Beyond Setting the Scene: Architecture of the White City

Ashley Glesinger
glesinger3@gmail.com

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/ucareresearch

Part of the Other Architecture Commons

https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/ucareresearch/159

This Poster is brought to you for free and open access by the UCARE: Undergraduate Creative Activities & Research Experiences at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in UCARE Research Products by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.
Beyond Setting the Scene: Architecture of the White City

Ashley Glesinger
Under the Direction of Dr. Rumiko Handa and Dr. James Potter
University of Nebraska- Lincoln

PROBLEM

Literature has the ability to make historical architecture accessible to the contemporary readers. Often the architecture sets the scene for events, but its relevance goes unnoticed.

METHOD

Read the book and notated every time a building or architect is mentioned.
Create a spreadsheet with the architecture and the architect.
Locate architecture drawings (plans, sections, elevations) and photographs that illustrate the work, and digitally documented and sourced them.
Upload the database with the information.

RESULTS

Architecture plays a primary role in The Devil in the White City. From this research, the Architecture in the Humanities database gained one novel and 86 buildings.

CONCLUSION

There is a deep interrelationship between architecture, art, film, and literature. Through the study of the architecture of the World’s Columbian Exposition in The Devil in the White City, I was able to reconstruct spaces of the past with the help of literary description and photographic and architectural drawing documentation.

The Devil in the White City

The Devil in the White City is a novel by Erik Larson based on the real characters and events of the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition at Jackson Park in Chicago, Illinois. The book contrasts the architects creation of the idyllic city within the fair, and H.H. Holme’s deception and violence in his murder mansion just blocks away.

The Red circle shows the location of H.H. Holme’s Murder Castle. The larger grey circle indicates the location of the fair, which is enlarged to the right.

Research Grant Provided by:
Undergraduate Creative Activity and Research Experience

THE DEVIL IN THE WHITE CITY

John Root
George Ferris
Daniel Burnham
H. H. Holmes

THE ARCHITECTS

N
UCARE
Undergraduate Creative Activity and Research Experience