

RHETORIC AND REALITY
NEW YORK

A contemporary study of New York

by Jan Levy



INTRODUCTION

The intention of this piece is to represent capitalism in one of its most familiar environments. New York is one of the most glamorous ostentatious, dynamic cities in the world. Trillions of dollars are traded on the stock market every day. Property in New York appears to be escalating in value every year. What better way than art to represent the vibrancy of this great city.

This piece of art is produced at great personal cost. This is represented by the toll of walking the equivalent of 3 marathons. I walked from dawn to dusk for 10 days (including me time days), having limited breaks, unlimited Starbucks; and the occasional foray into a conveniently located deli.

Time was of the essence, memory cards for the camera became a scarce resource, with over 1,500 photographs taken in order to select the final 40.

The order of locations within the piece is as follows.

1. Federal Bank of New York
2. Yankee Stadium
3. City Hall
4. Borough Hall, Staten Island
5. Municipal Bulding
6. Pennsylvania Station
7. Unisphere, Queens
8. Aquaduct Racetrack
9. Brooklyn Bridge
10. Manhattan skyline
11. Canal Street Correction Centre
12. Washing Square Park
13. Con Edison Power Station
14. Battery Park
15. St Patrick's Cathedral

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16. La Guardia Airport
17. China Town
18. Statue of Liberty
19. Little Italy
20. Greenwich Village
21. Empire Condominium
22. Broadway
23. New York Stock Exchange
24. Times Square
25. Wall Street
26. Grand Central Terminal
27. East River
28. Hudson River
29. Verizon
30. New York Harbour
31. Court Buildings
32. New York Public Library
33. The Guggenheim Museum
34. The Freedom Tower
35. Empire State Building
36. JFK Terminal
37. Casino
38. Central Park
39. New York Yellow Cab
40. Trump Tower

DAY ONE

Weather cold, but fair, layers 4.

The most essential accessory for any female photographer/artist is a loyal bag carrying companion. Having woken up at stupid o'clock, (the joys of transatlantic flights), the loyal bag carrying companion and I stumbled across to Cosi Coffee which was slightly disappointing as the angle from our hotel window seemed to indicate that Costa was present in New York (result!).

Once we were over our disappointment, the coffee was good enough to compliment the over baked croissant and strong enough to keep us going to the first scheduled coffee break.

The first part of the day one trek took us from East 45th Street, up Madison Avenue to East 50th Street. A brief westerly walk found us in front of St Patrick's Cathedral.

This grand and imposing building nestles amongst the modern high rises of East 50th Street. Getting the right shot was not easy. Every few yards ventured down 5th Avenue gave a better angle.

1.The Cathedral of St. Patrick



(commonly called St. Patrick's Cathedral) is a decorated Neo-Gothic-style Roman Catholic cathedral church. It is the seat of the archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York, and a parish church. It is directly across the street from the Rockefeller Center and specifically facing the Atlas statue.

According to Catholic News Service (CNS) and the Catholic News Agency (CNA), Cardinal Timothy Michael Dolan, the incumbent Archbishop of New York, announced before reviewing the city's parade on St. Patrick's Day of 2012 (Saturday, March 17, 2012) that the Cathedral- because of crumbling bricks, faulty heating, and acid rain and pollution that has eaten away at the Tuckahoe marble of the 135-year-old church- would undergo a massive five-year, three-phase, \$175 million renovation (\$45million, which came from early donors and grants from the Archdiocese and the Trustees of the Cathedral, has already been raised for the first phase, which will begin in late March; it will involve repairing, restoring, and cleaning the soot-covered exterior, and an extensive cleaning of the outside and inside surfaces of the stained glass windows; the Cathedral will remain open during the renovations and work will pause during Masses, according to the Cathedral's rector, Monsignor Robert Ritchie. My interpretation of this magnificent building has in some ways depicted a completed restoration project.

2 Grand Central Terminal



From St Patrick's, we walked down 5th Avenue in search of GrandCentral Terminal.

This was actually located at a reassuringly close distance from our hotel – The Roosevelt, and if ever a hotel could present itself as “all mouth and no trousers”, this one surely did. Its magnificent reception area complete with plush carpets, chandeliers and uniformed bell hops and was sharply contrasted by dingy hallways and tiny bedrooms. We also had the luxury of six hangers to share between two people, each with 10 days’ worth of clothes. Nestled immediately beneath the window was the two stage air conditioning unit; two stage because it would either run hot or cold

and little else. But, since luxury was not of the essence, we demonstrated the British stiff upper lip and put up with it!

Returning to Grand Central Terminal, (never refer to this as a Station in New York), the inside of the building is perhaps more recognisable than the outside. The immense caverns of splendour with its archways leading to various tracks adds to the overall power of the structure.

There were several possibilities for the image including the outside of the building including the ornate carved statues, and the imposing romanticised clock.

Many native New Yorkers or movie buffs have probably heard the famous phrase “**meet me under the clock**”; in New York this phrase refers to The **Grand Central Clock**, adorning the top of Grand Central Terminal’s information booth located in the main concourse area.

Also called “The **Grand Central Terminal Clock**“, this magnificent structure has starred in several movies throughout Hollywood history. Created by the famous New York clock crafting company known as **Seth Thomas**, the **Grand Central Terminal Clock** is valued between 10 and 20 million dollars

It has also been used as the setting for marriage proposals, a background for artistic photos and has appeared on numerous postcards. Grand Central Station is home to countless secret passageways, underground private tracks and secret staircases; one of these secret staircases is located directly below the circular information booth where this intriguing clock is situated. The staircase is a spiral-style structure hidden by a secret door and it leads directly to the information area on the lower level.

The first Grand Central Terminal was built in 1871 by shipping and railroad magnate Cornelius Vanderbilt. However, the original Grand Central soon became obsolete when steam locomotives were banned after a catastrophic train collision in 1902 that killed 17 and injured 38. Within months, plans were underway to demolish the existing station and build a new terminal for electric trains.

The new Grand Central Terminal officially opened on February 2, 1913. More than 150,000 people turned out to celebrate opening day. The beautiful Beaux Arts building with its massive marble staircase, 75-foot windows and star-studded ceiling was an immediate hit. I eventually selected a close up view of the statues mounted on top of the front (southerly aspect) of the building.

3 New York Public Library



A walk in a westerly direction down East 42nd Street took us to 5th Avenue where the Public Library is located. For anyone, who has seen the film, "The day after tomorrow", the library is a central scene for the film and was sanctuary for a number of survivors.

This was the first of three visits to this location which was the symptom displayed on many occasions during the 10 days of being a perfectionist, much to the disgust of the bag carrying companion.

I eventually decided on the front façade, having purchased (and incidentally been ripped off!) a new zoom lens for the task.

This is the building that most people identify as the New York Public Library, but it is actually the Humanities and Social Sciences Library, one five research libraries and 81 branch libraries making

up the New York Public Library system.

The New York Public Library was created in 1895 by combining the collections of the Astor and Lenox Libraries, that were experiencing financial difficulties, with the \$2.4 million trust from Samuel J. Tilden given to "establish and maintain a free library and reading room in the city of New York."

Built on the site of the Croton Reservoir, this Beaux-Arts landmark was the largest marble building built in the United States when it first opened. It was designed by Carrère and Hastings.

Sixteen years later, on May 23, 1911 President William Howard Taft, Governor John Alden Dix and Mayor William J. Gaynor dedicated the Library and it opened to the public the next day.

4 Times Square



We continued down 42nd Street, which for interest turns from east to west once you cross 5th Avenue and headed towards Times Square.

At this stage, our lungs were bursting (well almost) and another coffee beckoned.

After a short break, we walked around Times Square to gather our bearings and take in the hustle and bustle, which, although busiest after dark was still brimming with activity. The buildings were alive with illuminated billboards which these days seem to focus on all things electrical.

Times Square is a major commercial intersection in Midtown Manhattan, at the junction of Broadway and Seventh Avenue and stretching from West 42nd to West 47th Streets. Times Square, iconified as "The Crossroads of the World" and the "The Great White Way", is one of the world's busiest pedestrian intersections, and a major centre of the world's entertainment industry. According to Travel + Leisure magazine's October 2011 survey, Times Square is the world's most visited tourist attraction, bringing in over 39 million visitors annually.

Formerly named Longacre Square, Times Square was renamed in April 1904 after The New York Times moved its headquarters to the newly erected Times Building, which is now called One Times Square and is the site of the annual ball drop on New Year's Eve.

The northern triangle of Times Square is technically Duffy Square, dedicated in 1937 to Chaplain Francis P. Duffy of New York City's "Fighting 69th" Infantry Regiment; a memorial to Duffy is located there, along with a statue of George M. Cohan, and the TKTS discount theatre tickets booth. The stepped red roof of the TKTS booth also provides seating for various events. The Duffy Statue and the square were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2001.

5 Broadway



This was our first visit to Broadway which surprisingly presented a challenge for capturing a suitable image. Broadway runs the whole length of Manhattan but it was felt that where it intersects with Times Square would be of most interest.

It is the oldest north–south main thoroughfare in the city, dating to the first New Amsterdam settlement. The name Broadway is the English literal translation of the Dutch name, Breede weg. A stretch of Broadway is famous as the heart of the American theatre industry.

Broadway was originally the Wickquasgeck Trail, carved into the brush destination of Manhattan by its Native American inhabitants. This trail originally snaked through swamps and rocks along the length of Manhattan Island. Upon the arrival of the Dutch, the trail soon became the main road through the island from *Nieuw Amsterdam* at the southern tip. The Dutch explorer and entrepreneur David de Vries gives the first mention of it in his journal for the year 1642 ("the Wickquasgeck Road over which the Indians passed daily"). The Dutch named the road "*Heerestraat*". In the mid-eighteenth century, part of Broadway in what is now lower Manhattan was known as *Great George Street*. In the 18th century, Broadway ended at the town commons north of Wall Street, where Eastern Post Road continued through the East Side and Bloomingdale Road the west side of the island. In the late 19th century the widened and paved part of Bloomingdale Road north of Columbus Circle was called "The Boulevard" but on February 14, 1899 the name "Broadway" was extended to the whole old road.

6 Pennsylvania Station



For anyone in search of a Station, this one certainly challenges the imagination as the only evidence of its existence are the exits and entrances as the whole station is underground. This station is commonly known as Penn Station.

The station opened September 8, 1910 for Long Island Rail Road trains via the new tunnel under the East River. Pennsylvania Railroad trains began using it November 27, supplementing and eventually replacing the old New York City-area terminal across the Hudson River at Exchange Place in Jersey City. The name was adopted by the PRR on March 1, 1909. The opening of the Hell Gate Bridge on April 1, 1917 brought New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad intercity trains into Penn Station. The station now lies along Amtrak's

Northeast Corridor and Empire Corridor, and also serves New Jersey Transit and Long Island Rail Road commuter trains.

Eventually an image of the Pennsylvania signage, escalator and passengers was chosen since this is probably the only way to demonstrate its existence and the buzz that goes with it.

7 Washington Square Park



Armed with our freshly procured 7 day metro pass, we made our virgin subway journey. I have to say, I felt insecure on the New York Subway as I couldn't see any decent signs of where I was, or where I was going to! This was further compounded by the simple fact that once you go underground, your sense of direction which stands you in good stead whilst walking, has been miraculously removed so that when you do eventually see the light of day at your desired stop, you haven't got a clue which way to walk!

The additional, challenge for some is what direction to take, either uptown or downtown..... In the words of Billy Joel, I tended towards being more of an "uptown girl".

With only one false start, we found that Washing Square Park, along with its familiar arch would be the perfect place to have my photograph taken. In best "where's Wally tradition", you now have to find me.

Washington Square Park is one of the best-known of New York City's 1,900 public parks. At 9.75 acres (39,500 m²), it is a landmark in the Manhattan neighbourhood of Greenwich Village, as well as a meeting place and centre for cultural activity. It is operated by the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation.

An open space with a tradition of nonconformity, the park's fountain area has long been one of the city's popular spots for residents and tourists. Most of the buildings surrounding the park now belong to New York University, but many have at one time served as homes and studios for artists. Some of the buildings have been built by NYU, others have been converted from their former uses into academic and residential buildings.

And so day 1 ended with a second subway ride to Grand Central.

DAY 2

Weather fair, layers 3.

Stupid o'clock is becoming a familiar time of day which I seem to share only with the refuse collectors whose clanking and banging must be one of the primary reasons for New York never sleeping.

We were determined to enjoy a somewhat more classy breakfast and sparing no expense, we ventured into Pershing Square (opposite Grand Central Terminal) to enjoy our first experience of an authentic American early morning faire at an authentic New York price.

After subsistence, we hopped onto the subway (not the disgusting sandwich of the same name), and selected downtown as the most appropriate direction exiting at the West 4th Street (Washington Square) Station.

8 Greenwich Village



Whilst Washington Square Park is in Greenwich Village, in order to keep at least some faith with that well known board game, I selected and sought out another suitable location to represent this trendy area.

I identified the Jefferson Market Library as a suitable candidate. This historic building, now a library, was formerly a Court House for women. Jefferson Market Library is a branch of New York City's acclaimed public library system. This unique building became a library in 1967, but prior to that had a long and colourful history.

The Jefferson Market Library, originally a courthouse, was designed in the Victorian Gothic style and was erected between 1875 and 1877 alongside an adjacent prison and market. It cost \$360,000 to build and housed a police court, a civil court, and a basement where prisoners were held before they headed off to jail.

The building was continuously lauded for its unique and splendid architecture and was often touted as one of the most beautiful buildings in the country at the turn of the century.

The courthouse was the site of a number of famous trials, including the murder trial of Harry Thaw, who was accused of killing architect Stanford White. The famous trial, which also involved chorus girl Evelyn Nesbit, became the subject for E.L. Doctorow's novel Ragtime, which was eventually turned into an award-winning Broadway musical.

After decades of hosting a number of other sensational cases, the Jefferson Market Library ceased being a courthouse in 1945 and became New York City's Police Academy. The building closed its doors in 1958, reopening as a library in 1967.

9 Chinatown



A further subway journey took us to the wrong Canal Street Station which meant more of a walk than we would have ideally wanted. . It was extremely busy in Canal Street, with hundreds of Chinese people, and the archetypal Chinese traders offering “Rolex” watches and other familiarly branded goods.

Manhattan's Chinatown (simplified Chinese: 纽约华埠; traditional Chinese: 紐約華埠), home to

the largest enclave of Chinese people in the Western hemisphere, is located in the borough of Manhattan in New York City. Manhattan's Chinatown is one of the oldest ethnic Chinese enclaves outside of Asia. Only \$14 the worse off after our meal, I thought the best person to ask where **exactly** the centre of Chinatown was, would be the Chinese restaurateur, who directed us to Mott Street.

Mott Street existed in its current configuration by the mid-18th century. At that time, Mott Street passed just to the east of the Collect Pond. Like many streets that predated Manhattan's grid, Mott Street meandered around natural features of the landscape rather than running through or over them. It was the need to avoid the now long since paved over Collect Pond that gave Mott Street its characteristic "bend" to the northeast at Pell Street.

Having been previously known as Old Street, as well as Winne Street (also spelled Wynne) for the section between Pell and Bleecker, Mott Street was renamed in the late 18th century to honor the prominent local family of the same name, likely in particular businessman Joseph Mott, a butcher and tavern owner who provided support to the rebel forces in the American Revolution.

During the 19th century the lower portion of Mott Street south of Canal Street was part of the Five Points, a notorious slum neighbourhood in New York City. In 1872 Wo Kee, a Chinese merchant opened a general store on Mott Street near Pell Street. In the years to follow, Chinese immigrants would carve out an enclave around the intersection of Mott, Doyer and Pell Streets. At the time, it was the Cantonese immigrants migrating and it first began as a very small Bachelor's Society since it was mostly Chinese males migrating over at the time. It was mostly Cantonese immigrants coming from Taishan, China so as a result it was first a Taishanese community. That all changed during the 1960s when an influx of other Cantonese immigrants from Hong Kong began to arrive over with some Taiwanese immigrants as well. As a result, Chinatown began expanding quickly and Standard Cantonese, which is spoken in Guangzhou, China and in Hong Kong became the dominant

language of the Chinatown neighbourhood. At the time, Chinatown was emerging and growing as a Little Hong Kong, but the growth slowed down later on. Manhattan's Chinatown has grown into the largest Chinatown in the United States, engulfing a large swath of the Lower East Side. But the historic heart of Chinatown, as well as the primary destination for tourists is still Mott Street between Canal Street and Chatham Square. This is the centre of what is known as the Old Chinatown of Manhattan.

This area was fascinating enough to warrant an hour of thorough exploration, which culminated in a walk through Columbus Park. Please go here if you are a tourist visiting New York. It's a beautiful little respite from the hustle and bustle of NYC. Relaxing. If you are non-Asian (which I am) you will see that you are in a serious minority. If you are under the age of say, 80 (which I also am) you again will feel in the minority. The crowd seemed to be mainly elderly Asian people playing cards and maybe Mah Jong. Also a group of Asian musicians playing some lovely traditional music on instruments I am too ignorant to recognize.

10 New York County Court House (Go to jail)



This was not in my original plan, but provided an impressive culmination of my first day's efforts. When I say this was not in my original plan, I am referring to Day 1 but this crept into the schedule as a happy accident. Added to this was my absolute joy in seeing a newly married couple posing for photographs on the steps outside the Court House! If you use a magnifying glass, you might see them! They are in the middle ground, but you can't have everything.....

The granite-faced hexagonal building, at 60 Centre Street, was designed by Guy Lowell of Boston in classical Roman style and opened in 1927. A broad set of steps sweeps up from Foley Square to a massive Corinthian colonnade covering most of the front of the courthouse, topped by an elaborate 140-foot-long (43 m) triangular pediment of thirteen figures carved in bas relief from granite. The pediment and acroteria by Frederick Warren Allen include three statues: Law, Truth and Equity. A frieze bears the inscription "The True Administration of Justice is the Firmest Pillar of Good Government", a 1789 quotation attributed to George Washington. Its mass and scale give the building the appearance of a temple. It replaced the former New York County Courthouse on Chambers Street, popularly known as the Tweed Courthouse.

The rotunda contains the oft-reproduced and recently restored mural Law Through the Ages. Attilio Pusterla painted a number of murals in the rotunda in the 1930s under sponsorship from the Federal Art Project. The mural is divided into six sections, each depicting a pair of figures from historical cultures important to the history of law: Assyrian

and Egyptian, Hebraic and Persian, Greek and Roman, Byzantine and Frankish, English and early colonial, with the final section portraying George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. Above the seated figures are portraits of six lawgivers: Hammurabi, Moses, Solon, Justinian, Blackstone and John Marshall.

The courthouse was designated a New York City Landmark in 1966

On the basis that Chinatown had proven to be a particularly challenging image to capture an executive decision was taken and an afternoon of R & R was granted. MACY'S!

DAY 3

Weather still fair, layers still 3.

Having blown the budget on yesterday's classy breakfast the depths of Grand Central beckoned for a more economic and plastic fork type approach to the first meal of the day!

After subsistence, the order of the day was a downtown direction exiting at the City Hall/Brooklyn Bridge Station.

11 Municipal Building (tax)



Once again, any sense of direction had been cruelly taken from me on the subway. As I emerged from the station, I had no idea where I might find the Municipal Building. Thankfully, I stopped short of asking someone, since the Station was directly under the building which revealed itself once I crossed Centre Street.

The Manhattan Municipal Building, at 1 Centre is a 40-story building built to accommodate increased governmental space demands after the 1898 consolidation of the city's five boroughs. Construction began

in 1907 and ended in 1914, marking the end of the City Beautiful movement in New York. William M. Kendall of the noted architectural firm McKim, Mead and White designed the building, which was the first to incorporate a New York City Subway station into its base. Enormously influential in the civic construction of other American cities, its application of Beaux-Arts architecture served as the prototype for the Terminal Tower in Cleveland, and the Wrigley Building in Chicago, in addition to the Seven Sisters of Stalin-era Soviet architecture.

Located at the intersection of Chambers Street and Centre Street, the Municipal Building, which stands 580 feet (177 m) tall, is one of the largest governmental buildings in the world. It houses thirteen municipal agencies of New York City, and until 2009, when the Manhattan Marriage Bureau moved to another city building at 80 Centre Street, 18,000 people were

married in its second floor chapel each year. There are 25 floors of work space served by 33 elevators, with an additional 15 stories in the tower.

The building was designated a New York City landmark in 1966, and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1972.

12 City Hall (community chest)



City Hall is located opposite the Municipal Building. In line with many historic buildings, this one was apparently undergoing some considerable restoration which presents its own challenges when trying to take a decent Photograph, I asked myself why they would do this, when I need a shot. Don't they know who I am (at least that is what I would like to think)?

Thankfully we were still in winter, otherwise the trees would have their own contribution to increasing the degree of difficulty in terms of manipulating the image.

New York City Hall is located at the centre of City Hall Park in the Civic Centre area of Lower Manhattan, between Broadway, Park Row, and Chambers Street. The building is the oldest City Hall in the United States that still houses its original governmental functions, such as the office of the Mayor of New York City and the chambers of the New York City Council. While the Mayor's Office is in the building, the staff of thirteen municipal agencies under mayoral control are located in the nearby Manhattan Municipal Building.

Constructed from 1810 to 1812, New York City Hall is a National Historic Landmark and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Both its exterior (1966) and interior (1976) are designated New York City landmarks.

History

New York's first City Hall was built by the Dutch in the 17th century near 73 Pearl Street. The city's second City Hall, built in 1700, stood on Wall and Nassau Streets. That building was renamed Federal Hall after New York became the first official capital of the United States after the Revolutionary War. Plans for building a new City Hall were discussed by the New York City Council as early as 1776, but the financial strains of the war delayed progress. The Council chose a site at the old Common at the northern limits of the City, now City Hall Park.

In 1802 the City held a competition for a new City Hall. The first prize of \$350 was awarded to Joseph Francois Mangin and John McComb, Jr. Mangin, who was the principal designer, studied architecture in his native France before becoming a New York City surveyor in 1795

and publishing an official map of the city in 1803. Mangin was also the architect of the landmark St. Patrick's Old Cathedral on Mulberry Street. McComb, whose father had worked on the old City Hall, was a New Yorker and designed Castle Clinton in Battery Park. He would supervise the construction of the building, and designed the architectural detailing as well.

Construction of the new City Hall was delayed after the City Council objected that the design was too extravagant. In response, McComb and Mangin reduced the size of the building and used brownstone at the rear of the building to lower costs; the brownstone, along with the original deteriorated Massachusetts marble facade, quarried from Alford, Massachusetts, was replaced with Alabama limestone in 1954 to 1956. Labor disputes and an outbreak of yellow fever further slowed construction. The building was not dedicated until 1811, and opened officially in 1812.

The building's Governor's Room hosted President-elect Abraham Lincoln in 1861, and his coffin was placed on the staircase landing across the rotunda when he lay in state in 1865 after his assassination. Ulysses S. Grant also lay in state beneath the soaring rotunda dome as did Colonel Elmer Ephraim Ellsworth, first Union officer killed in the Civil War and commander of the 11th New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment (First Fire Zouaves). The Governor's Room, which is used for official receptions, also houses one of the most important collections of 19th century American portraiture and notable artefacts such as George Washington's desk. There are 108 paintings from the late 18th century through the 20th. The New York Times declared it "almost unrivalled as an ensemble, with several masterpieces." Among the collection is John Trumbull's 1805 portrait of Alexander Hamilton, the source of the face on the United States ten-dollar bill. There were significant efforts to restore the paintings in the 1920s and 1940s. In 2006 a new

The restoration campaign began for 47 paintings identified by the Art Commission as highest in priority.

On July 23, 2003 at 2:08 p.m., City Hall was the scene of a rare political assassination. Othniel Askew, a political rival of City Councilman James E. Davis, opened fire with a pistol from the balcony of the City Council chamber. Askew shot Davis twice, fatally wounding him. A police officer on the floor of the chamber then fatally shot Askew. Askew and Davis had entered the building together without passing through a metal detector, a courtesy extended to elected officials and their guests. As a result of the security breach Mayor Michael Bloomberg revised security policy to require that everyone entering the building pass through metal detectors without exception.

13 Canal Street Correctional Facility (Jail)



This building was unremarkable, unmarked and obviously trying to remain anonymous. It was fortuitous that a prisoner transport vehicle was parked outside.

The Metropolitan Correctional Centre, New York City (MCC New York) is a Federal Bureau of Prisons remand centre in downtown Manhattan in New York City, located on Park Row behind the Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse at Foley Square.

MCC New York is an administrative facility designed to house federal prisoners of all security levels, including both male and female offenders appearing before the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. It currently houses 750 inmates.

14 Federal Reserve Bank of New York (Go)



In search of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, I entered the renowned financial district for the first time. Fortunately, this building has been conveniently located opposite Starbucks which was at this stage a welcome respite from the gruelling walk and freezing cold of Valentine's day. It was only about 11.30 am and I was already tired. (Note to self – join gym on return to UK).

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York is one of the 12 Federal Reserve Banks of the United States. It is located at 33

Liberty Street, New York, NY. It is responsible for the Second District of the Federal Reserve System, which encompasses New York State, the 12 northern counties of New Jersey, Fairfield County in Connecticut, Puerto Rico, and the U. S. Virgin Islands. Working within the Federal Reserve System, the New York Federal Reserve Bank implements monetary policy, supervises and regulates financial institutions and helps maintain the nation's payment systems.

Among the other regional banks, New York Federal Reserve Bank and its president are considered first among equals. Its current president is William C. Dudley. It is by far the largest (by assets), most active (by volume) and most influential of the 12 regional Federal Reserve Banks.

33 Liberty Street

A public competition for design of the building was held and the architectural firm of York and Sawyer submitted the winning design. The bank moved to its current location in 1924. The Federal Reserve Bank of New York maintains a vault that lies 80 feet (24 m) below street level and 50 feet (15 m) below sea level, resting on Manhattan bedrock. By 1927, the vault contained 10% of the world's official gold reserves. Currently, it is reputedly the largest gold repository in the world (though this cannot be confirmed as Swiss banks do not report their gold stocks) and holds approximately 7,000 tonnes (7,700 short tons) of gold bullion (\$415 billion as of October 2011), more than Fort Knox. Nearly 98% of the gold at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York is owned by the central banks of foreign nations. The rest is owned by the United States and international organisations such as the IMF. The Federal Reserve Bank does not own the gold but serves as guardian of the precious metal, which it stores at no charge to the owners, but charging a \$1.75 fee (in 2008) per bar to move the gold. Moving the bars requires special footwear for the staff, to protect their feet in the case that they drop a 28 pound bar on their feet. The vault is open to tourists.

15 New York Stock Exchange (Chance)



Once again the classic photographers challenge - large building, narrow street and an unwelcome vehicle parked in front! ! However, the large business man in the right hand corner, seemed not only to balance the foreground, but an analogy of the Stock Exchange sentiment.

History

The origin of the NYSE can be traced to May 17, 1792, when the Buttonwood Agreement was signed by 24 stockbrokers outside of 68 Wall Street in New York under a buttonwood tree on Wall Street. On March 8, 1817, the organisation drafted a constitution and renamed itself the "New York Stock & Exchange Board."

Anthony Stockholm was elected the Exchange's first president.

The first central location of the Exchange was a room, rented in 1792 for \$200 a month, located at 40 Wall Street. After that location was destroyed in the Great Fire of New York in 1835, the Exchange moved to a temporary headquarters. In 1863, the New York Stock & Exchange Board changed to its current name, the New York Stock Exchange. In 1865, the Exchange moved to 10–12 Broad Street.

The volume of stocks traded increased sixfold in the years between 1896 and 1901, and a larger space was required to conduct business in the expanding marketplace. Eight New York City architects were invited to participate in a design competition for a new building; ultimately, the Exchange selected the neoclassic design submitted by architect George B. Post. Demolition of the Exchange building at 10 Broad Street, and adjacent buildings, started on May 10, 1901.

The new building, located at 18 Broad Street, cost \$4 million and opened on April 22, 1903. The trading floor, at 109 × 140 feet (33 × 42.5 m), was one of the largest volumes of space in the city at the time, and had a skylight set into a 72-foot (22 m)-high ceiling. The main façade of the building features six tall columns with Corinthian capitals, topped by a marble pediment containing high-relief sculptures by John Quincy Adams Ward with the collaboration of Paul Wayland Bartlett, carved by the Piccirilli Brothers, representing Integrity Protecting the Works of Man. The building was listed as a National Historic Landmark and added to the National Register of Historic Places on June 2, 1978.

In 1922, a building for offices, designed by Trowbridge & Livingston, was added at 11 Wall Street, as well as a new trading floor called the Garage. Additional trading floor space was added in 1969 the Blue Room, and in 1988 the EBR or Extended Blue Room, with the latest technology for information display and communication. Yet another trading floor was opened at 30 Broad Street called the Bond Room in 2000. As the NYSE introduced its hybrid market, a greater proportion of trading came to be executed electronically, and due to the resulting reduction in demand for trading floor space, the NYSE decided to close the 30 Broad Street trading room in early 2006. As the adoption of electronic trading continued to reduce the number of traders and employees on the floor, in late 2007, the NYSE closed the rooms created by the 1969 and 1988 expansions.

16 Wall Street



A short walk around the corner took us into the guts of Wall Street. In the cold light of day this is a narrow, traffic free, light starved street in the heart of the financial district. Getting the right image to work from wasn't easy!

Wall Street is an eight-block-long street running from Broadway to South Street on the East River in Lower Manhattan. Over time, the term has become a metonym for the financial markets of the United States as a whole, or signifying New York-based financial interests. It is the home of the New York Stock Exchange, the world's largest stock exchange by market capitalisation of its listed companies. Several other major exchanges have or had headquarters in the Wall Street area, including NASDAQ, the New York Mercantile Exchange, the New York Board of Trade, and the former American Stock Exchange. Anchored by Wall Street.

No doubt many will wonder why the bronze sculpture of the charging bull hasn't been used in this piece. There are two reasons. The first is because it isn't actually in Wall Street, and the second is because owing to my sense of direction still being left on the subway I couldn't find Bowling Green park where the bull is located. Incidentally, the bull is only on loan from the artist and is not owned by the city. This is because the authorities will not agree to the current location becoming the bull's permanent home.

17 Battery Park



After another coffee from "you know where" and a stroll along Water Street Battery Park could be found nestling alongside the Staten Island Ferry terminal building.

Battery Park is a 25-acre (10 hectare) public park located at the Battery, the southern tip of Manhattan Island in New York City, facing New York Harbour. The Battery is named after artillery batteries that were positioned there in the city's early years in order to protect the settlement behind them. At the north end of the park is Castle Clinton, the often re-purposed last remnant of the defensive works that inspired the name of the park;

Pier A, formerly a fireboat station; and Hope Garden, a memorial to AIDS victims. At the other end is Battery Gardens

restaurant, next to the United States Coast Guard Battery Building. Along the waterfront, ferries depart for the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, and there is also a New York Water Taxi stop. The park is also the site of the East Coast Memorial which commemorates U.S. servicemen who died in coastal waters of the western Atlantic Ocean during World War II, and several other memorials.

To the northwest of the park lies Battery Park City, a planned community built on landfill in the 1970s and 80s, which includes Robert F. Wagner Park and the Battery Park City Promenade. Together with Hudson River Park, a system of green spaces, bikeways and promenades now extend up the Hudson shoreline. A bikeway might be built through the park that will connect the Hudson River and East River parts of the Manhattan Waterfront Greenway. Across State Street to the northeast stands the old U.S. Customs House, now used as a branch of the National Museum of the American Indian and the district U.S. Bankruptcy Court. Peter Minuit Plaza abuts the southeast end of the park, directly in front of the South Ferry Terminal of the Staten Island Ferry.

The primary object in the Battery Park Image is the sphere which was recovered from the rubble of the 9/11 attacks.

The Sphere is a large metallic sculpture by German sculptor Fritz Koenig, currently displayed in Battery Park, New York City, that once stood in the middle of Austin J. Tobin Plaza, the area between the World Trade Centre towers in Manhattan. After being recovered from the rubble of the Twin Towers after the September 11, 2001, attacks, the artwork faced an uncertain fate, and it was dismantled into its components. Although it remained structurally intact, it had been visibly damaged by debris from the airliners that were crashed into the buildings and from the collapsing skyscrapers themselves.

Six months after the attacks, following a documentary film about the sculpture, it was relocated to Battery Park on a temporary basis—without any repairs—and formally rededicated with an eternal flame as a memorial to the victims of 9/11. It has become a major tourist attraction, due partly to the fact that it survived the attacks with only dents and holes.

Since my visit it has been announced that the sphere will be moved from the park by 30th April 2012. I'm glad that I captured it prior to its removal. At the time of writing its final destination is unknown.

Here endeth day 3, a little footsore, a little cold, and very hungry!

Day 4

Weather improving, layers - still 3.

The day started again with a very early breakfast in the bowels of Grand Central Terminal. Over breakfast, the plan for the day was finessed before heading South again towards the financial district.

18 Verizon (phone company)



Crossing footbridges, braving very wide roads where your imminent demise gets a countdown - I think the hidden message there is run or be flattened - and illogical numbering of buildings made this a difficult site to find. I of course tried to blame the BCC (bag carrying companion) whose primary interest at this stage was to try to count the number of completed floors in the new World Trade Centre construction.

We walked up West Street and down West Street, but we didn't have cause to celebrate until we took the trouble to look across West Street. There she was.

The Verizon Building is a magnificent 32-story Art Deco building in New York City, located in Lower Manhattan. It is named for Verizon Communications, for which it is the headquarters. The building is located at 140 West Street,

adjacent to the World Trade Centre site and 7 World Trade Centre, and is bounded by Barclay, Washington, and Vesey Streets. The building experienced major damage in the September 11, 2001 attacks. Its thick masonry exterior and use of masonry to protect steel columns and structural elements helped the building withstand the attacks. Restoration of the building after the attacks took three years, at a cost of \$1.4 billion.

The building was designed by Ralph Walker of McKenzie, Voorhees & Gmelin Architects, and constructed in 1926. It is 498 ft (152 m) tall and 32 stories. Construction was completed in 1927, and the building was known at that time as the Barclay-Vesey Building. It served as the headquarters for the New York Telephone Company. When NYNEX was formed as a result of the breakup of the original AT&T, the building became NYNEX's headquarters. It became the headquarters of Bell Atlantic following Bell Atlantic's merger with NYNEX, and was retained as Verizon's headquarters after Verizon was formed from the merger of Bell Atlantic and GTE.

Architects and historians widely consider the Verizon Building as the first art-deco skyscraper. It was among the first skyscrapers designed under the 1916 Zoning Resolution,

using the step back principle which became a key element of art deco design. The interior of the building includes 1,200,000 sq ft (110,000 m²). The lobby features marble walls and other ornate decor, including ceiling murals that depict how human communication has progressed, from Aztec runners to the telephone. Walker was inspired by Maya architecture in designing the facade. Exterior ornamentation includes complex foliage, along with babies and animal heads as part of the design, and a bell (symbol of the telephone company) above the door.

The Verizon Building has five sub-basement levels, which house communications equipment. The building remained in use by Verizon as a main telecommunications switching centre in Lower Manhattan, handling approximately 200,000 phone lines and 3.6 million data circuits prior to 9/11.

19 Brooklyn Bridge



For our second shot of the day the BCC persuaded me that the Brooklyn Bridge was in close proximity (it wasn't to me!) and that it was a fairly short walk - "3 or 4 hundred yards" was quoted, to get across. Despite being pretty tired (in truth totally knackered) we set off. Earlier steps were retraced and we walked past City Hall and the Municipal Building to get to the bridge. Even at this stage and even to a dizzy artist, the walk looked longer than the estimate provided. I certainly wasn't undaunted at this stage so had to set off in daunted style instead. For the uninitiated this involved continual challenging of the estimated distance and checking that there was somewhere to sit en route.

The Brooklyn Bridge is one of the oldest suspension bridges in the United States. Completed in 1883, it connects the New York City boroughs of Manhattan and Brooklyn by spanning the East River. With a main span of 1,595.5 feet (486.3 m), it was the longest suspension bridge in the world from its opening until 1903, and the first steel-wire suspension bridge.

Originally referred to as the New York and Brooklyn Bridge and as the East River Bridge, it was dubbed the Brooklyn Bridge, a name from an earlier January 25, 1867 letter to the editor of the Brooklyn Daily Eagle, and formally so named by the city government in 1915. Since its opening, it has become an icon of New York City, and was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1964 and a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark in 1972.

Once across the bridge, a further "short" walk would reveal the iconic views back across East River towards lower Manhattan. Continuing the walk would take us to the Brooklyn Ice Cream Factory, which was conveniently located at a River Taxi stop. Two vanilla cones and a river ride back to 42nd Street was the order of the day. Before heading North towards Bronx.

20 Yankee Stadium (Bronx)



Much to my surprise and absolute delight of my aching limbs, the subway stop named Yankee Stadium was indeed right outside of Yankee Stadium.

Yankee Stadium was the home ballpark of the New York Yankees from 1923 to 1973 and from 1976 to 2008. The stadium hosted 6,581 Yankees regular season home games during its 85-year history. It was also the former home of the New York Giants football team. The stadium's nickname, "The House That Ruth Built", is derived from Babe Ruth, the iconic baseball superstar whose prime years coincided with the stadium's opening and the beginning of the Yankees' winning history.

The venue was constructed for \$2.4 million dollars (equal to \$32,737,500 today) between 1922–1923 specifically for the Yankees, who had been sharing the Polo Grounds with the New York Giants baseball team for 10 years. Yankee Stadium opened in 1923, and at the time, it was hailed as a one-of-a-kind facility in the country for its size. Over the course of its history, it became one of the most famous venues in the United States, having hosted a variety of events and historic moments during its existence. While many of these moments were baseball-related—including World Series games, no-hitters, perfect games, and historic home runs—the stadium also hosted boxing matches, concerts, Jehovah's Witness Conventions (see record attendance) and three Papal Masses. The stadium went through many alterations and playing surface configurations over the years. The condition of the facility worsened in the 1960s and 1970s, prompting its closing for renovation from 1974–1975. The renovation significantly altered the appearance of the venue and reduced the distance of the outfield fences.

In 2006, the Yankees began building a new \$2.3 billion stadium in public parkland adjacent to the stadium. Many of the iconic features of the original stadium, such as the frieze and Monument Park, were incorporated into the design of the new venue. Yankee Stadium closed following the 2008 baseball season, and the new stadium opened in 2009, adopting the "Yankee Stadium" moniker. The original facility was not demolished until 2010, nearly two years after it closed. It is being converted into parkland. The name of the park is Heritage Field.

21 JFK Airport



A subway ride back to 51st street a quick change to the E line and JFK beckoned. we had to make one more change to catch the AirTrain, but this would take us to whichever terminal suited. Terminal 1 was chosen.

At this stage I discovered two important facts. Firstly there are no defining features which might distinguish the site as JFK, and secondly, the Americans do not like anyone taking photographs of their airports. At one stage I was warned that I could be arrested and would certainly have my prized Canon confiscated. That's a bit worrying when the person issuing the warning is also armed!

John F. Kennedy International Airport was originally known as Idlewild Airport after the Idlewild Golf Course that it displaced. The airport was originally envisioned as a reliever for LaGuardia Airport, which had insufficient capacity in the late 1930s. Construction began in 1943 by local firms such as the Edenwald Group headed by the late Charles Follini Sr., a decorated former FDNY fireman; about \$60 million was initially spent, but only 1,000 acres (400 ha) of land on the site of the Idlewild golf course were earmarked for use.

The project was renamed Major General Alexander E. Anderson Airport in 1943 after a Queens resident who had commanded a Federalized National Guard unit in the southern United States and who had died in late 1942. In March 1948 the New York City Council again changed the name to New York International Airport, Anderson Field, but the airport was commonly known as "Idlewild" until 1963.

The Port Authority leased the airport property from the City of New York in 1947 and maintains this lease as of the late 2000s. The first commercial flight at the airport was on July 1, 1948; the opening ceremony was attended by President Harry Truman. The Port Authority cancelled foreign airlines' permits to use LaGuardia, effectively forcing them to move to the new airport during the next couple of years.

The airport opened with six runways and a seventh under construction; runways 1L and 7L were held in reserve and never came into use as runways. Runway 31R (originally 8,000 ft/2,438 m) is still in use; runway 31L (originally 9,500 ft/2,896 m) opened soon after the rest of the airport and is still in use; runway 1R closed in the 1950s and runway 7R closed around 1966. Runway 4 (originally 8,000 ft, now runway 4L) opened June 1949 and runway 4R was added ten years later.

The airport was renamed John F. Kennedy International Airport on December 24, 1963, one month after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

22 Aquaduct Racetrack (Chance)



Bearing in mind the close proximity of the racetrack to the airport it should not have been difficult to get there. It was. In his infinite wisdom the BCC suggested that a bus was the best option and this works also make best use of our travel card. It was cold and the bus driver was on a break. Eventually the doors opened. I wasn't too sure how to use my card, so when the driver asked me to it the card into a slot I point blank refused, explaining that it was a week long pass. I hadn't realised that the card would be returned to me once the machine has read it. Anyway we eventually set off on what turned out to be the wrong bus. It passed very close to the racetrack but not close enough! We had to get off, cross the road and get the next one back to the airport.

At this stage the only answer to the cold, wet and fatigue was a good old NY taxi. 10 minutes later the racetrack was

being photographed.

Operating near the site of a former conduit of the Brooklyn Water Works that brought water from Long Island to the Ridgewood Reservoir, Aquaduct Racetrack opened on September 27, 1894 by the Queens County Jockey Club. The facility was expanded and a new clubhouse was constructed before the 1941 summer meet. In 1955, the Greater New York Association took over Aquaduct along with Belmont Park, Saratoga Race Course, and Jamaica Racetrack, deciding to make major upgrades to Aquaduct, after which Jamaica Racetrack would be sold for redevelopment as a housing project. Aquaduct closed in 1956, reopening September 14, 1959 after \$33 million of renovations designed by noted racetrack architect Arthur Froehlich of the firm Arthur Froehlich and Associates of Beverly Hills, California. The Equestrian Restaurant in the clubhouse opened in 1981 and was the largest restaurant in New York City at the time. Additional renovations were made in 2001, 2006, and 2007.

Before 1976, the Inner Dirt Track was a turf course and was known as the Main Turf Course, with the present turf course being the Inner Turf Course; following the conclusion of racing in 1975 the grass on the Main Turf Course was uprooted and the Inner Dirt Track took its place to permit year-round racing. (In the years after Aquaduct was rebuilt in 1959 the track lay idle from early November until April 1; by 1971 this period had been reduced to from just before Christmas until March 1, around when off-track betting began in New York City, creating a demand for horse racing to be contested in the region year-round.)

23 Resorts World Casino (Chance)



Pre journey research was indicating that it would be difficult to find suitable sites which would represent the squares of chance in this project. To the best of our findings gambling was not legalised in the state of New York.

The discovery of the Resorts World Casino was a very happy accident. The Casino only opened in November 2011 but was an immediate success. The takings during the first 10 days were \$178m. As well as providing income for the state and some local organisations, the casino provides employment for almost 1500 New Yorkers.

24 La Guardia Airport



On the basis that La Guardia appeared to be a good distance from JFK on the map, a taxi ride was perceived to be the expensive option to get between the two. To our surprise and delight it wasn't, so we did!

It took just 15 minutes for the journey. Still very fresh in my mind was the JFK über-security experience, so with the help of the taxi driver a suitable location was selected which was not only a good photograph, but also was unmistakably of the airport.

LaGuardia is an airport located in the northern part of the New York City borough of Queens. The airport is located on the waterfront of Flushing Bay and Bowery Bay, and borders the neighbourhoods of Astoria, Jackson Heights

and East Elmhurst.

The New York City metropolitan area's JFK International, LaGuardia, and Newark Liberty International airports combine to create the largest airport system in the United States, second in the world in terms of passenger traffic, and first in the world in terms of total flight operations. In 2011, the airport handled just under 25.0 million passengers; JFK handled 47.4 million and Newark handled 33.9 million, making for a total of approximately 105 million travellers using New York airports.

On July 11, 2012, the airport will become a domestic hub for Delta Air Lines. The airport also serves as a focus city for American Airlines and subsidiary American Eagle.

LaGuardia is the busiest airport in the United States without any non-stop service to and from Europe. A perimeter rule prohibits nonstop flights to or from points beyond 1,500 statute miles (2,400 km). Exceptions to the perimeter rule are flights on Saturdays and flights to Denver. Transcontinental and international flights use Kennedy International or Newark Liberty.

The airport was originally named Glenn H. Curtiss Airport after aviation pioneer Glenn Hammond Curtiss then renamed North Beach Airport, The official name after New York City's takeover and reconstruction was New York Municipal Airport-LaGuardia Field then in 1953 named solely "LaGuardia Airport" for Fiorello La Guardia, the mayor of New York when the airport was built.

25 Queens



The chosen site to represent this borough of New York was the Unisphere in Flushing Meadows

The Unisphere is a 12-story high, spherical stainless steel representation of the Earth. Located in Flushing Meadows – Corona Park in the borough of Queens, New York City, the Unisphere is one of the borough's most iconic and enduring symbols.

Commissioned to celebrate the beginning of the space age, the Unisphere was conceived and constructed as the theme symbol of the 1964–1965 New York World's Fair. The theme of the World's Fair was "Peace Through Understanding" and the Unisphere represented the theme of global interdependence. It was dedicated to "Man's Achievements on a Shrinking Globe in an Expanding Universe".

In the absence of our friendly New York cabby the next objective was to find the subway station to get back to Manhattan.

Day 5

Overcast and cold. Layers 3 with 1 spare.

As the days passed, the sites seemed to get further apart. This was probably magnified since some of the earlier locations needed a revisit.

26 Central Park



There is no better way to start the day than with a walk in Central Park. For those who have not visited this massive green space might be surprised by the variety in terrain, with plenty of challenging gradients for the walkers and joggers and lots of water to enjoy.

The building of Central Park was one of nineteenth-century New York's most massive public works projects. Some 20,000 workers--Yankee engineers, Irish labourers, German gardeners, and native-born stonecutters--reshaped the site's topography to create the pastoral landscape. After blasting out rocky ridges with more gunpowder than was later fired at the Battle of Gettysburg, workers moved nearly 3 million cubic yards of soil and planted more than 270,000 trees and shrubs. The city also built the curvilinear reservoir immediately north of an existing rectangular receiving reservoir. The park first opened for public use in the winter of 1859 when thousands of New Yorkers skated

on lakes constructed on the site of former swamps.

By 1865, the park received more than seven million visitors a year. The city's wealthiest citizens turned out daily for elaborate late-afternoon carriage parades. Indeed, in the park's first decade more than half of its visitors arrived in carriages, costly vehicles that fewer than five percent of the city's residents could afford to own. Middle-class New Yorkers also flocked to the park for winter skating and summer concerts on Saturday afternoons. Stringent rules governing park use--for example, a ban on group picnics--discouraged many German and Irish New Yorkers from visiting the park in its first decade. Small tradesmen were not allowed to use their commercial wagons for family drives in the park, and only school boys with a note from their principal could play ball on the meadows. New Yorkers repeatedly contested these rules, however, and in the last third of the century the park opened up to more democratic use. In the 1880s, working-class New Yorkers successfully campaigned for concerts on Sunday, their only day of rest. Park commissioners gradually permitted other attractions, from the Carousel and goat rides to tennis on the lawns and

bicycling on the drives. The Zoo, first given permanent quarters in 1871, quickly became the park's most popular feature.

In the early twentieth century, with the emergence of immigrant neighbourhoods at the park's borders, attendance reached its all time high. Progressive reformers joined many working-class New Yorkers in advocating the introduction of facilities for active recreation. In 1927, August Heckscher donated the first equipped playground, located on the southeastern meadow. When plans were announced to drain the old rectangular reservoir at the park's centre, Progressives urged that it be replaced by a sports arena, swimming pool, and playing fields. Other New Yorkers, influenced by the City Beautiful movement, proposed introducing a formal civic plaza and promenade that would connect the two museums at the park's east and west borders. Landscape architects and preservationists campaigned against these design innovations, however, and the site of the reservoir was naturalistically landscaped into the Great Lawn. Such debates over modifications of the Greensward Plan and proper uses of a public park have persisted into the present.

In 1934, Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia placed Robert Moses in charge of a new centralised citywide park system. During his twenty-six year regime, Moses introduced many of the facilities advocated by the progressive reformers. With the assistance of federal money during the Depression, Moses built 20 playgrounds on the park's periphery, renovated the Zoo, realigned the drives to accommodate automobiles, added athletic fields to the North Meadow, and expanded recreational programming. In the early 1950s and early 1960s, private benefactors contributed the Wollman Skating Rink, the Lasker Rink and Pool, new boathouses, and the Chess and Checkers house. Moses also introduced permanent ball fields to the Great Lawn for corporate softball and neighbourhood little league teams.

The Brighton Beach Interlude

The intention wasn't to visit Brighton Beach, but once on the subway the map indicated that no changes were required to get there, so Brighton Beach it was. The station is on a raised part of the line above Brighton Beach Avenue, and very close to shore. I can image the hustle and bustle of the summer months, but in the middle of February only the hardest or maddest would venture out along the boardwalk.

27 Little Italy



A shortish ride on the R line would take us to Canal Street, within striking distance of Little Italy. The previous excursion to Chinatown revealed that these two historic neighbourhoods are adjacent to each other, and in some ways they just seem to meld into one, divided only by Canal Street.

Between 1860 and 1880, 68,500 Italians moved to New York. By 1920, 391,000 Italians lived in the city. Hometown loyalties divided Little Italy into regionally-specific neighbourhoods. The Northern Italians settled along Bleeker Street while the Geonese claimed Baxter Street. Those from Western Sicily grouped themselves together along Elizabeth Street.

While only a few thousand Italian-Americans call Little Italy home today, visitors continue to flock to the area to take in a little edible Old World charm.

At no time of the year is this more true than in mid-September during the annual Feast of San Gennaro. More than one million people attend the salute to the patron saint of Naples which comes complete with free music, parades, a Mass, and a candlelit procession, and a cannoli-eating contest, of course.

You're likely to find streets closed to vehicle traffic and a festive atmosphere throughout the warm months particularly on the weekends.

Memorial Day and Fourth of July musical groups and contests liven up the annual Sorrento Cheese Summer in Little Italy. Part of Mulberry Street—from Canal Street to Broome street—is closed on weekends with food vendors lining the street from Memorial Day weekend to Columbus Day weekend.

28 Staten Island



Back to Canal Street station and a brief ride downtown on the R line to South Ferry would bring us out at the Staten Island Ferry Terminal.

The Staten Island Ferry provides 20 million people a year (60,000 passengers a day not including weekend days) with ferry service between St. George on Staten Island and Whitehall Street in lower Manhattan. The ferry is the only non-vehicular mode of transportation between Staten Island and Manhattan. NYC DOT operates and maintains the nine vessel fleet as well as the St. George Ferry Terminal on Staten Island, Whitehall Ferry Terminal in Manhattan, the City Island and Hart Island Facilities, The Battery Maritime Building and all floating dock building equipment. The Staten Island Ferry is run by the City of

New York for one pragmatic reason: To transport Staten Islanders to and from Manhattan. Yet, the 5 mile, 25 minute ride also provides a majestic view of New York Harbour and a no-hassle, even romantic, boat ride, for free! One guide book calls it "One of the world's greatest (and shortest) water voyages." From the deck of the ferry you will have a perfect view of The Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. You'll see the skyscrapers and bridges of Lower Manhattan receding as you pull away and coming into focus again as you return. A typical weekday schedule involves the use of five boats to transport approximately 60,000 passengers daily (109 daily trips). During the day, between rush hours, boats are regularly fuelled and maintenance work is performed. Terminals are cleaned around the clock and routine terminal maintenance is performed on the day shift. On weekends, three boats are used (75 trips each Saturday and 68 trips each Sunday). Over 35,000 trips are made annually.

Once in Staten Island it was fairly easy to cross the road outside the ferry terminal to access the Borough Hall, which was to feature in the Staten Island image.

Borough Hall is the primary municipal building for the Borough of Staten Island in New York City. It is located at 10 Richmond Terrace, opposite the Staten Island Ferry Terminal. Staten Island Borough Hall houses the Borough President's office, offices of the Departments of Buildings and Transportation, and other civic offices.

The building is a landmark, designed by Carrere & Hastings following the consolidation of New York City in 1898. John Carrere was a resident of Staten Island and he helped select the dramatic hilltop site of Borough Hall. The interior of the building contains a series of WPA murals illustrating events in Staten Island history, painted in 1940 by Frederick Charles Stahr.

It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983.

29 Con Edison (Electricity Company)



This was to be the final site visited on day 5. Located in East 13th street area, this is a very large generating facility along with a substantial administrative centre.

The 11th Street Works was located on the lower East Side of Manhattan. The site was located on the north side of East 11th Street and the south side of East 12th Street.

The plant grounds extended from the east side of Avenue D to the East River. The plant also extended from Avenue C to the East River on the block bounded by the north side of East 12th Street and the south side of East 13th Street.

Today, the buildings located at this site are the Jacob Riis Houses, the Haven Plaza North Co-op Apartments, the NYCDEP pumping station and the grounds of the St. Emeric Roman Catholic Church and School.

Gas manufacturing and gas storage began at the East 11th Street Works prior to 1903 and continued until sometime after 1920. All gas holder and MGP structures were removed from the site by 1944, and subsequently, portions of the property were bought by the current owners.

Day 6

Sunshine, cold, layers holding constant at 3. Weight of lenses spookily increasing as each day passes as does resistance to the effect of multiple Starbucks – most of which are not documented here as there were just toooo many!

30 East River



The subway served us well once again as we travelled from Grand Central to 61st Street and then took a short walk to the Roosevelt Island Cable Car.

This short trip is a must and a great way to see East River, as well as getting a great view down 1st Avenue.

The purpose of the visit to Roosevelt Island was to experience the great vantage point for a view down East River towards the UN complex, with another Trump Tower rising from amongst numerous residential blocks. If you look carefully at the chosen image you will see the Chrysler building just peeping out from behind some other buildings.

The strait was formed approximately 11,000 years ago at the end of the Wisconsin glaciation. The distinct change in the shape of the strait between the lower and upper portions is evidence of this glacial activity. The upper portion (from Long Island Sound to Hell Gate), running largely perpendicular to the glacial motion, is wide, meandering, and has deep narrow bays on both banks, scoured out by the glacier's movement. The lower portion (from Hell Gate to New York Bay) runs north-south, parallel to the glacial motion. It is much narrower, with straight banks. The bays that exist (or existed before being filled in by human activity), are largely wide and shallow.

31 The Guggenheim Museum



We took a short walk from the Cable Car to 59th Street and then a subway to 86th. The museum is located on 5th Avenue between E88th and E89th Street.

The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (often referred to as "The Guggenheim") is a well-known museum located on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. It is the permanent home to a renowned collection of Impressionist, Post-Impressionist, early Modern, and contemporary art and also features special exhibitions throughout the year. Designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, it is one of the 20th century's most important architectural landmarks. The museum opened on October 21, 1959, and was the second museum opened by the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation. From 2005 to 2008 it underwent an extensive renovation.

32 Empire Condo (Free Parking)



In a city like New York it is not easy to find any free parking. So, I thought it would be more of a statement of capitalism to find the most expensive. It's official, the most expensive car Parking New York is at the Empire Condo on E78th Street at \$24 plus tax per hour.

With its very tall gables, this 32-story condominium apartment tower would seem more at home near the peaks of the Dakota

apartment building on Central Park West at 72nd Street than in the middle of a fairly bland stretch along Third Avenue in the 70s.

It replaced a two-story building that ran between 77th and 78th Streets along the avenue and hid a spacious private garden enclave that had been known as The Cottages that

was designed by E. H. Faile in 1937.

The Cottages, which contained stores on the first floor and eight one-bedroom apartments on the second floor with glass-block windows facing the avenue, were undistinguished architecturally, but the charm of the garden and the anachronism of such underdevelopment in such a prime area of the Upper East Side led to one of the city's more heated landmark controversies in the 1990s.

33 Trump Tower



A short 22 block walk down 5th Avenue saw us arrive at Trump Tower!!!

Trump Tower is a 58-story mixed-use skyscraper located at 725 Fifth Avenue, at the corner of East 56th Street in Midtown Manhattan, New York City. It was developed by Donald Trump and the Equitable Life Assurance Company, and designed by Der Scutt of Swanke, Hayden Connell. The tower was completed on November 30, 1983.

The Trump Tower is the 52nd tallest building in New York City. The tower is a reinforced concrete, shear-wall/core structure and was the tallest structure of this type in New York City when completed. A concrete hat-truss at the top of the building ties exterior columns with the concrete core. This increases the effective dimensions of the core to that of the

building in order to resist the overturning of lateral forces (wind, minor earthquakes, and impacts perpendicular to the building's height). A similar structure was used for Trump World Tower.

Ordinarily a building of that height could not have been built on the small site. By mixing uses (retail, office, and residential), constructing a through-block arcade (connecting to the IBM building to the east), and using the air rights from Tiffany's flagship store next door, and including the atrium (designed as a "public space" under the city codes at the time), Trump was able to assemble a bonus package that enabled a taller tower.

The building's public spaces are clad in Breccia Pernice, a pink white-veined marble and brass and mirrors are used throughout. This includes the office lobby, off Fifth Avenue, and the five-level atrium which has a waterfall, shops, cafés, and a pedestrian bridge that crosses over the waterfall's pool. The atrium is crowned with a skylight. In 2006, Forbes Magazine valued the tower at \$318 million. Trump Tower is the setting of the NBC television show *The Apprentice* including the famous boardroom where at least one person will be fired at the end of each episode (actually a television studio inside Trump Tower). It is additionally the official residence for the winners of the three beauty pageants that are co-owned by Donald Trump as the Miss Universe Organisation with NBC, which are the Miss Universe, Miss USA and Miss Teen USA during their year-long reign.

34 Manhattan



With such impressive view everywhere it was difficult to select the most appropriate. I finally settled on the view from the "top of the rock" - the top of The Rockefeller Centre.

The building was completed in 1933 as part of the Rockefeller Centre. The noted Art Deco architect Raymond Hood led a team of Rockefeller architects. It was named the RCA Building for its main tenant, the Radio Corporation of America, formed in 1919 by General Electric. It was the first building constructed with the elevators grouped in the central core. During construction, photographer Charles Clyde Ebbets took the famous photograph *Lunchtime atop a Skyscraper* on the 69th floor. National Broadcasting Company, also owned by General Electric, leased space in the building.

The office of the Rockefeller family occupied Room 5600 on the 56th floor. This space is now occupied by Rockefeller Family & Associates, spanning between the 54th floor and the 56th floor of the building. In 1985, the building acquired official landmark status. The RCA Building

was renamed as the GE Building in 1988, two years after General Electric re-acquired the RCA Corporation.

Facade of the GE Building

The GE Building is one of the most famous and recognised skyscrapers in New York. The frieze located above the main entrance was executed by Lee Lawrie and depicts "Wisdom", [5] along with a slogan that reads "Wisdom and Knowledge shall be the stability of thy times", from Isaiah 33:6 (KJV). The vertical detailing of the building's austere Art Deco facade is integrated with a slim, functionally expressive form. The present exterior is recognised for the large GE letters at the building's top. The famous marquee above the building's entrance is seen on numerous television shows, such as 30 Rock and Seinfeld. Unlike most other tall Art Deco buildings constructed in the 1930s, the GE Building has no spire on its roof.

The building's nickname has become the title of the NBC sitcom 30 Rock, which follows the cast and crew of a fictional television show filmed inside the building. The television show uses the building for exterior shots while interior shots are filmed at Silvercup Studios in Queens.

Below the building is a shopping concourse, connected to the lobby via an escalator. The open lobby's rich materials and reduced black and beige ornamental scheme is enhanced by dramatic lighting. Granite covers the building base to a height of 4 feet (1.2 m), and the shaft has a refined facade of Indiana Limestone with aluminium spandrel panels.

The 65th floor of the GE Building was an event room and restaurant named the Rainbow Room. It was revamped and reopened to the public with new operators until it closed in 2009 due to the economic downturn.

This was a good point to end day 6 and allowed for some more retail therapy on 5th Avenue.

Day 7

Rain threatens, very cold, layers 3 should have been more! At least the day started with a brisk walk to 34th Street and one of the most iconic images on the planet.

35 The Empire State Building



Visible from many vantage points in the city, the moment had come to go to and up this piece of Architectural. It was only 16 blocks from The Rockefeller Centre so needless to say it was a walk!

The Empire State Building is a 102-story landmark skyscraper and American cultural icon in New York City at the intersection of Fifth Avenue and West 34th Street. It has a roof height of 1,250 feet (381 meters), and with its antenna spire included, it stands a total of 1,454 ft (443.2 m) high.[7] Its name is derived from the nickname for New York, the Empire State. It stood as the world's tallest building for 40 years, from its completion in 1931 until construction of the World Trade Centre's North Tower was completed in 1972. Following the September 11 attacks in 2001, the Empire State

Building was again the tallest building in New York (although it was no longer the tallest in the world). Once the new One World Trade Center is completed, the Empire State Building will once again be demoted to second tallest building in New York.

The Empire State Building is designed in the distinctive Art Deco style, and has been named by the American Society of Civil Engineers as one of the Seven Wonders of the Modern World. The building and its street floor interior are designated landmarks of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, and confirmed by the New York City Board of Estimate. It was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1986. In 2007, it was ranked number one on the List of America's Favourite Architecture according to the AIA. The building is owned and managed by W&H Properties. The Empire State Building is currently the third tallest skyscraper in the United States (after the Willis Tower and Trump International Hotel and Tower, both in Chicago), and the 15th tallest in the world. It is also the fourth-tallest freestanding structure in the Americas. The Empire State Building is currently undergoing a \$550 million renovation, with \$120 million spent in an effort to transform the building into a more energy efficient and eco-friendly structure. Receiving a gold Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating in September 2011, the Empire State Building is the tallest LEED certified building in the United States.

The time had come for a boat trip, so courtesy of Circle Line we headed out for a very cold 2 hour semi circular voyage down the Hudson, round the Harbour, up East River, and all the way back again. This was great value for money as it was one of the activities in our New York Pass and provided some good material for 3 of the images.

36 Hudson River



Scene of some heroic action on the part of an airline pilot this was the first shot of the trip to make it on to the board. The selected image is a view across the Hudson which shows some of the impressive Riverside buildings of Jersey City.

The Hudson is a 315-mile (507 km) river that flows from north to south through eastern New York. The highest official source is at Lake Tear of the Clouds, on the slopes of Mount Marcy in the Adirondack Mountains. The river itself officially begins in Henderson Lake in Newcomb, New York. The river flows past Albany, and finally forms the border between New York City and New Jersey at its mouth before emptying into Upper New York Bay. Its lower half is a tidal estuary, which occupies the Hudson Fjord. This formed during the most recent North American glaciation over the latter part of the Wisconsin

Stage of the Last Glacial Maximum, 26,000 to 13,300 years ago. Tidal waters influence the Hudson's flow as far north as Troy.

The river is named after Henry Hudson, an Englishman sailing for the Dutch East India Company, who explored it in 1609. It had previously been observed by Italian explorer Giovanni da Verrazano sailing for King Francis I of France in 1524, as he became the first European known to have entered the Upper Bay, but he considered the river to be an estuary. The Dutch called the river the "North River" – with the Delaware River called the "South River" – and it formed the spine of the Dutch colony of New Netherland. Settlement of the colony clustered around the Hudson, and its strategic importance as the gateway to the American interior led to years of competition between the English and the Dutch over control of the river and colony.

In the Eighteenth Century, the river valley and its inhabitants were the subject and inspiration of Washington Irving, the first internationally acclaimed American author. In the Nineteenth Century the area inspired the Hudson River School of painting, an American pastoral style, as well as the idea of "wilderness" and "conservation."

37 The Statue of Liberty



The second photo opportunity of this refrigerated boat trip was the legendary Statue of Liberty.

The Statue is a colossal neoclassical sculpture on Liberty Island in New York Harbor, designed by Frédéric Bartholdi and dedicated on October 28, 1886. The statue, a gift to the United States from the people of France, is of a robed female figure representing Libertas, the Roman goddess of freedom, who bears a torch and a tabula ansata (a tablet evoking the law) upon which is inscribed the date of the American Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776. A broken chain lies at her feet. The statue has become an icon of freedom and of the United States.

Bartholdi was inspired by French law professor and politician Édouard René de Laboulaye, who commented in 1865 that any monument raised to American independence would properly be a joint project of the French and American peoples. Due to the troubled political situation in France, work on the statue did not commence until the early 1870s. In 1875, Laboulaye proposed that the French finance the statue and the Americans provide the pedestal and the site. Bartholdi completed the head and the torch-bearing arm before the statue was fully designed, and these pieces were exhibited for publicity at international expositions. The arm was displayed at the Centennial Exposition in 1876 and in New York's Madison Square Park from 1876 to 1882. Fundraising proved difficult, especially for the Americans, and by 1885 work on the pedestal was threatened due to lack of funds. Publisher Joseph Pulitzer of the *World* started a drive for donations to complete the project that attracted more than 120,000 contributors, most of whom gave less than a dollar. The statue was constructed in France, shipped overseas in crates, and assembled on the completed pedestal on what was then called Bedloe's Island. The statue's completion was marked by New York's first ticker-tape parade and a dedication ceremony presided over by President Grover Cleveland.

The statue was administered by the United States Lighthouse Board until 1901 and then by the Department of War; since 1933 it has been maintained by the National Park Service. The statue was closed for renovation for much of 1938. In the early 1980s, it was found to have deteriorated to such an extent that a major restoration was required. While the statue was closed from 1984 to 1986, the torch and a large part of the internal structure were replaced. After the September 11 attacks in 2001, it was closed for reasons of safety and security; the pedestal reopened in 2004 and the statue in 2009, with limits on the number of

visitors allowed to ascend to the crown. The statue, including the pedestal and base, closed beginning on October 29, 2011, for up to a year so that a secondary staircase and other safety features can be installed; Liberty Island remains open. Public access to the balcony surrounding the torch has been barred for safety reasons since 1916.

38 New York Harbour



New York Harbour refers to the waterways of the estuary near the mouth of the Hudson River that empty into New York Bay. It is one of the largest natural harbours in the world. Although the U.S. Board of Geographic Names does not use the term, New York Harbour has important historical, governmental, commercial, and ecological usages. Originally used to refer to the Upper New York Bay, the term is also used to describe the Port of New York and New Jersey, the port

district for New York-Newark metropolitan area, under the jurisdiction of the Port Authority.

Owing to the immense scale of the harbour it was not an easy task to select a view which would adequately represent this massive body of water.

39 Ground Zero – Freedom Tower



You never know what to expect when visiting a site of such humanitarian significance. There is obviously a great deal of construction activity, but amidst all of this, is a feat of landscaping the like of which has never been seen before.

THE 9/11 MEMORIAL is located at the site of the former World Trade Centre complex, and occupies approximately half of the 16-acre site. The 9/11 Memorial features two enormous waterfalls and reflecting pools, each about an acre in size, set within the footprints of the original twin towers. Carved on the stone surrounding the pools is the names of every poor soul that fell from this world tragedy. The Memorial Plaza is one of the most eco-friendly plazas ever constructed. More than 400 trees are planned for the plaza, surrounding the Memorial's two massive

reflecting pools. Its design conveys a spirit of hope and renewal, and creates a contemplative space separate from the usual sights and sounds of a bustling metropolis.

Swamp white oak trees create a rustling canopy of leaves over the plaza. This grove of trees bring green rebirth in the spring, provide cooling shade in the summer and show seasonal colour in fall. A small clearing in the grove, known as the Memorial Glade, designates a space for gatherings and special ceremonies.

The selected image for this space is the Freedom Tower, or 1 World Trade Centre.

One World Trade Centre, more simply known as 1 WTC, and formerly known as the Freedom Tower, is the lead building of the new World Trade Centre complex in Lower Manhattan of New York City. The 104-story super tall skyscraper is being constructed in the northwest corner of the 16-acre World Trade Centre site, occupying the location where the original 8-story 6 World Trade Centre once stood. The building is bound to the west by West Street, to the north by Vesey Street, to the south by Fulton Street, and to the east by Washington Street. Construction on below-ground utility relocations, footings, and foundations for the building began on April 27, 2006.[8] On March 30, 2009, the Port Authority confirmed that the building would be known by its legal name of One World Trade Centre, rather than the colloquial name, Freedom Tower.

Upon its completion in 2013, One World Trade Centre will be the tallest building in the Western Hemisphere by pinnacle height and the 3rd-tallest building in the world, with its spire reaching a symbolic 1,776 feet (541.3 m) in reference to the year of American independence. However, its roof height, at 1,368 feet (417.0 m), will still be 82 feet (25.0 m) shorter than the roof of Chicago's Willis Tower (formerly the Sears Tower). The new World Trade Centre complex will also feature three other high-rise office buildings, located along Greenwich Street, and the National September 11 Memorial & museum, located just south of One World Trade Center, where the Twin Towers once stood. The construction is part of an effort to memorialize and rebuild after the original World Trade Centre complex was destroyed during the attacks of September 11, 2001.

40 New York Cab



There were plenty of opportunities during our time in New York to capture an image of this iconic mobile landmark. The problem is which one to choose, as the number of makes/models now in use has expanded to include various hybrids and SUVs.

The taxicabs of New York City, with their distinctive yellow paint, are a widely recognised symbol of the city.

Taxicabs are operated by private companies and licensed by the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission. The Commission is a New York City government agency that is best known for its responsibility for the more than 13,237 taxis operating in the city. It also oversees over 40,000 other for-hire vehicles, including "black cars", commuter vans and ambulettes. "Medallion taxis," the familiar yellow cabs, are the only vehicles in the city permitted to pick up passengers in response to a street hail.

CONCLUSION

I had a great vision for a New York based statement for a long time prior to undertaking this concept, and although I envisaged it to be a difficult project, I really could not imagine the extent of what it entailed. It took a great deal of planning, in terms of imagery, and scheduling of the photography, not to mention the logistics of getting there, etc. I knew there was an enormous amount to get done every day, but really I set myself up to complete the project photographically in the time allocated.

My faithful BCC'S task was to carry my equipment, ply me with subsistence and to jolly me along when I was exhausted. My BCC ultimately also became my Research Assistant, and undertook critical analysis to determine the average cost of 2 bedroom apartments in the various areas of New York City.

When I say the photography was extremely challenging, that did not prepare me for the manipulation of the artwork. Each image has been magnified hundreds or tens of hundreds of times to graphically change areas by drawing in areas using a mouse, a drawing tablet and a steady hand. In particular, New York buildings being what they are, extremely tall, there are hundreds of windows, not to mention thousands of bricks which I "drew" in individually in some instances. I removed clutter to lend the eye to focal points, and I use animated colour schemes (unrealistic colour) and completely reworking each and every pixel of every photograph.

Needless to say, I worked day and night sometimes 18 hours a day, to get to the end result. It has taken me 3.5 months to complete the artwork.

To say I was determined, was a slight understatement! I simply had to do this.

The experience of the physical New York, was fascinating, exhilarating and challenging in terms of walking from dawn to dusk! I came back fitter and artistically fulfilled.

A very special credit to my BCC; Research Assistant, and excellent helper, Andrew Peet for timetabling, scheduling journeys, putting up with me with persistence, occasional mood swings, (did I just admit that), and patience with the practical involvement of changing lenses, at times every few minutes and for shuffling me into Yellow Cabs when I couldn't walk another step.

The journey has been long, but there is a unique piece of art here. I believe a true first of the concept.