

Post-walk interview....Savitsky

✓
not

C

The first thing that struck me was the similarity to mid-town New York, fifth ave aspect of Boylston...Although looking around I saw some of the old shops which didn't seem as much fifth or madison avenue as I thought at first....some nice dress shops and some crummy shoemaker and tailor shops down in the basement.

SF

Then I was struck by the standards out in the sidewalk, the clock and the other standard, which I thought was rather European in its character.

B

After that, we started to walk down the street and I noticed the shop with the curio's, japanese gift items. wanted to go in there. And, looking around and noticing some of the loft shops and loft office areas... We walked a bit further and I was quite surprised at some of the rundown retail shops further down the street. and thought that they were in direct contrast to the pretty fashionable high class dress shops on the other side.

B

I think at about that point I noticed the John Hancock somewhere in the block...thought it looked pretty nice with just the tower sticking out, not the whole mass.

B

Walking further down, the church at the corner, Dr. Greeley's church. The tower was above all the rest of the street at that point with the common in the background. I was curious about the use of the office space next to the church which I found out was part of the church.

SP

We reached the corner, and the full effect of the common struck me there. You could see the opening of the park at the right hand side. And we headed down towards the alley on the left. As we passed there I thought the alley was rather ramshackle and run-down. not all like Beacon Hill alleys.

B

Then down as far as Newbury and walked down Newb. Here I was struck by the hotel on the right and the large number of cars on the left in the parking lot, sort of spilled out into the street. There were some shops on the way....a grocery shop with some sort of fancy flatware before the parking lot.

B

Right next to the lot a large rather blank brick wall which served as a sort of visual separation between the Hancock on the left and another church on the right hand side of Newbury. I thought there was an interesting composition there.

P

I think we also noticed the predominance of attractive blondes on that street.

C

I noticed some dress shops and took another look at the church on the other side of the street, about half way down...thought that was a rather pleasant building, fairly low and ...the stoy store...FAO Schwarz toys, which is a sort of attractive thing anywhere in town. Stopped and looked in their window for a while.

B

We rounded Berkley again and proceeded to enter the alley. As we walked, I started to get the feelin that my first impression would have to be modified. The alley was kind of interesting. We ~~stayed~~ turned back and saw the truck parked right in the middle of the alley with the fashionable dress shop (Bonw Tel) and behind that the tower of one of the churches...and they just rose behind each other in a symetrical fashion.

2222. savitsky....post..walk

in the alley itself there was a sign^{SI} that I thought was rather humorous... I don't recall right now.

Further down the alley we saw...~~some question of a canopy hanging way up high, I thought that was residential use, but apparently it was an office.~~ Further down we saw the back of one of the office bldg.^B I thought it was an interesting treatment architecturally....two building masses side by side with very strong window lines. on the right hand side of the alley going down was a small back-yard garden composed of one tree^B.

Further we passed by some workshops in the basement. The real life^P behind the fancy dress shop on Newbury, and quite a few trash cans and darts in the alley. I think at that point....several items I can't recall small signs and things....

Then leaving the alley and going across to the commons with some difficulty because of the tremendous amount of traffic in the way and we saw a predominance of young college girls....two of whom sitting in the car.

I kind of like the setting of the commons^{SP}, close to the streets so you can see the streets from practically any point we walked on.. That was not the Comm, the Gardens. That part of the Garden mostly for walking and sitting rather than playing. Water out of lagoon. No swim boats in action.^M

I like the trees there too, some were quite unusual...low tortured shapes. (buildings) I remember some church spires in the background, not on the street and beyond...one further up on Newbury.^B

(sidewalk) going down on Boyls the sidewalk was unusually wide...a real open feeling,,, on the other side it seemed to be a perfectly normal sidewalk. Nothing partic unus. about sidewalk on Newb or end streets. iz Space, with standards. (Materials) appeared to be concrete.^{SP PA}

(people) I was looking arund on Boyls wondering if I would see anything unusual. There wereshoppers, people interested in dress shops, and office workers, seemed to me pretty much of a cross section of what I'd expect to find downtown without anyone particular predominating on Boylston. On Newbury, of course, there's a very striking type of woman. Hairdressess salon opposite hotel.. There a distinct type. Of course the young college girls at this time of day walking past the Garden. Also saw a man carrying trash cans down Newbury St. Seemed a bit incongruous at the time.^P

(signs) in addition...sign on window of church on Boylston.. a religious exerpt or something.^{SI}
I did notice fact that signs on Newbury (left) pretty subdued...just flat against the wall rather than any neon signs sticking out, that did occur farther down on Newbury when it got into a sort of run of Brownstone houses, residential houses. One of which housed an art studio on top as I remember...a good place to live.

33333 savitsky....post walk.

(hearing) nothing unusual. What i'd expect to hear downtown in a city. ^{SO}
I guess I'm used to that by now. sound of autos, horns, trucks, voices,
people walking by.....I believe there were some shouting cab drives at
one point on Newbury....parking lot attendants moving cars about. P

(smells) I had a slight cold...couldn't smell the city. SM
although at one point did seem to be a rather heavy smoke or odor.

(areas) They were quite distinct. Boylston st. seemed to be ...the side we
were on was quite different from the side across the st. Not only the shops
but physically in terms of space ...the predominance of dress shops on one
side and other service shops on the other...as we passed down further the
Garden was a distinct change down there with the landscape pervading.
Up Newbury seemed to be overwhelmed by the hotel at one end and the women
who use that street for hotel purposes, and the beauty shops and ...so that
was distinct. Of course the alley a character by itself.

Berkley...nothing distinct, but Bonwit Teller which is a pleasant sight
anywhere.

(character) I feel as if I've hit upon the character of the different parts
of the area. I felt there was no overall character to be consistent in the
entire area. (in architecture?) bldg not turned into shops and commerc used
seemed to have a brownstone appearance that seems to occur a lot in Boston.
5, or 6 story walk-ups, built probably about 1890. generally pretty pleasant
to look at.

(order) If any Newbury st rather than the others, in that....the non-commercial
appearance of it struck me first, but that detracted by parking lot, and
brick wall that brought it down...even with hotel and shops. I don't think
any one part of it held together as I rather hoped it will. (disorderly?)
somewhat in a rather high class way.

(Conception of Boston) It seems to fit in with perhaps a transition from the
old Boston to a Newer Boston. Walking downtown there's no question about
it as being built in about 1890, real old....Going up towards John Hancock you
get the impression that this is a newer, 20th century Boston...and this area
has elements of them both. has many elements.. I find it comparable somewhat
to parts of midtown New York...as the east side of fifth ave around Madison in
the upper forties, except that of course physically it's not nearly built as
high. It has some of a transitional character, but transition to a higher level
rather than a lower one. Going from downtown from that which is newer than downtown.

(at ease) Yeah I'm familiar with this part of the city in other cities. A pleasant
part of a city. I guess socially it appeals to me, with higher levels of living
that could be attractive in a city.