ARCH 1250 SITE PLANNING Jaeyoung Choi

Professor Calhoun 10/31/11

“Hurricane day” Assignment- The Brooklyn Bridge Park

Nature, it can be described as common, but in same time, it is vastly unique. Nature is what we see every day, since the earth is created, but its uniqueness is nowhere in any other object, idea, place, or any existing elements.

Today, I met nature at the Brooklyn Bridge Park. As my professor said in class, this park was different from the ideal park that was in my head. The weather was great, Sunny Hi 48°-Lo34°F Precip 0.02in. But the outerwear of visitors showed that it is getting to the winter. I planned to visit ONLY Main Street section that is located at Washington St. and Plymouth St, not the Pier 1 and 6. However, I ended up walking all around to the end of the park.

The Pedestrian road guided me from the entrance, which is located next to the park playground. There were many types of different trees, including both deciduous and evergreen tree, but not like many other park that is covered with trees.

The ground of other parks, or ideal park in my head, is mostly covered with grasses like a mountain, but this park has pedestrian way that is covered with gray gravel, brown gravel, natural soils, and stone blocks. Only some parts were grass where trees and plants are.

Starting from Playground, Dog-run, Water Access, carousel (Merry-go-around), handrail, ziggurat shaped stairs, water taxi station (East River Ferry), telescope, Barge Music stage, The River Café, and NYSCE (New York Centers for Sustainable Energy) was in the Park.

Natural looking rocks and vegetation make park relaxed and friendly to the river, while stepped concrete stairs, variety types of benches, and technically developed facilities and activities make park modern looking with the Brooklyn and Manhattan Bridges.

I was tired with projects after projects, works, and life in the mid of this fall’11 semester. This park, or park assignment, gave me time to pause and cheer up, ended up providing me an enthusiastic mind.

I will describe this park as the balcony. Behind the park, there are lots of tall and rigid buildings that make me feeling closed or blocked by something. But the park is open. Skyline is magnificent. Open to the sky and river. The big empty spaces between Brooklyn and Manhattan, on top of river provide a time to breath, by providing fresh air. Like a cantilever balcony that is connected to the building, the Brooklyn Bridge Park was open and accessible to the sky.