

June 18, 2013

Today we started our day off very early. We had to catch the bus around 7:30 to arrive early for our appointment at Mussolini's EUR. Many of us still looked asleep on the bus, but Joey and Alex were wide-awake reviewing the map to make sure we didn't get lost. Once the group got there we stopped at a café to get coffee and snacks. Shortly after, the blistering heat of Rome was quickly recognized. Vince gave us a quick personal view on the building, he mentioned in his opinion it resembles a hybrid of Renaissance on steroids and Ancient Roman architecture! Rachelle on the other hand pointed out that it looks like a cheese grater!



Joey and Alex McDonald reviewing a map on the way to EUR

The EUR was planned in 1942 when Mussolini wanted it built for a world's fair in celebration of his totalitarian regime. His regime ended in 1943 and he was executed 2 years later. Nearly a half a century later, Italians still are questioning what to do with the space. Some projected selling it off to private buyers, but that never followed through. There is still a debate in whether the restoration should be done to preserve Mussolini's favored designs.



EUR from the Front

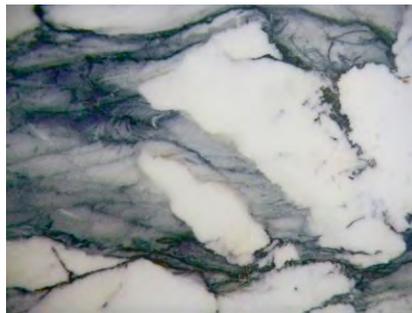


2nd floor view of the vaults

As we traveled through the space it was quite obvious the building was under construction. Even though it was a little rough, it was absolutely beautiful.



Ceiling Construction



Part of a marble column



Marble Stairs

The marble was all very unique and the space alone was very open, welcoming, and appealing. The views from the upper floors were picturesque. Everyone was very grateful that we got the chance to enter the building. It is normally closed and not opened for just any occasion.



View from upper floor, looking out the back of the EUR

We as a group were very blessed to have been able to experience the building that many people get to do. We had a very nice gentlemen semi guiding us through the building; he took time out from his day to so generously welcome us to the EUR.



The whole group sitting on steps of Mussolini's EUR (left to right, Katherine, Vince, Reilly, Helen, Angela, Alex M., Joey, Jordan, Caitlyn, Austin, Rachelle, Taylor, Molly, Lauren, Alex B., and Matt)

After the group toured the EUR we had a couple options. We could go Santi Pietro e Paolo church near by or journey around the EUR to linked sites. I (Caitlyn) went to the church with Vince, Matt, Katherine, Molly, Angela, Jordan, Alex, Reilly and Taylor. Matt, Katherine, Angela, and myself picked up very large pinecones on the way to the church and ended up with very sticky hands due to the mass amounts of sap left on them. The Church was gorgeous and had a large dome. We only stopped in for a short period of time, but it was a refreshing stop because it is naturally cold inside. Angela took a stone from the path on our way back to the EUR to keep as a souvenir. We found the others and headed back to our apartments. The bus rides were terrible due to the heat.



Santi Pietro e Paolo Church

I (Caitlyn) decided to go to a knife store on my way back to pick up a couple souvenirs. Molly came with me, and we got a little lost when we left. We took a couple busses and made it to The American University of Rome, where we picked up sweatshirts that they were selling for one day only. We decided not to wait for the bus back so we just started to walk, and not to surprisingly we got lost. The both of us were extremely annoyed at this point and very aggravated. We grabbed some food and went back to the apartment to get ready for the Symphony!

We all had a pretty decent break at least a couple hours to get ready for the Symphony. I (Austin) spent the time taking a nap and cooking myself dinner of pasta

and Sausage. I basically learned how to cook on this trip, which was a valuable less here if you wanted to save money.

The group was to meet at a bus stop at 6:00 PM to catch the 280 bus which takes us in the general vicinity of the Auditorium Parco Della Musica, where the Austrian composer Gustavo Dudamel, described as one of the most sought-after conductors in the world. 6:00 PM couldn't come any faster, by the time we knew it we were back on the bus with the heat just draining out energy. This was a formal event which everyone dressed up and looked very nice. First impression of walking into the place, the interior was very elegant, and the ceiling was neat to look at. The orchestra started at 7:30pm. The first half of the performance was an hour long. The music was so beautiful, it was calming to close your eyes and just listen. It was funny



Everyone in our seats before the performance

Starting from the top left (Matt, Joey, Riley, Alex, Lauren, Caitlyn, Jordan) Bottom Left (Angela, Molly, Rachelle, Alex, Helen, Taylor)

when the orchestra took 30 second breaks between songs, that when you could hear everyone clears their throat and coughed. It was quite humorous. The second half of the performance was even better with the finale, it was so intense and yet the harmony of all the instruments coming together it was just beautiful.

After the 2 hour performance we were all on our own to get home, some of us took the 280 back, and some of us took another route which ever we thought was the



Our View of the Orchestra

quickest. Not to mention we were all starving after this performance. We all had quite a bit of options to choose what we wanted to do in our free time. Either pack-up to leave for home (in two days), work on our 4900 design project since we had a critique tomorrow, or do your own thing. I (Austin) personally hate packing last minute so I did a lot of packing, and also ate at the girl's apartment to get rid of all their extra pasta they had. We also had tomorrow off basically to get ready to depart other than our critiques and our farewell dinner. All in all this was our last destination day, it was sad. I think I can speak for all of us but we all had fun on this trip and it flew by.