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Architecture in a Changing World

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Les Catacombs

Over six million Parisians remains are laid to rest deep under the heart of the city. With a distance of over two kilometers and a constant temperature of fourteen degrees Celsius. Over An eerie presence starts to engulf you as you make your way down the depth of the Ossuary (5 stories deep). These six million Parisians were gradually transported to the Ossuary between the late eighteenth and mid nineteenth centuries. The noises become a deep thick echo through the maze of dark galleries and narrow stone passages. There is no experience quiet like it as we were taken on a timeless journey and witnessed the Parisian people come back to life.

The Ossuary was mostly all limestone cut into large square and rectangular sizes. Also the column architecture varied throughout our journey from a two toned white and dark stone to the classic limestone colors. Even at one point there was a hallway type passage that contained three arch ways all made out of limestone. Further and closer to the end of our journey the Parisian people took it upon themselves to build pillars in certain spots so the Ossuary so it would not collapse. This architecture was brilliant! Each year as the ceilings get less stable the builders raise the giant pillars to balance out the weight from the five stories of ancient dirt and soil above. Another major architecture skill that was demonstrated throughout the ossuary were the way the bones were displayed. Each of them was tightly packed into the ancient dirt walls beside us. Not only area there lots of concrete architecture the in this field study I saw that their arrangement of the bones were methodically placed. I particularly like this field log, it was an unusual site with so much

history to it.

Sources Cited

1. “More than 2000 Years of HIsotry.” Catacombes De Paris. N.p.,d.e. Web. 02 Mar. 2015