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History of New York City Architecture:  
1885-1915  
Urbanism & the Search for Order

# 1885-1915

## Urbanism & the Search for Order

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- A period of “creative eclecticism” – buildings were carefully designed to accommodate historic styles with modern functions.
- Historical association brought a sense of continuity and security in a time of great change.
- Multiple period revival styles: Beaux-Arts, neo-classical, neo-Gothic, neo-Federal

# Characteristics of Beaux-Arts style

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- Classical based on Greek & Roman structures
- Symmetrical (generally)
- Heavy stone bases (rustification)
- Use of light colored materials
- Grand stairways
- Paired columns with plinths
- Monumental attics
- Grand opening/ entrances
- Extensive ornamentation (cartouch, festoon, sculpture, rustification, *horror vacui*, etc)



- The Lotos Club, originally Margaret Vanderbilt Shepard residence/ later Mr. & Mrs. William Schiefflin residence, Richard Howland Hunt, 1900.



- New India House/ originally Marshall Orme Wilson residence, Warren & Wetmore, 1903.



- Monumental attics (usually used mansard roofs)
- Grand opening/ entrances



- Heavy stone base using rustification stone masonry with the joints between the blocks deeply cut back







## Extensive ornamentation

- Cartouches- an ornamental panel in the form of a scroll, circle or oval, often bearing an inscription
- Festoon a decorative garland suspended in a curve between 2 points carved in stone



- Grand entrance
- Light colored limestone
- Extensive ornamentation (cartouch, festoons, foliated carving)





- Extensive ornamentation
- Plinths (square or rectangular base for a column, pilaster or a solid monumental base, often ornamented to support a statue)





# Residences and Hotels

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- The Lotos Club, originally Margaret Vanderbilt Shepard residence/ later Mr. & Mrs. William Schiefflin residence, Richard Howland Hunt, 1900.





- New India House/ originally Marshall Orme Wilson residence, Warren & Wetmore, 1903.



- St. Regis-Sheraton Hotel, Trowbridge & Livingston, 1904. Addition to east, 1925.



- The Peninsula/ originally The Gotham Hotel, Hiss & Weekes, 1905.





- The Plaza Hotel, Henry J. Hardenbergh, 1905-1907.





- Alwyn Court Apartments, Harde & Short, 1907-1909.

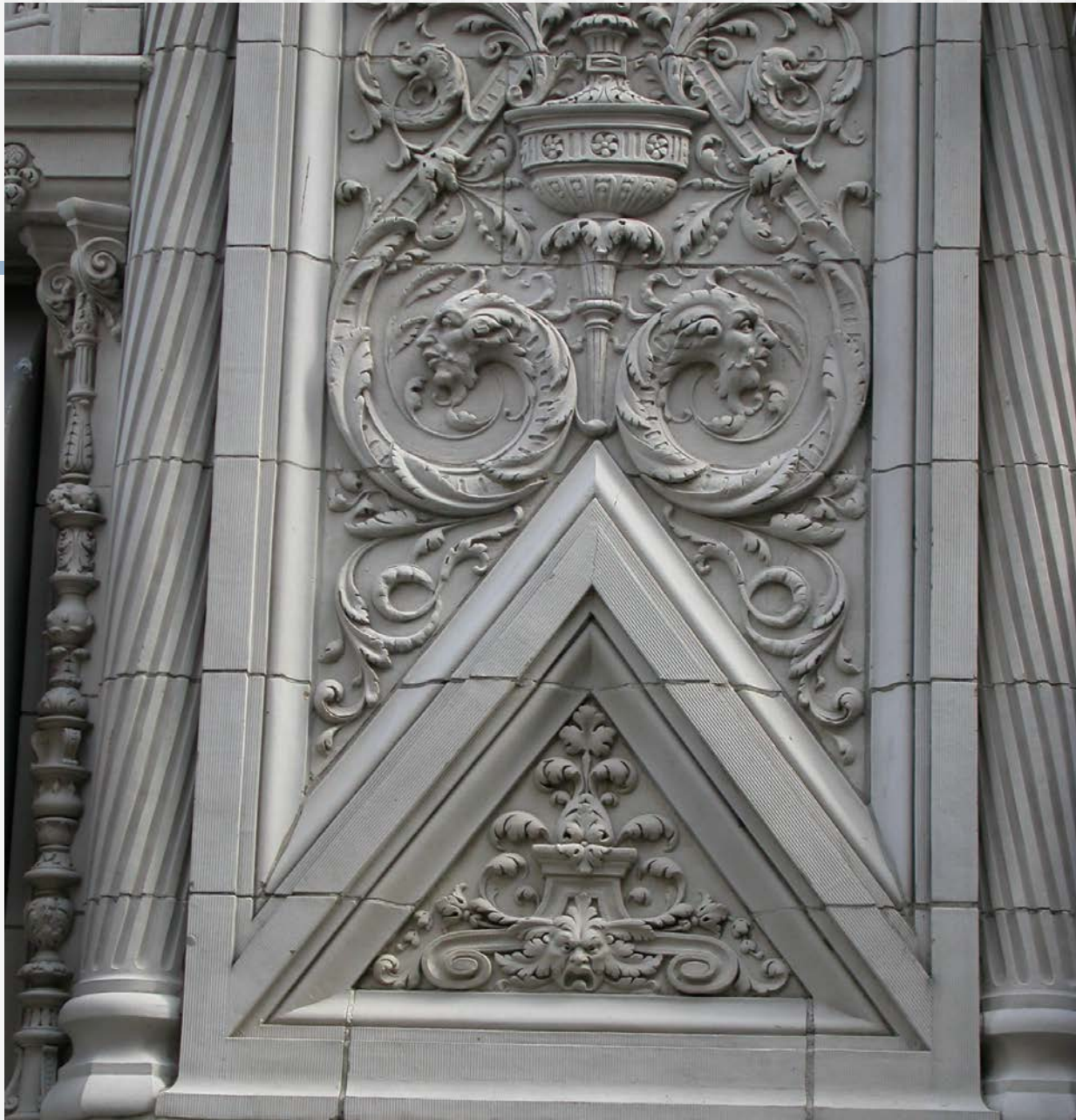
















- Villard Houses, Joseph Wells of McKim, Mead & White, 1884.



# Clubs: A New Building Type

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- The Century Association, William Kendall of McKim, Mead & White, 1891.



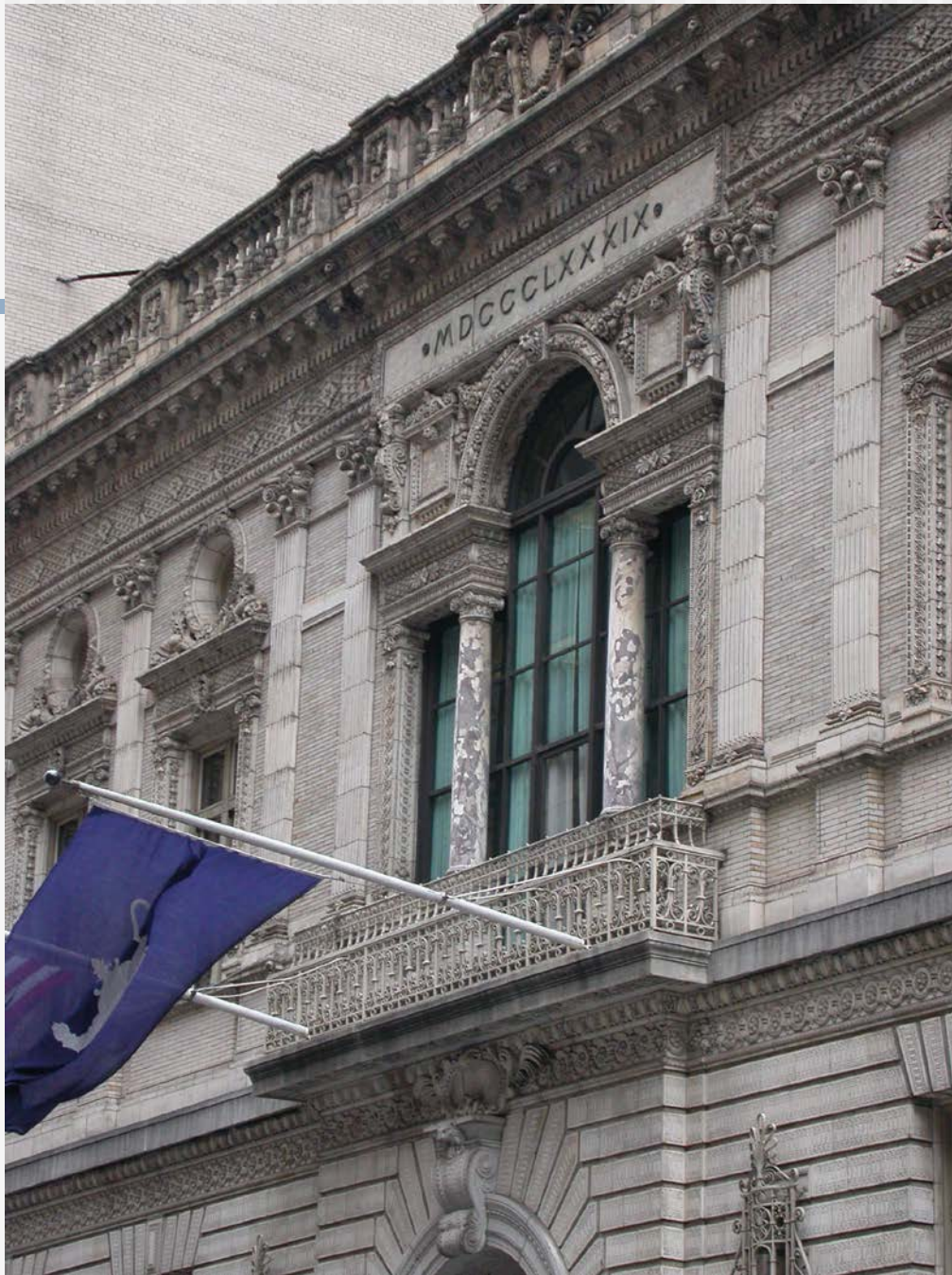
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- The Metropolitan Club, McKim, Mead & White, 1893.















- Harvard Club, McKim, Mead & White, 1894. Additions, 1905, 1915.





- University Club, Charles McKim of McKim, Mead & White, 1899.









- New York Yacht Club, Warren & Wetmore, 1900.













- Racquet & Tennis Club, McKim, Mead & White, 1918



# Public Buildings

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- Metropolitan Museum of Art, central Fifth Avenue facade, Richard Morris Hunt & Richard Howland Hunt, 1895-1902; side wings along Fifth avenue, McKim, Mead and White, 1904-1926.







- Grand Central Terminal, Reed & Stern, Warren & Wetmore, 1903-1913







- Originally U.S. Custom House, Cass Gilbert, 1907.







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enchantment  
OCTOBER 20, 2004 - JULY 20, 2005  
National Museum of the American Indian  
www.inmuseums.org

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- New York Public Library, Carrere & Hastings, 1911.

















- General Post Office, aka James A. Farley Building, McKim, Mead and White, 1913.



# Commercial Buildings

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- Condict Building/ later Bayard Building, Louis Sullivan, 1897-1899.







- Singer Building, Ernest Flagg, 1902-1904.



- Woolworth Building, Cass Gilbert, 1910-1913



















