Seeing Philadelphia

How many ways can we see the city?

1815
1901
1929
1932
1992

See last slide for sources
Citizen

- The view out my front door.
- Will the yuppies in the Wannamaker apartment building change the neighborhood?
- Will we have better restaurants?
Why would anyone feel safe walking alongside the base of the PECO building, especially at night?

- What’s there to keep me safe from muggers?

- Does it comfort me that many American center cities are worse than this?
What’s the “right” ratio of streets to Floor-Area for tall buildings?

What would happen to these buildings if Septa had to close?

Do these building contribute or cost the city money overall?
What would Sir William Penn, drinking companion of Samuel Pepys (e.g. 1/4/1661) think of his statue atop city hall?

- Did he expect it?
- Would he like it?
Taxpayer

- Does the Cira Center tower raise my real estate taxes?
- Who’s really paying for it?
- What about my property value?
- When did we finish paying for the corruption on city hall?
Politics Watcher

I’ve never seen a more clever manipulation than Bill Rouse getting Liberty Place approved.
Parent

- Have any kids suffered because this block sat empty waiting for a high-rise to happen? It had a really nice restaurant on it for a long time.
- Will my daughter be able to afford to live where I do?
Driver

- Do I love what happens when hundreds of tons of material is delivered and lifted into place?
Historian

- When?
- Where?
- Why?
- Who?
- How?
- How much?
- Typical <-> Atypical
Insurer

Could this happen to my building?

Who’s going to pay for it? NOT ME!
Teacher

- What does it tell us about how these two architects chose to show their buildings?
- What’s the most interesting thing about each technically?
Critic

- How does one “end” a building?
- Is there a precedent for doing it this way?
  - And before that?
  - And before that?
- Does it matter if we “like” it?
Architect

- Bell Atlantic
  - Rythm
  - Materials
  - Subtle
  - Skyline

- Mellon
  - Old & new mixed
  - Skyline
Engineer

- How did they do it?
- How efficient is it?
- Will it break under stress?
- Will it adapt to change?
- Is it “elegant”?
Poet - Percy Bysshe Shelley

- Ozymandius
- I met a traveler from an antique land
- Who said: Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
- Stand in the desert. Near them, on the sand,
- Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown,
- And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,
- Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
- Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,
- The hand that mocked them and the heart that fed;

- And on the pedestal these words appear:
- "My name is Ozymandius, king of kings:
- Look on my words, ye Mighty, and despair!"
- Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
- Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare
- The lone and level sands stretch far away.
Your Turn

For each of the following write down your answer and a sentence defining why.

- We’ll ask you to give your choice and explain it.

- Which **role** appeals to you **most**?

- Which **role** appeals to you **least**?

- Which **observation** do you agree with **most**?

- Which **observation** do you agree with **least**?
## Sources

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