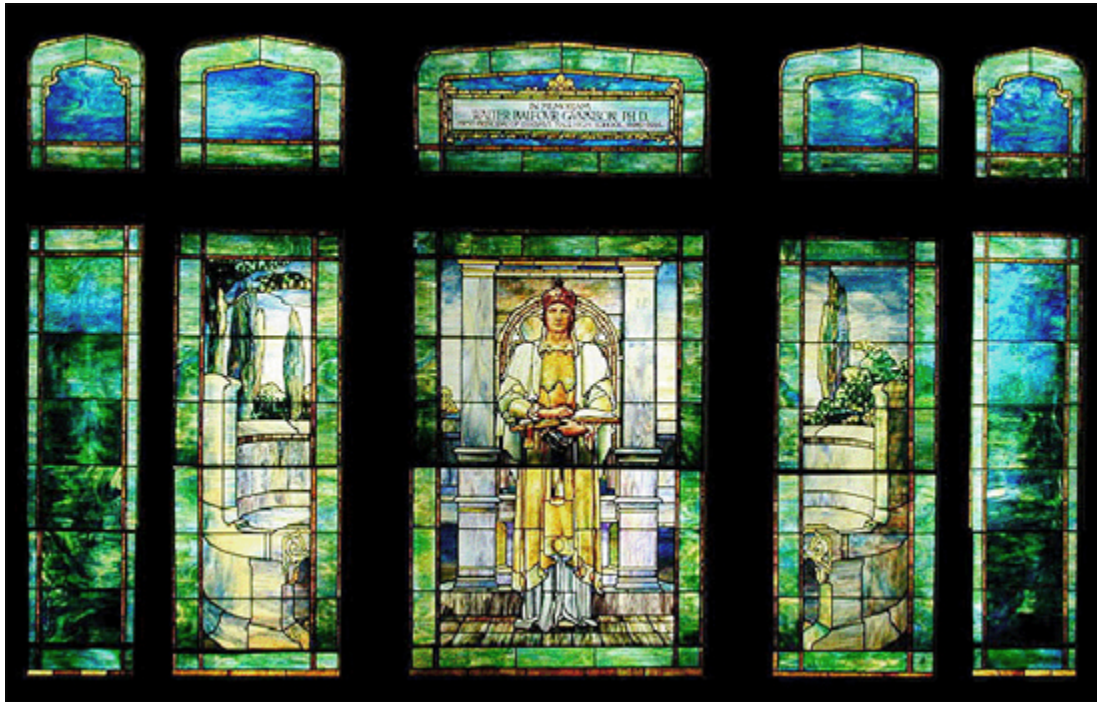
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Historical Architecture in New York City.

Erasmus Hall Academy, renamed as Erasmus Hall High school, was the oldest chartered high school in New York. It is located on 911 Flatbush Avenue between Church and Snyder Avenue in the Brooklyn borough of New York City .The modern school was designed in the Collegiate Gothic style; Collegiate Gothic style is part of Gothic revival, which also inspires and derives from Gothic style. For the valued arches, stained –glass windows under the arches, and the distinctive characteristic of gothic stained –glass windows defined the architectural work of the building derived from Gothic style.

The new building was designed in 1904 as quadrangle, to be constructed around the old existing building which was built in 1786. The modern new building was designed in the collegiate gothic style. C.B.J.Slynder designed the building, who was also the best known applicant of collegiate gothic style to NYC public school. It consists of an entrance tower which is connected with the rear portion of the building's auditorium, classrooms, and library. To support tall arches, there is a half acre of the hall. The building is three –four stories high. It was completed in four different phases. The first floor contains offices of the principles, auditorium and few classrooms; on the second floor, there is a library with a gallery facing, teachers' rooms, and toilets and third and fourth floor consists with class rooms, laboratories, demonstration and balance rooms. The entranced tower is designed to be the center of the whole building on Flatbush Avenue. The gate has erected with vaulting web. On the top of the building, it has turrets.

Stained –glass windows are almost synonymous with gothic architecture (Kleiner 195). Erasmus Hall High School has big stained -glass windows to transmit the natural light rather than reflect the light. Spanning on every floors, it has stained-glass windows. To me when I walk through the hall way, the natural light coming through the stained glass fascinated me. My younger brother has come to NY recently as an immigrant, and got admitted in Erasmus Hall High school as freshman this year. Because of his legal guardian, I often have to go to his school to join in different meetings. When I first went to the school, the most attractive, and surprising thing to me in the building was the stained window with the actual depiction of the life of a Dutch Renaissance philosopher, teacher and priest named Erasmus, for whom the school was named.



The building has a collection of stained glass window; those are located at the front of the auditorium. At the main entrance door, the restored stained glass put totally different glamorous look to the viewers. The characters of the painting are very sophisticated and religious which also creates a soft and smooth look.

The building is also ornamented with some sculptures, which I guess inspired from Gothic style too. No one can enter the building without noticing the sculpture of a pair of seriously looking owls in front of the main entrance. The wall of the building is also adorned with the sculpture of red eyed owls and a fellow wrapped up in a ball and holding a cog.

The pointed arches and erected tower from entrance side of the building gives it a castle like look. "The key ingredients of the gothic "recipe" were rib vaults with pointed arches, flying buttresses, and huge windows of colored glass" (Kleiner 192). The horizontal architectural structure of the erected towers at the main entrance characterized the style as collegiate gothic. It looks nave vaults helps up the towering to be erected. Just above the entrance gate, it has huge windows and those windows are filled with stained glasses; these also could define the building was constructed with Gothic style.

The Erasmus Hall High School was designed in Collegiate Gothic which derives from Gothic revival; an architectural style comes from medieval Gothic style. The design consisted of valued arches, stained –glass windows under the arches, and the distinctive characteristic of gothic stained –glass windows .Because of its distinct architectural design, long and colorful history, the building listed as a historic place and a museum exhibition.

Work Cited

Kleiner, Fred S. *Gardner's Art Through The Ages: A Concise Western History*. Boston: Wadsworth, 2010.

Print.