

Learning Places Fall 2018

SITE REPORT #1

Atlantic Barclays Walking Tour



Donna Chow

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INTRODUCTION

The following report is on our Learning Places in the City walking tours to the Atlantic Barclays Center. On September 13th, 2018 our class took a walking tour to Atlantic Barclays center. On this route, we started walking down Adam Street, then down to Columbus Park, where our class notices the busy life of New Yorkers. After that, we walked through the park and crossed to Fulton Mall Street. We then made a stop on Fulton Mall Street to take a little sketch. Then we made our way to a street where it was closed off for a community event, which made it seem very family friendly, community friendly. We walked until Dekalb Ave and look a right turn. From there, it was quite a walk till the Atlantic Barclays Center. On this avenue, I saw a mixture of different types of buildings between old and modern. What caught my eye were of course all the glassy buildings. On our second walk on September 20th, 2018 there was a different perspective to it, where in the first walk I got a view about more of the busy city life in Brooklyn vs. our second walk had a calmer and residential living side of Brooklyn.

SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos*)

*At least 1 photo of archive / library space & 1 photo of a resource found required per site visit



This photo is taken at Borough Hall on September 13th. As I learned this location was when Brooklyn was a city of its own and this location was called City Hall. The structure facing me was originally the entrance of the building in the past, where it used to be opened to people who got off the ships and boats. It is important to know how things have a purpose to be convenient for humans. However, now it is a public space where people around can sit on the steps and relax.



This photo taken is of a telephone building located on the corner of Willoughby Street and Lawrence Street on September 13th. This building was the original “headquarters for New York and New Jersey Telephone and Telegraph,” it was built in 1897-98. On this location, I learned that the more detailed a building is represents that the building once served a purpose (was of value) because people invested their time, and money on the project and building materials. Till today building is still standing. They are now using it for a different purpose a college.

This photo was taken on September 20th when Professor Montgomery stopped and told us about this terra-cotta colored building, which was the former Brooklyn Fire Department Headquarters, on 365 Jay Street. As you can see, the building is still very sturdy even though it was built in the mid-1800’s and looks beautiful. Professor told us that this building did not originally look like this, it had a renovation because of “serious roof issues.” Today, this building is used as affordable housing. This photo is important because every building has its own story, its own history, they served as a purpose.





This photo is taken on September 13th, I was amazed on how the structure looks as it was my first time coming to Atlantic Barclays Center. I kind of feel like this area is empty and out of place? Then it comes to mind, who did they build the center for? Is it the community? Here is where I really understood old vs. new architecture.

This photo was taken on September 20th, walking down Dean Street. There were many brownstones or townhouses. Some of them looking symmetrical to each other. As we all notice that the environment is a lot more peaceful. It is not as congested as the streets near Jay Street Metrotech. There seems to be a lot more shade because of the green spaces. The street seems very family friendly.



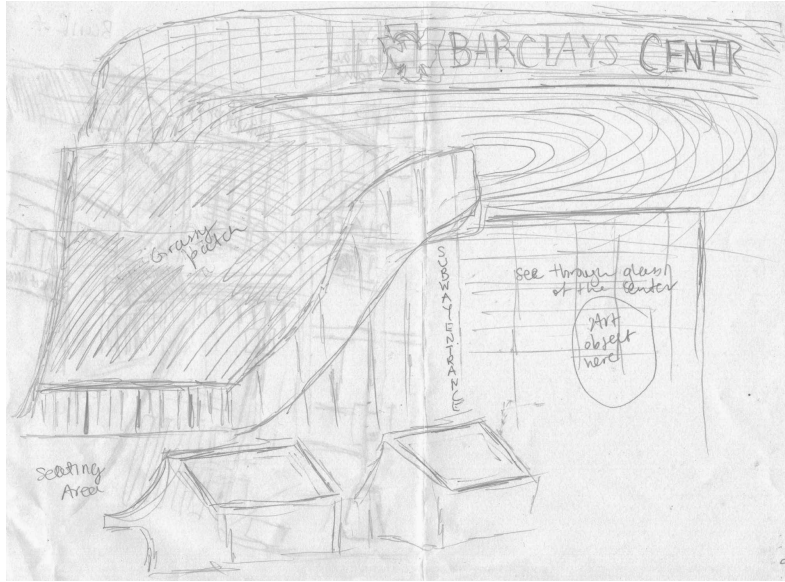


This picture was taken on September 20th, of Atlantic Barclays Center from the Flatbush Avenue. As we walked from the residential neighborhood, we could see the wider side of the structure. Again we made it back into the busier side of the city. There were many people because there are two shopping malls and in the area is also close to the subway station in front of Barclays Center entrance. What is important in this picture, is that it shows you a perspective, where there's a bigger street, there are more cars and it seems more busier.

SITE DOCUMENTATION (sketches*)

I sketched this drawing on the Fulton Street and Fulton Mall Street. This street was a busy from noisiness (heavy drilling noises), to street music, to traffic. In this sketch features intersection between two streets. I noted that there were two different banks across the street from another: Capital Bank and Bank of America. A building on down the street seem like it was under renovation, as same as the one way in the back (seems like a government building).

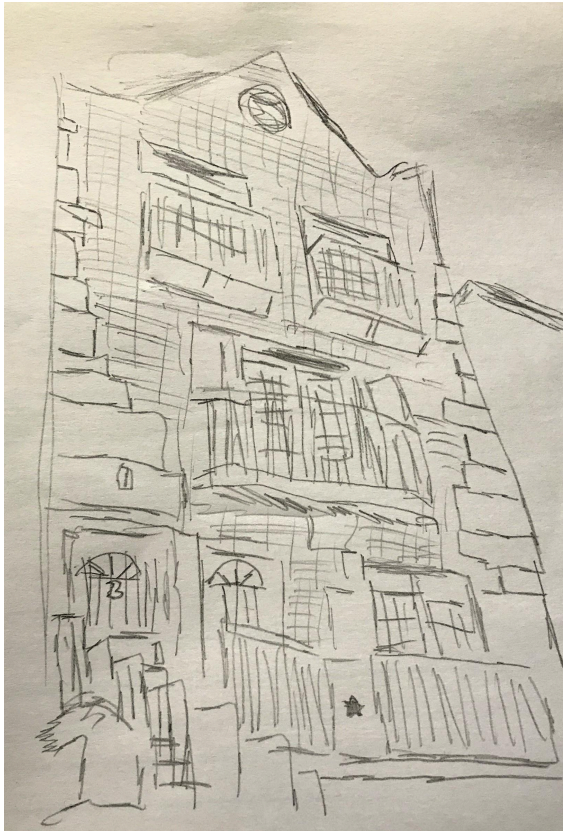




This sketch is of Atlantic Barclays center. A very huge looking sports facility. In front is a big green space, it is the roof of the subway entrance/exit. Focusing on the sport facility. The rooftop also has a green space, making it look “environmentally friendlier.” The structure has oxidized rimmings on the top of the center (I didn’t realize it was rusting at first. The building looks very gigantic and overpowering. This architecture is important because its now a sport facility in the community (how does this building serve the community?).

This sketch captures the green space on Dean Street. These plants and trees give a sense of liveliness/ environmental friendliness and provides brownstones and the sidewalk a lot of shade. Around the area seems less congested because the buildings were of lower height. The difference captured in this photo is very important because it expresses how Brooklyn adapted to its changes. The result of seeing the residential side of Brooklyn and streets filled with commercial/work office (busier side of Brooklyn) is really an eye opener of the different perspective within sections of Brooklyn.





I sketched a picture of a house I thought was very appealing to me. This house is located on 396 Dean Street. On the original picture, I noticed that there were sculpted figures around the top of the house. I thought it referenced that this house was very important at a point because of important figures. I thought that it is important because just like humans, buildings have value, history, and a story to tell. Based on the sculptures can even tell how old the house is. I found out that the original house was built in 1910.

GENERAL NOTES:

- I learned that there were different types of buildings that were around the school, especially when they were built. The postmodern, modern, mid-1900s (9-13-18).
- I learned that Brooklyn didn't really have a well-developed street grid that's why all the streets were not symmetrical. Jay Street was cut off once we walked to Fulton Mall Street (9-20-18).
- During our second walk, the area was for residential purposes. Very family friendly environment (9-20-18).
- There were many beautiful historic townhouses, with different make of material, and produced in different years or the same (9-20-18).
- There is a lot more shade on Dean Street and it was more peaceful vs. the busy city life and congested streets and traffic (9-20-18).

INSIGHTS/DISCOVERIES

On both of our walking tours, I saw the different perspective of city life in the world where everyone just commutes to work and to school vs. the calmer side of the city where people live. I learned how the cities landscape has changed massively because of **urbanization and modernization**, for the good and bad. On our first trip September 13th, Professor Montgomery stopped at Columbus Park and explained about the difference in architectural buildings (different times: romanesque revival style, **modern**, **postmodern** they were built). Why different buildings were facing certain ways because it catered to people's needs in the past. I was able to experience the many changes the city is going through, as seen in the films. Things like gentrification, new building developments and old buildings mixed together.

KEYWORDS/VOCABULARY & DEFINITIONS

*5 keywords minimum required per site visit

Romanesque Revival style: "Romanesque Revival style buildings are characterized by wide arches, thick columns, decorative pilasters, pointed towers, and rough-hewn stones."

Taken from: <https://study.com/academy/lesson/romanesque-revival-architecture-style.html>

Urban: “In, relating to, or characteristic of a town or city” Taken from Oxford English Dictionary

Urbanization: “the process of making an area more urban.” Oxford English Dictionary

Postmodern architecture: “architecture, also known as postmodernism (or 'pomo'), is an architectural style that emerged in the late-1960s as a reaction against modernism. Modernist architecture had faced increasing criticism for its rigid doctrines, uniformity and perceived lack of local and cultural context.”

Taken from: https://www.designingbuildings.co.uk/wiki/Postmodern_architecture

Modernism: “a style that emerged in the early-20th century in response to large-scale changes in both technology and society. It is associated with the function of buildings, approached from an analytical viewpoint, a rational use of materials, the elimination of ornament and decoration, and openness to structural innovation.”

Taken from: https://www.designingbuildings.co.uk/wiki/Modernist_architecture

Cornice: “is decorative trim located at the meeting point between walls and a roof or ceiling.”

Taken from: <https://study.com/academy/lesson/what-is-a-cornice-in-architecture-definition-styles.html>

Stucco: “ fine plaster used for coating wall surfaces or moulding into architectural decorations.” Taken from Oxford English Dictionary

Brownstone houses: “is a brick townhouse — almost always a row house — whose front facade is dressed in reddish-brown sandstone.” Taken from:

<https://www.brownstoner.com/architecture/brownsotone-brooklyn-photos-nyc-history-definition/>

Tenements: “(especially in Scotland or the US) a room or a set of rooms forming a separate residence within a house or block of flats.” Taken from Oxford English Dictionary

QUESTIONS for Further RESEARCH

1. How did Atlantic Barclays center change and affect its environment after it was built?
2. Besides the Atlantic Barclays center, were there other similar situations where residents/citizens had to fight over a development being built?
3. Question?