

The Gothic

Early Gothic, High Gothic, Late Gothic

(~1120 – 1200)

(~1200 - 1280)

(~1280 - 1500)



Giorgio Vasari

Italian, 1511 - 1574

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Origins of the term 'Gothic'

- The term 'Gothic' given by Renaissance scholar Giorgio Vasari, incorrectly attributed to the Goths
 - It's like calling a period 'The Primitive Style,' or the 'Brutish Style'
- First identified as the 'French Style'

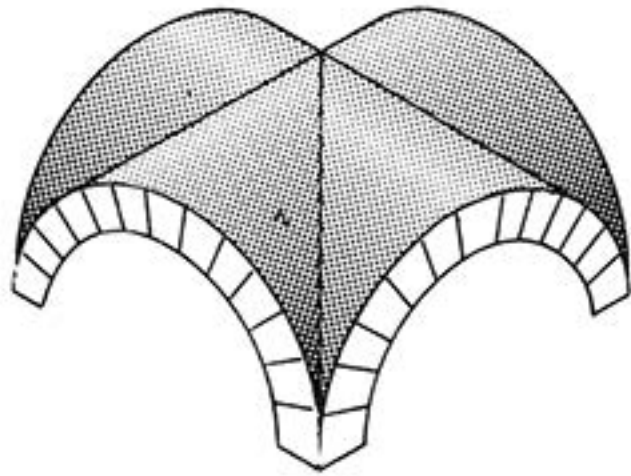
Key elements of the Gothic

- **Verticality***
 - Ribbed (Rib) Vault
 - Pointed Arch
 - Flying Buttress
 - Spire
- Ethereal interior illumination
- Extreme ornamentation and detailing
- Increased technical complexity in masonry

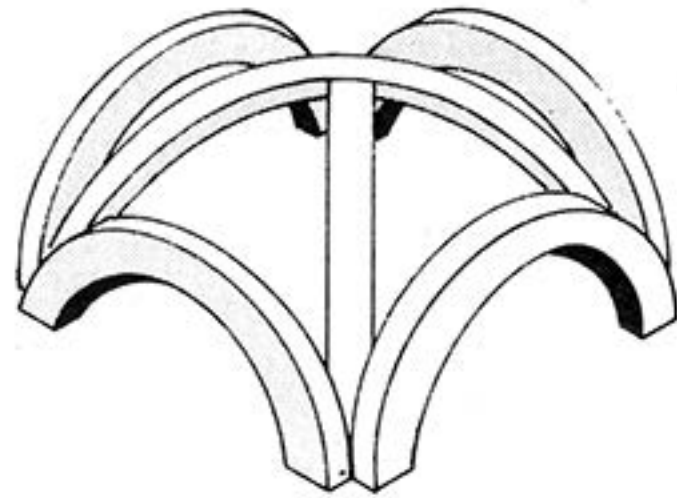
RIB / RIBBED VAULT

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- One of the most important elements of Gothic architecture is the use of rib/ribbed vaults



GROIN



RIB / RIBBED



Clustered/ Compound column

A single pier or column that appears
as a cluster of multiple members





St. Albans Cathedral, St. Albans, UK [1077]



Salisbury Cathedral, Salisbury, UK [1220]

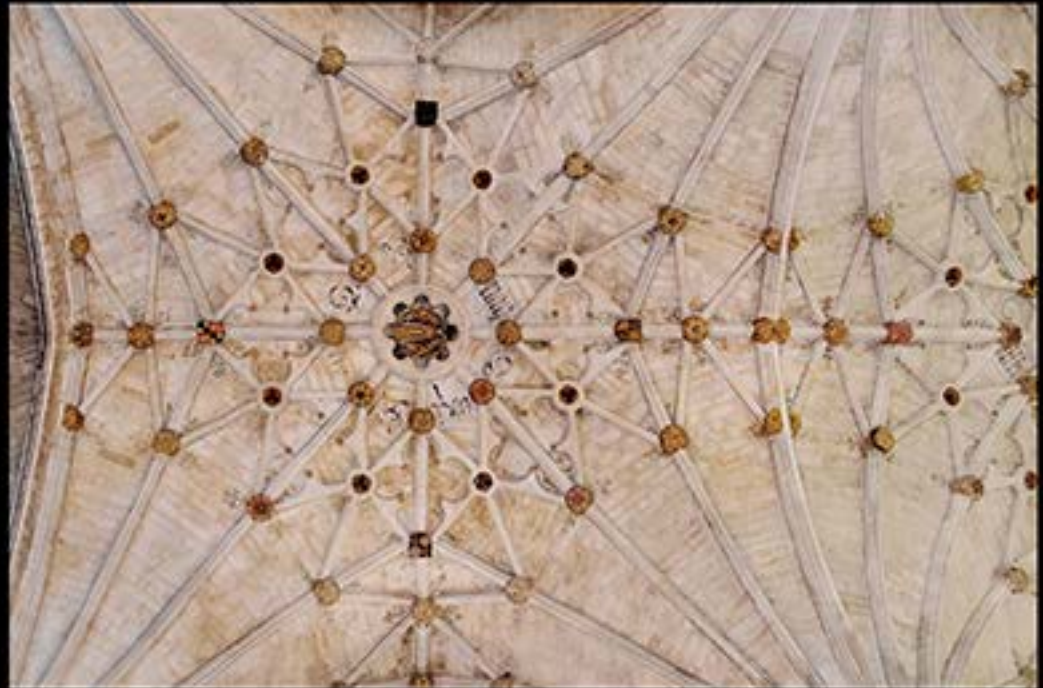




Ely Cathedral, Cambridge, UK [1109]

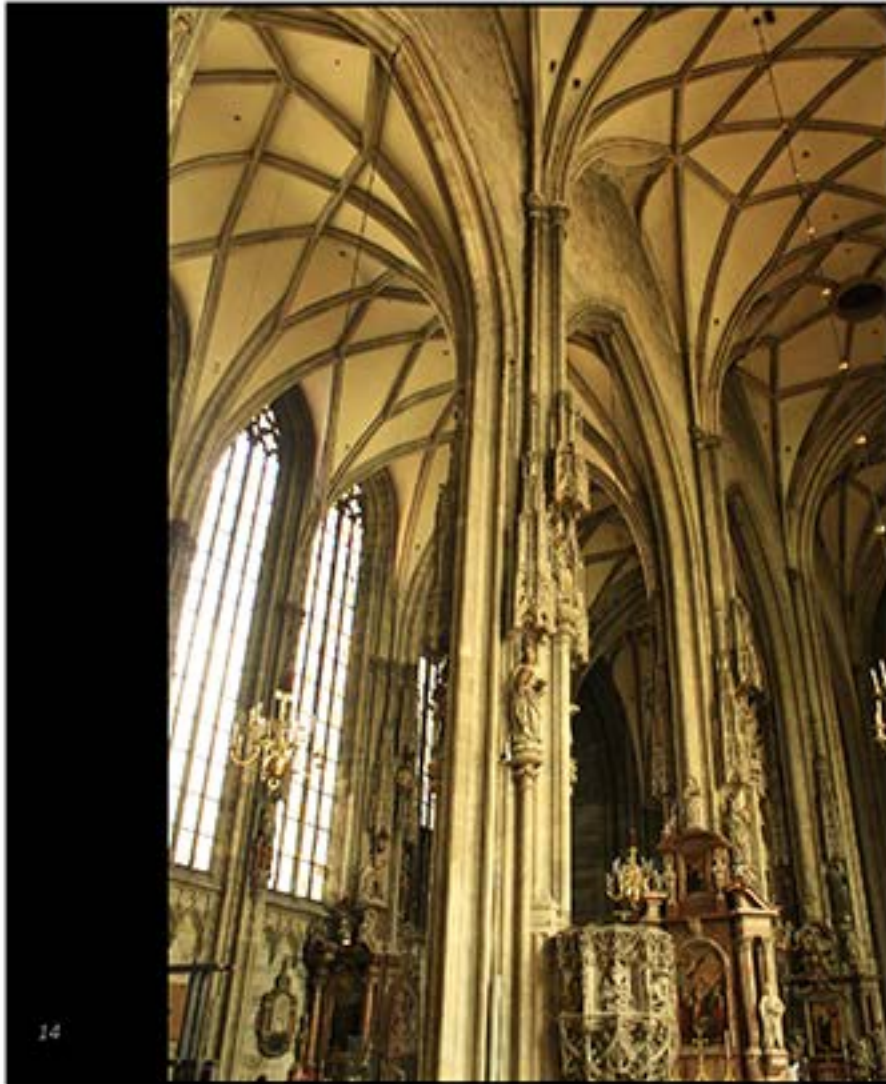


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Winchester Cathedral, Winchester, UK [1079 – 1532]





Clustered/Compound column showing bifurcation of ribs

boss

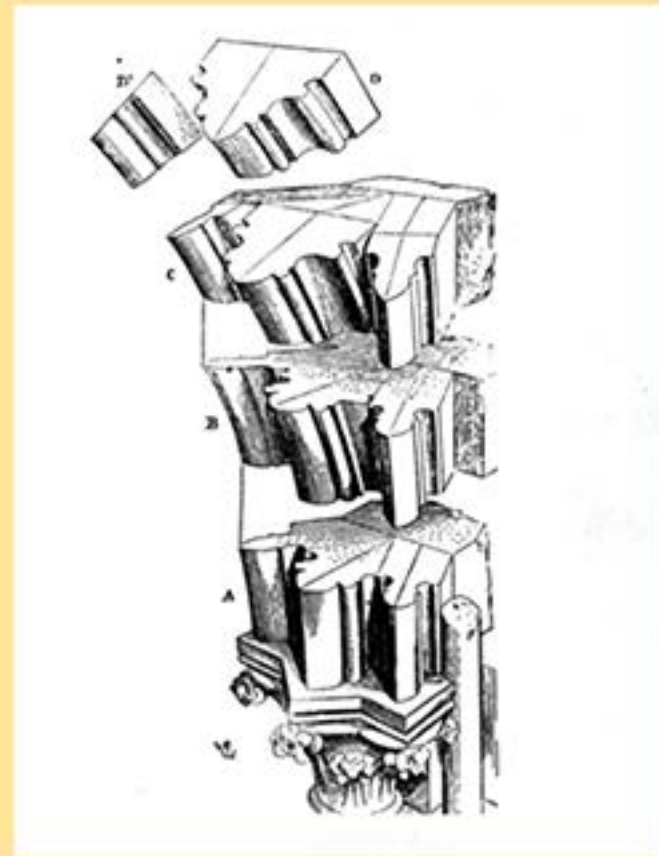
A protrusion occurring along the course of a rib or at the intersection of multiple ribs. They serve a structural or ornamental purpose.



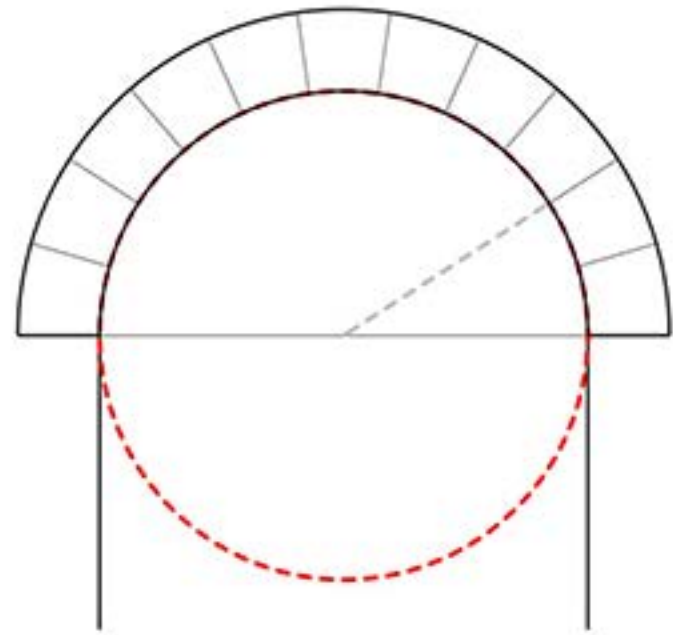
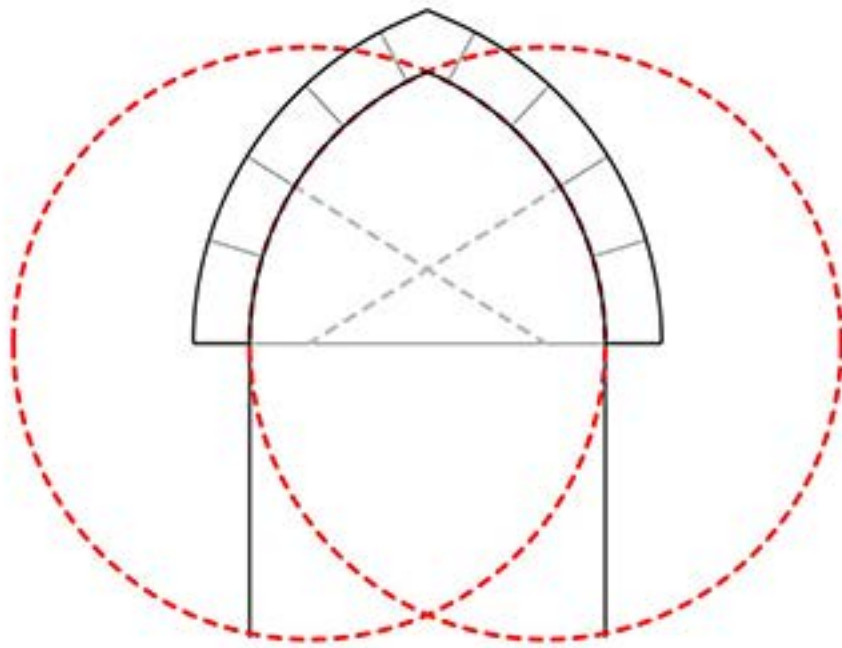
tas-de-charge

the portion of a group of vault ribs that occurs just above the spring where the ribs are still joined together

[*Merriam Webster*]



THE POINTED ARCH

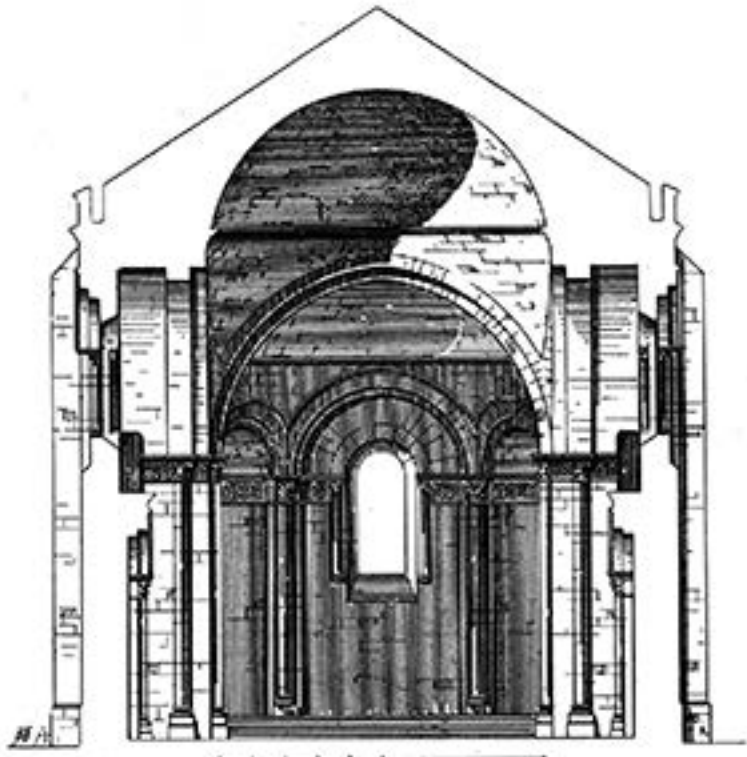


ogive / ogival

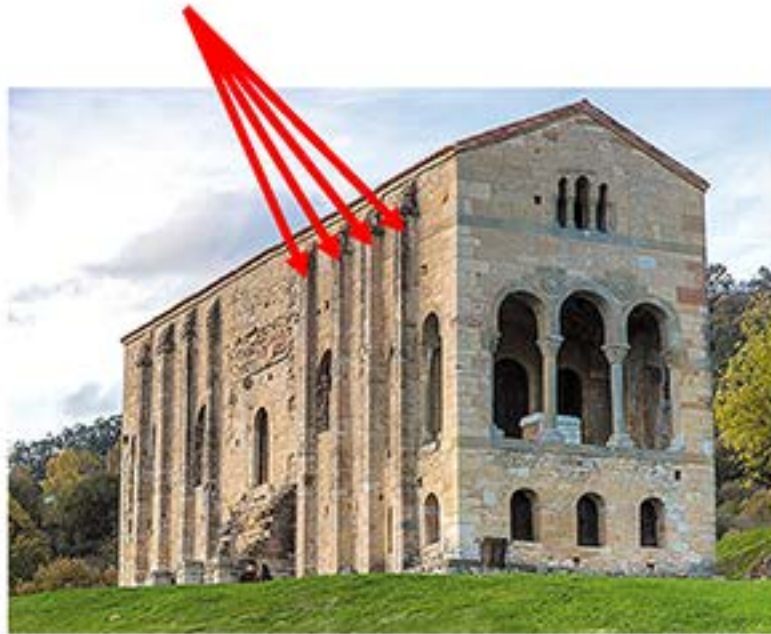
Of a point or pointed geometry, in reference to the 'pointed arch' of the Gothic style



THE FLYING BUTTRESS



Angoulême Cathedral, Angoulême, France [1128]
Example of a Buttress



Buttress vs Flying Buttress
Left: Santa Maria del Naranco, Spain [AD 848]
Right: Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Paris, Paris [1163]

- With a flying buttress, you're extending the **'practical width'** of the supports



*Left: Notre-Dame de Paris
Right, Notre-Dame de Amiens*



THE SPIRE



crocket

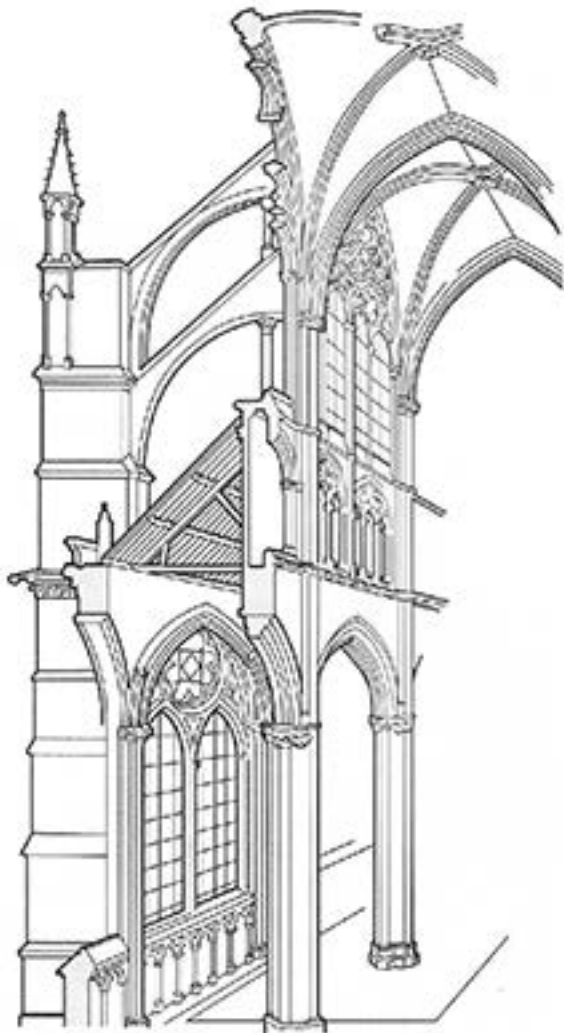
A decorative element placed along a spire that establishes a visual texture

finial

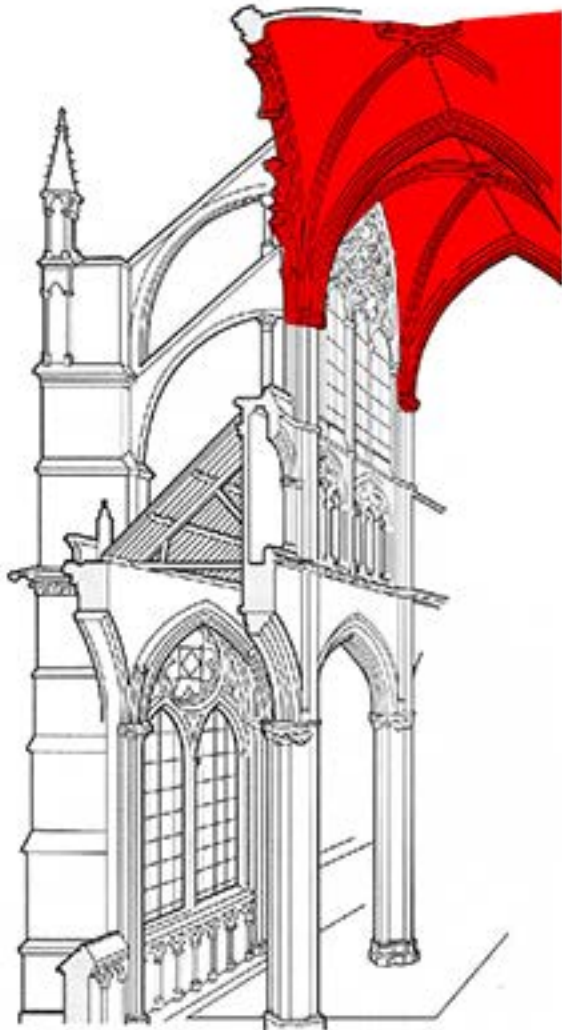
A decorative element placed at the apex of a spire



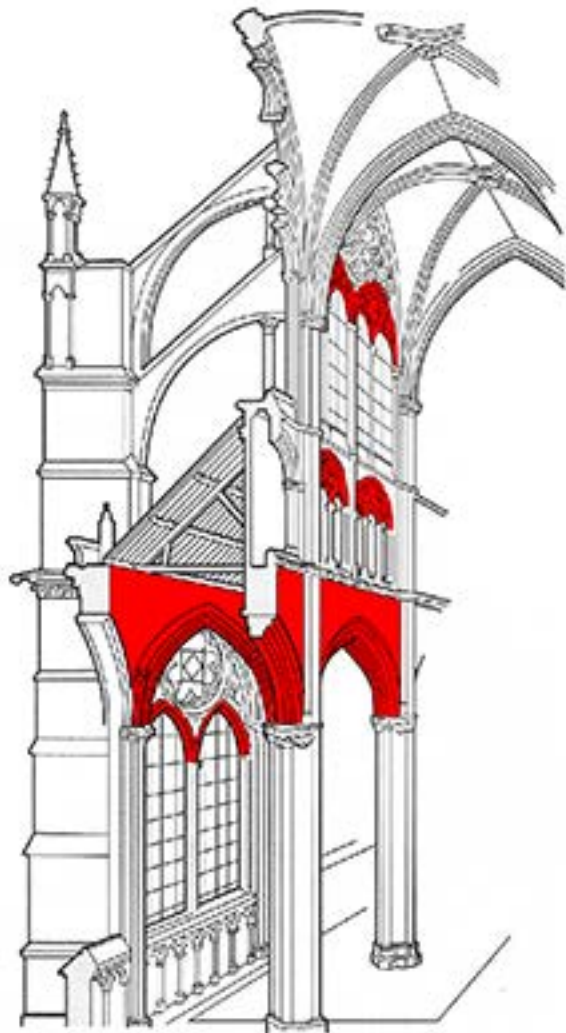




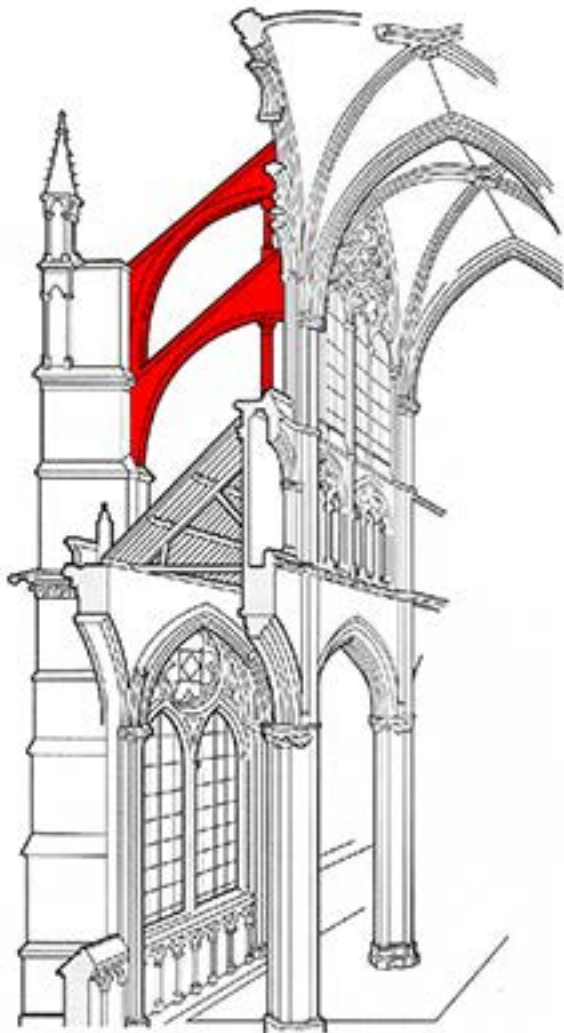
ANATOMY OF A GOTHIC CATHEDRAL



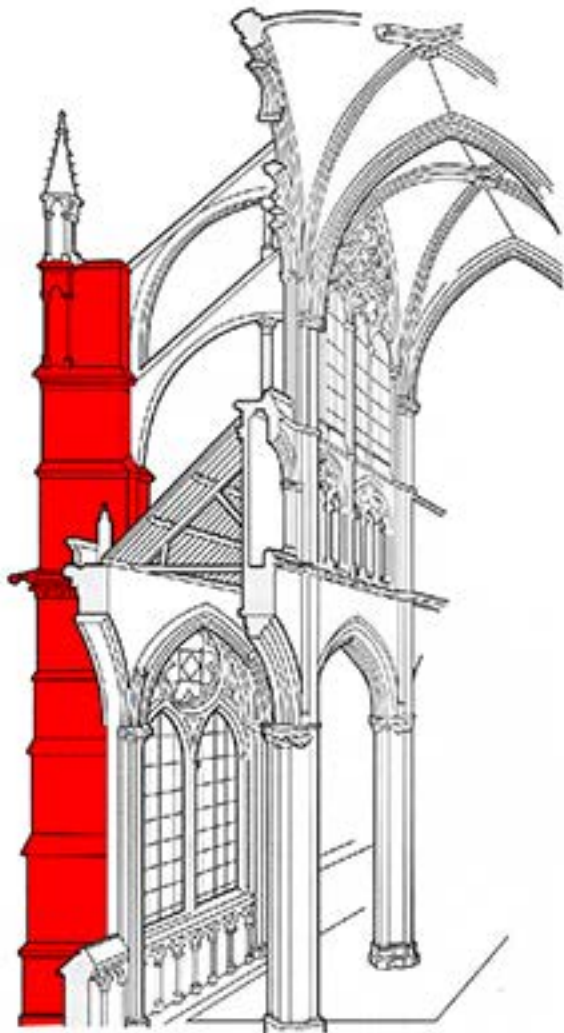
RIB VAULTS



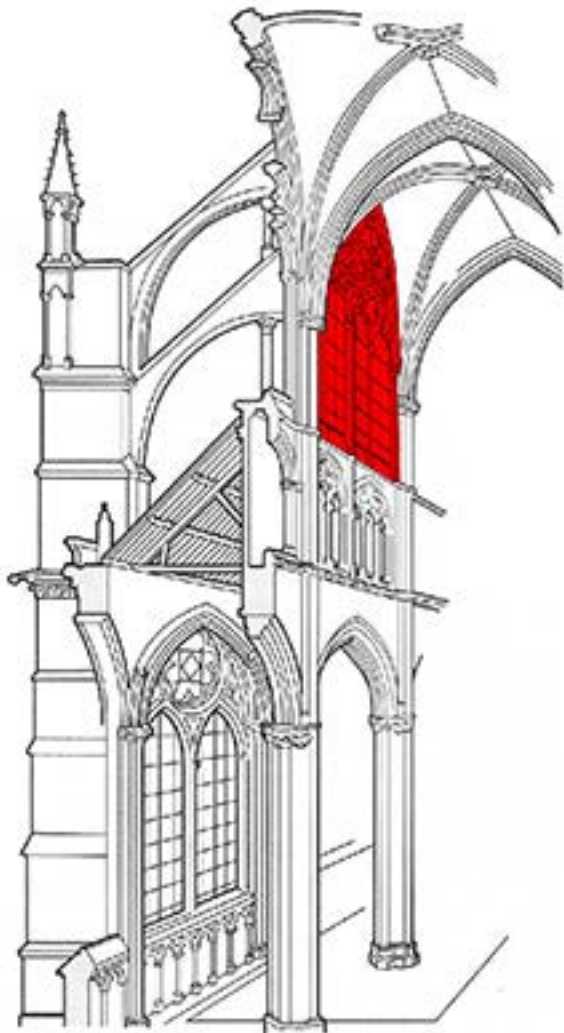
POINTED ARCHES



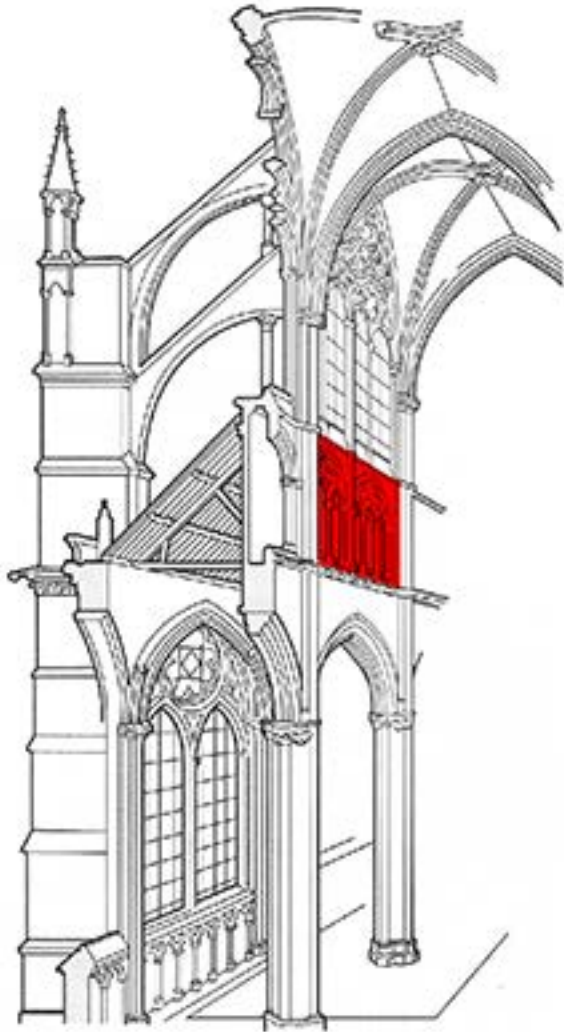
FLYING BUTRESSES



BUTRESSES



CLERESTORY



TRIFORIUM



*Left: Speyer Cathedral, Speyer, Germany (1030 – ca. 12th century)
Right: Cathedral of Laon, Laon, France (12th/13th centuries)*



The Gothic Claire-voie, Clerestory (clear window)



*Stained glass
Notre-Dame de Chartres*

- Stained-glass certainly not invented during Gothic, but became ever more important due to larger openings
- Served a DIDACTIC PURPOSE



*Stained glass
Cologne Cathedral*



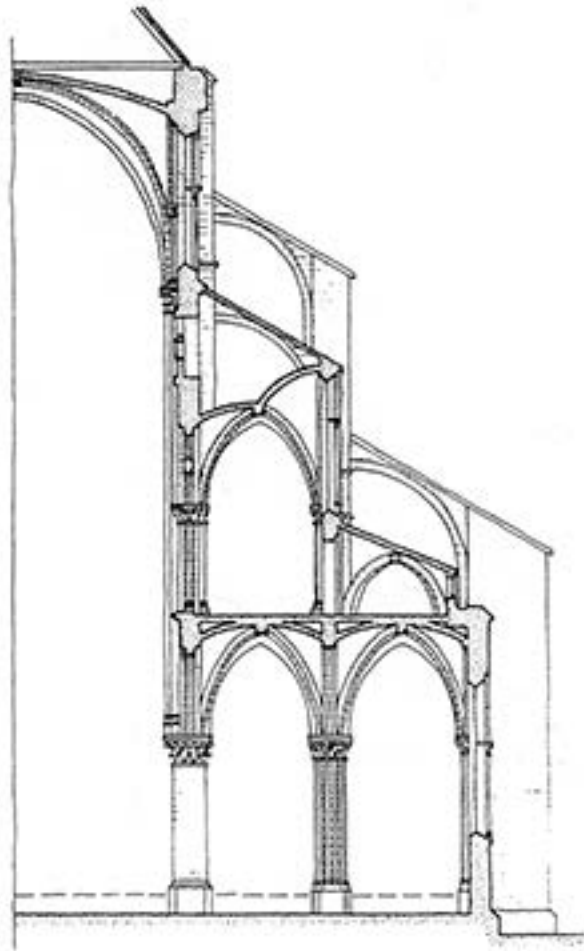
Stained glass
Sainte-Chapelle, Paris

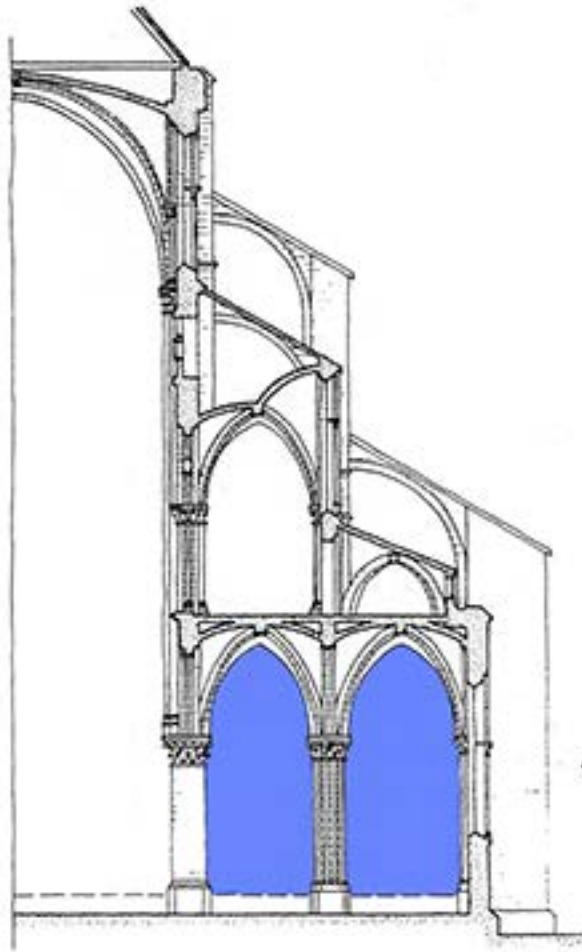


Stained glass
Sainte-Chapelle, Paris

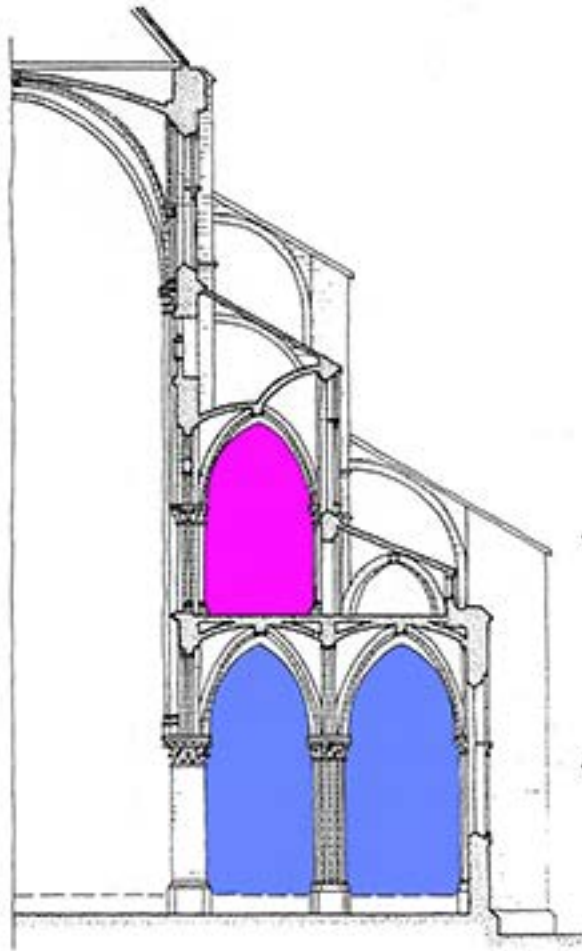


Stained glass
Sainte-Chapelle, Paris



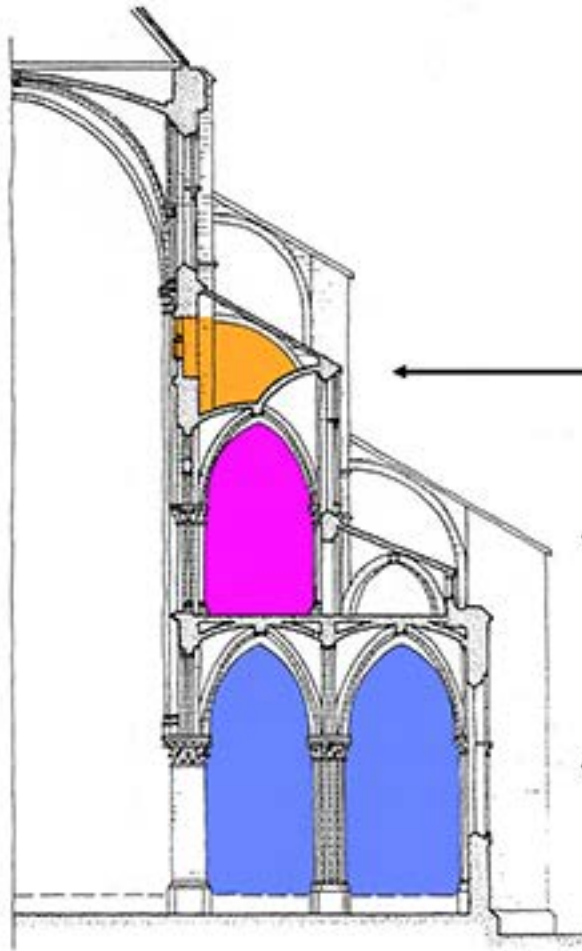


← aisle



tribune / gallery

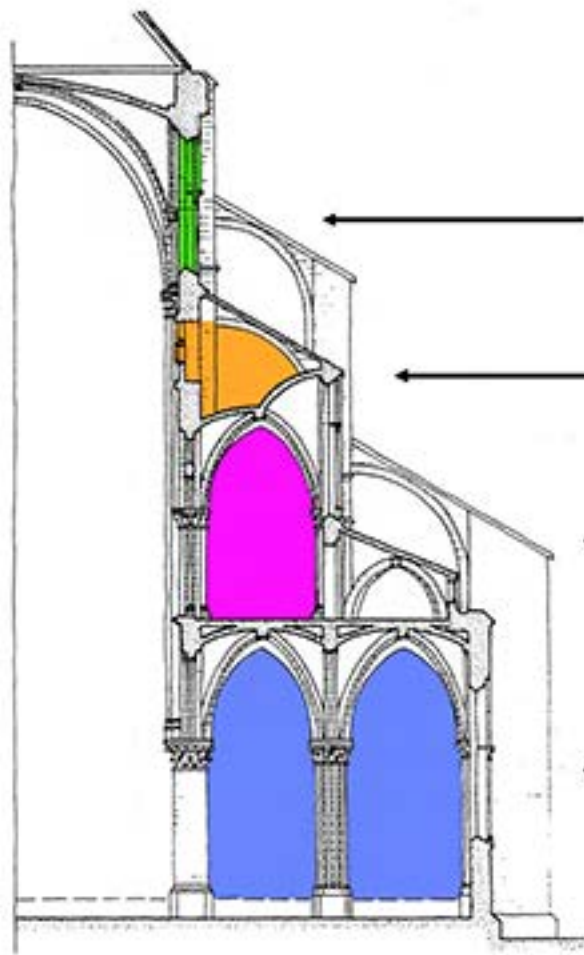
aisle



triforium

tribune / gallery

aisle



← clerestory / claire-voie

← triforium

← tribune / gallery

← aisle



Notre-Dame de Loon, France (12th/13th centuries)

Elements of a Gothic entry

rose/rosette/ rayonnant

A circular window, often inlaid with stained-glass, common throughout Gothic religious architecture



Elements of a Gothic entry

portal

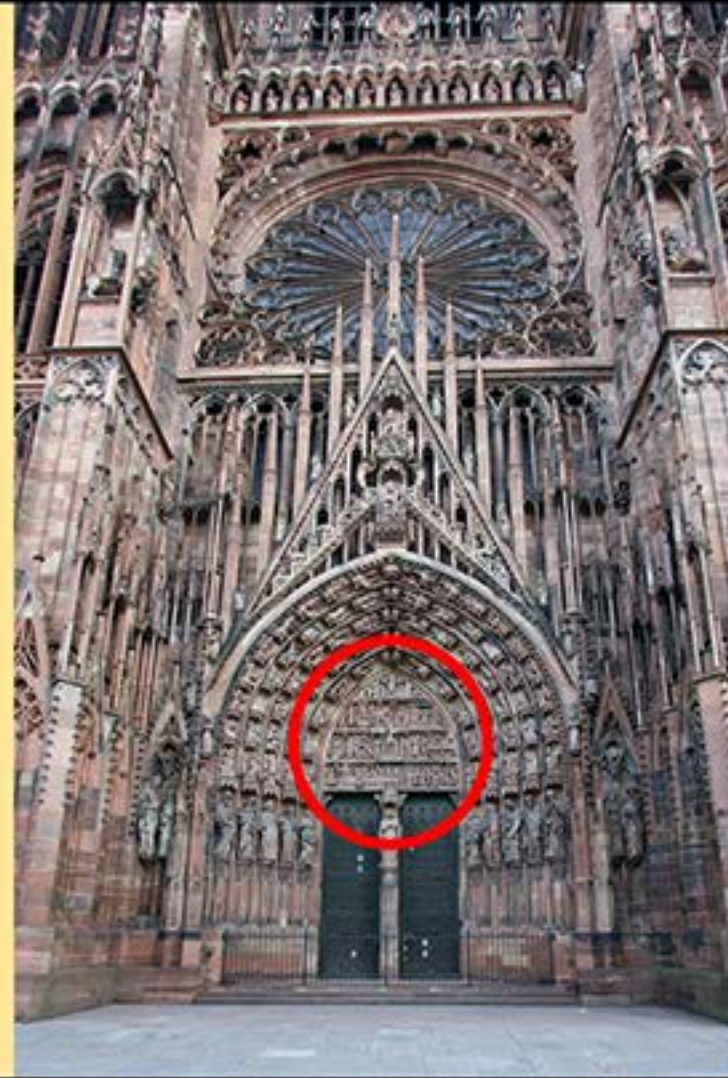
An opening, often serving as an entrance, composed of a series of formal elements such as a tympanum, jabs, lintel, and trumeau



Elements of a Gothic entry

tympanum

Decorative wall surface above an entrance, often recessed and semi-circular or triangular



Elements of a Gothic entry

trumeau

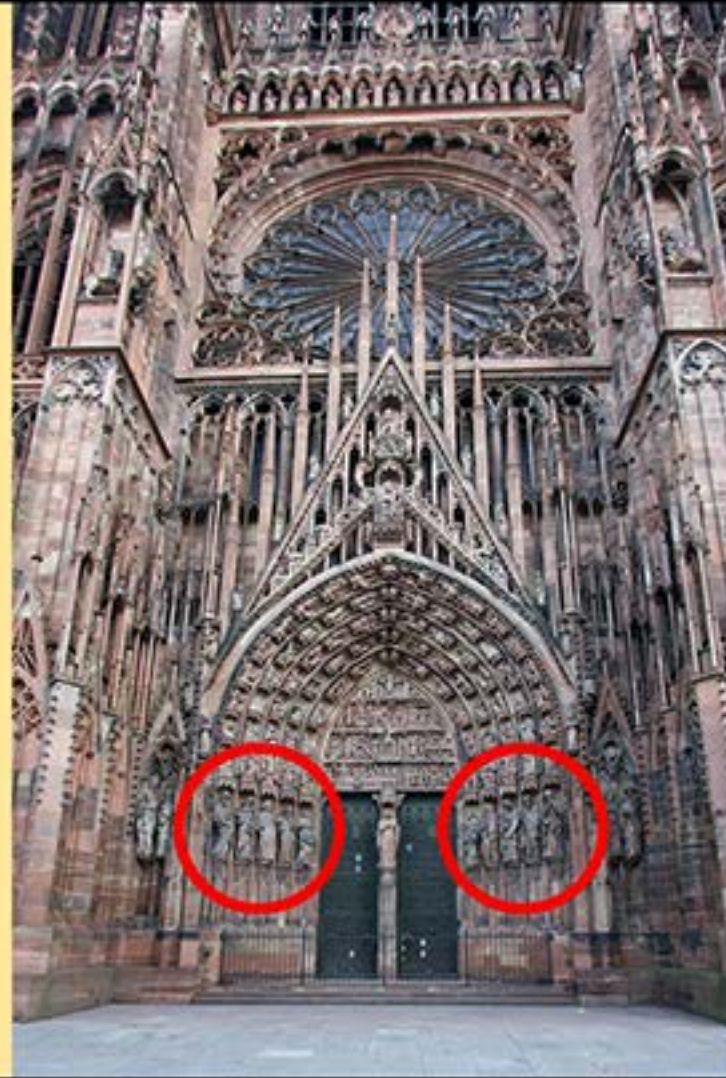
A pillar separating two openings
(e.g. doorways) in a church's portal



Elements of a Gothic entry

jamb

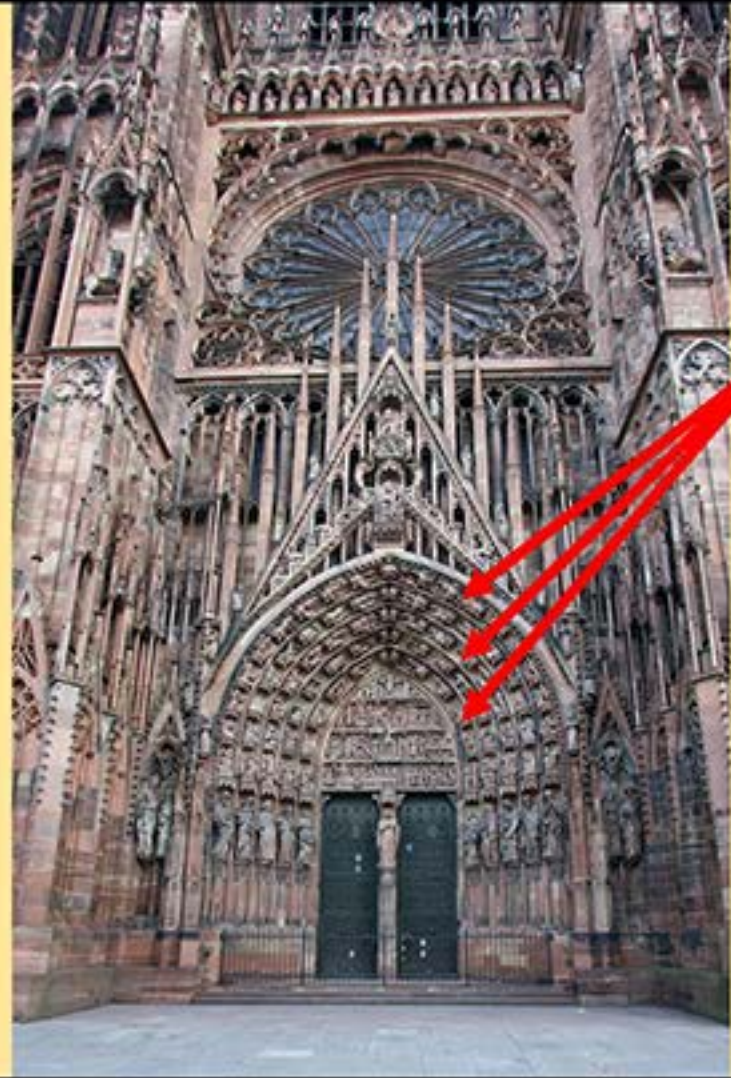
Vertical boundary members around an entrance, visually supporting the tympanum.



Elements of a Gothic entry

archivolts

A series of banding that follows the curvature of the portal and tympanum, oftentimes leading into the jambs.



The Gothic

Early Gothic, High Gothic, Late Gothic

(~1120 – 1200)



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Basilica of St. Denis, St. Denis, France (1035 - 40)

- Widely considered as **first example of Gothic architecture**



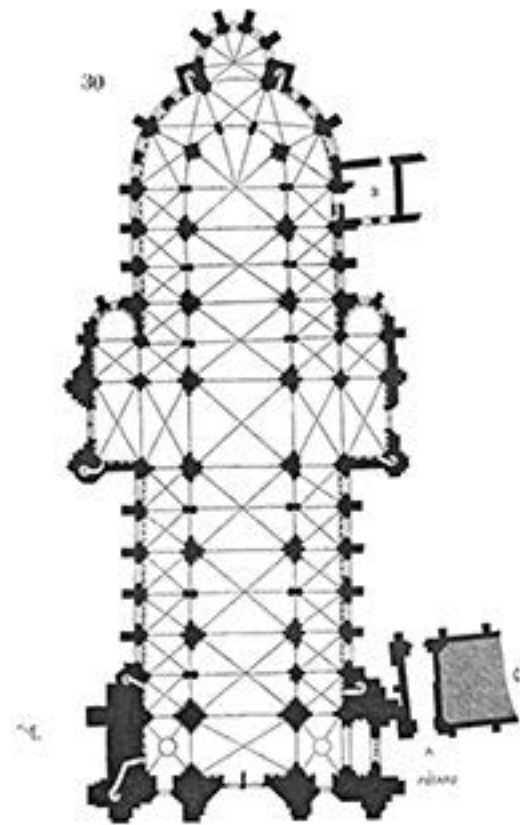
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Basilica of St. Denis, St. Denis, France (1035 - 40)





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Cathédrale Saint-Etienne de Sens, Burgundy, France [started c. 1140]



The Gothic

Early Gothic, High Gothic, Late Gothic

(~1200 - 1280)

Big 3 High Gothic Churches of France (plus 1)



**Notre-Dame
de Chartres**



**Notre-Dame
d'Amiens**



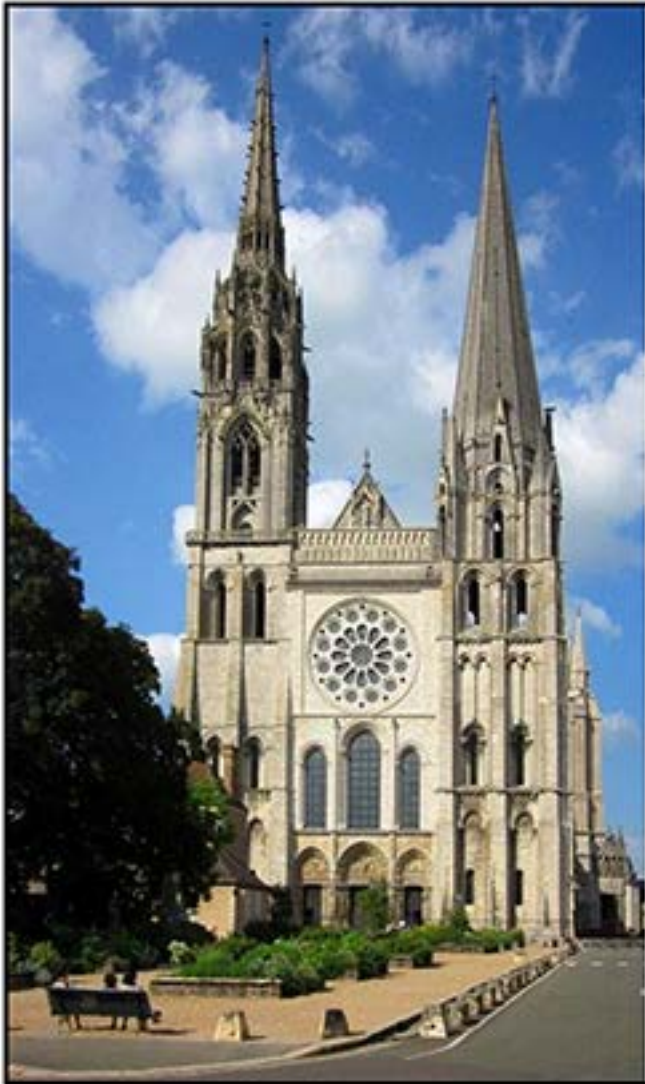
**Notre-Dame
de Reims**



**Notre-Dame
de Paris***

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- As mentioned, the **High Period** is the **exemplary period**
- Gothic is **quintessentially French**
- All called 'Notre Dame'
 - Chartres, Amiens, Reims



Notre-Dame de Chartres, France (1194 – 1250)

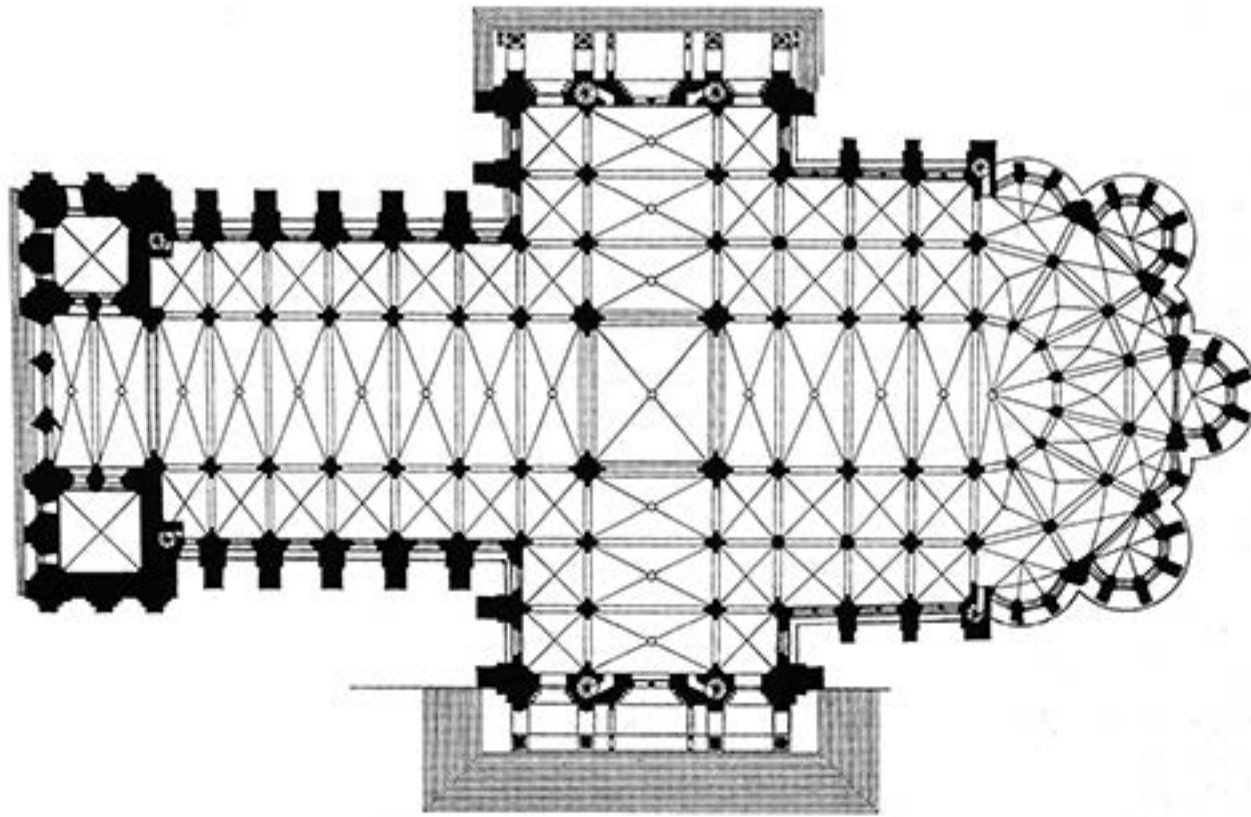


Notre-Dame de Chartres, France (1194 – 1250)





Notre-Dame de Chartres, France (1194 – 1250)





Notre-Dame de Amiens, France (1220 – 1270)



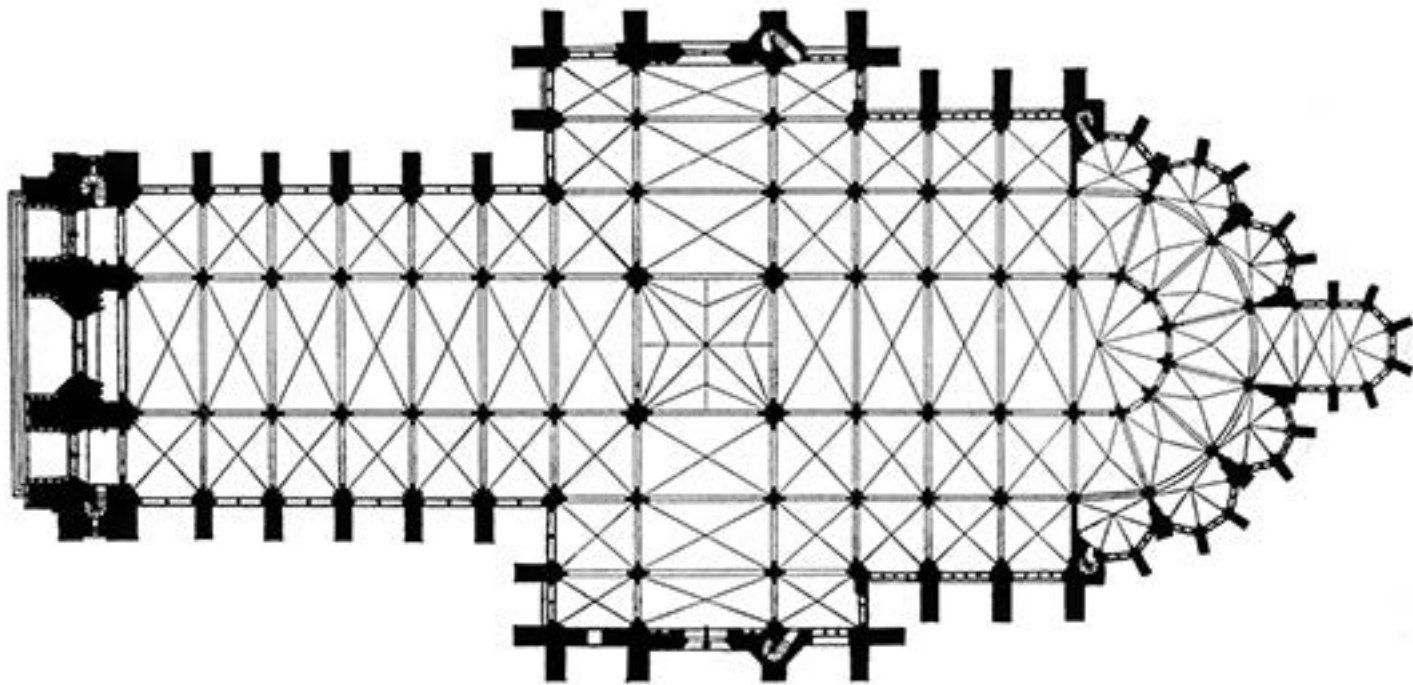
Notre-Dame de Amiens, France (1220 – 1270)



Notre-Dame de Amiens, France (1220 – 1270)





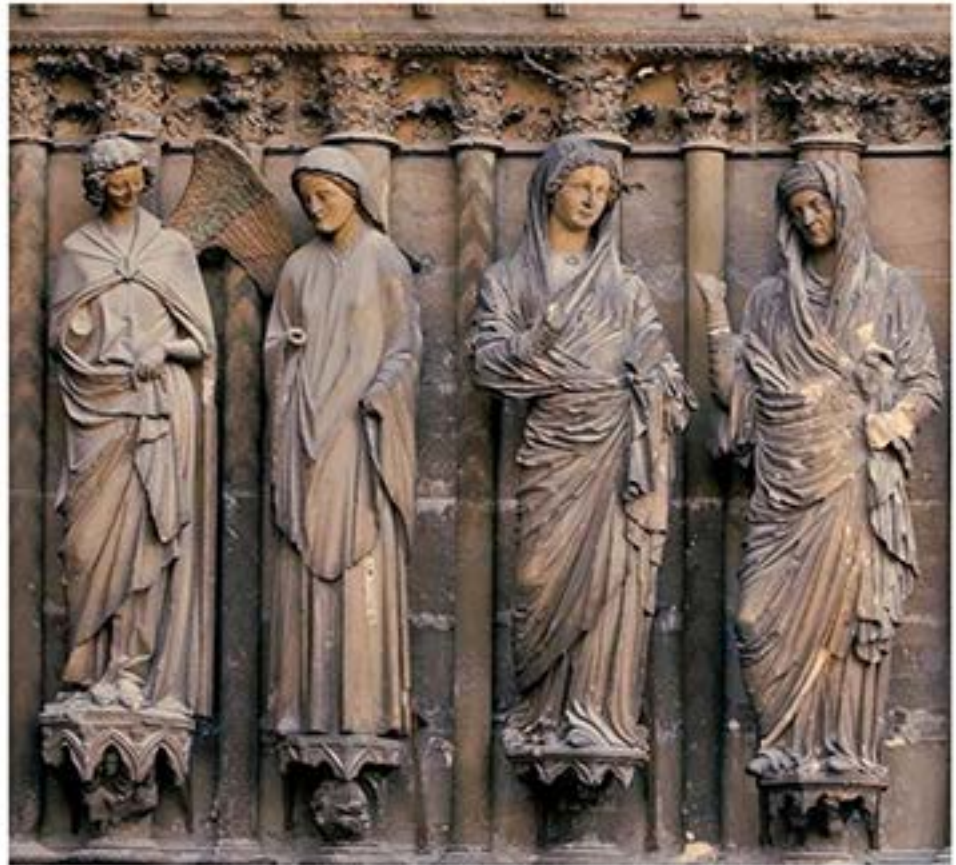




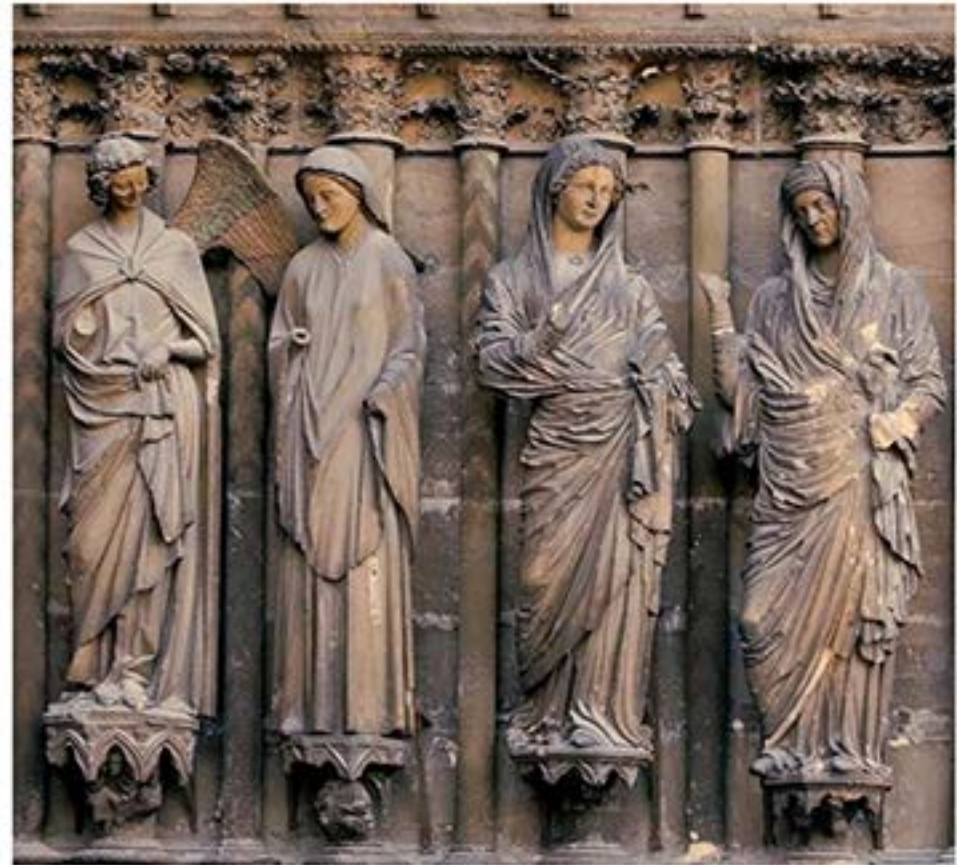
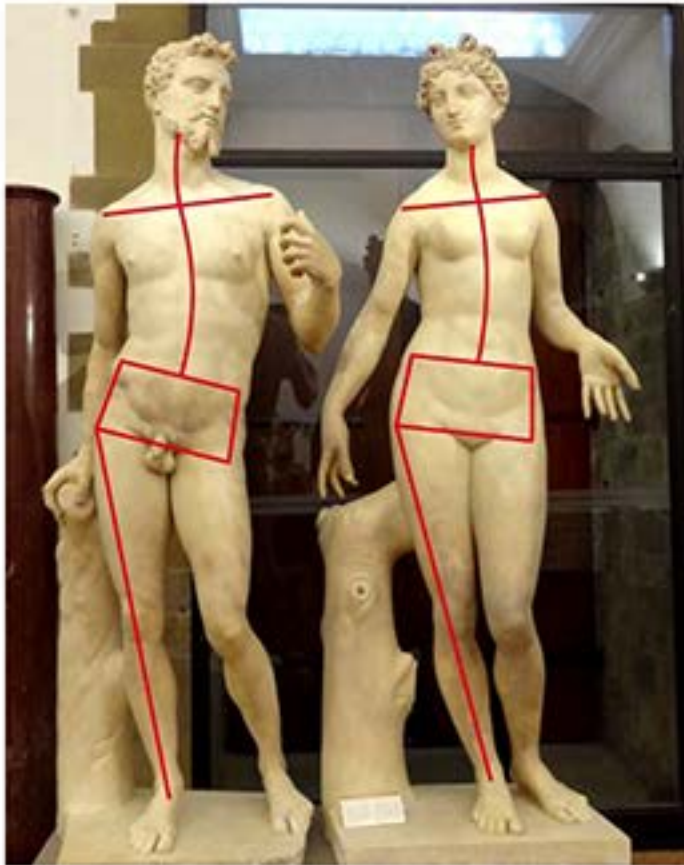
Notre-Dame de Reims, France (1211 – 1275)



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Contrast of jamb figures Chartres (left) and Reims (right) cathedrals



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Contrapposto

- Emerging style of rendering the human form, **Contrapposto**





Notre-Dame de Reims, France (1211 – 1275)



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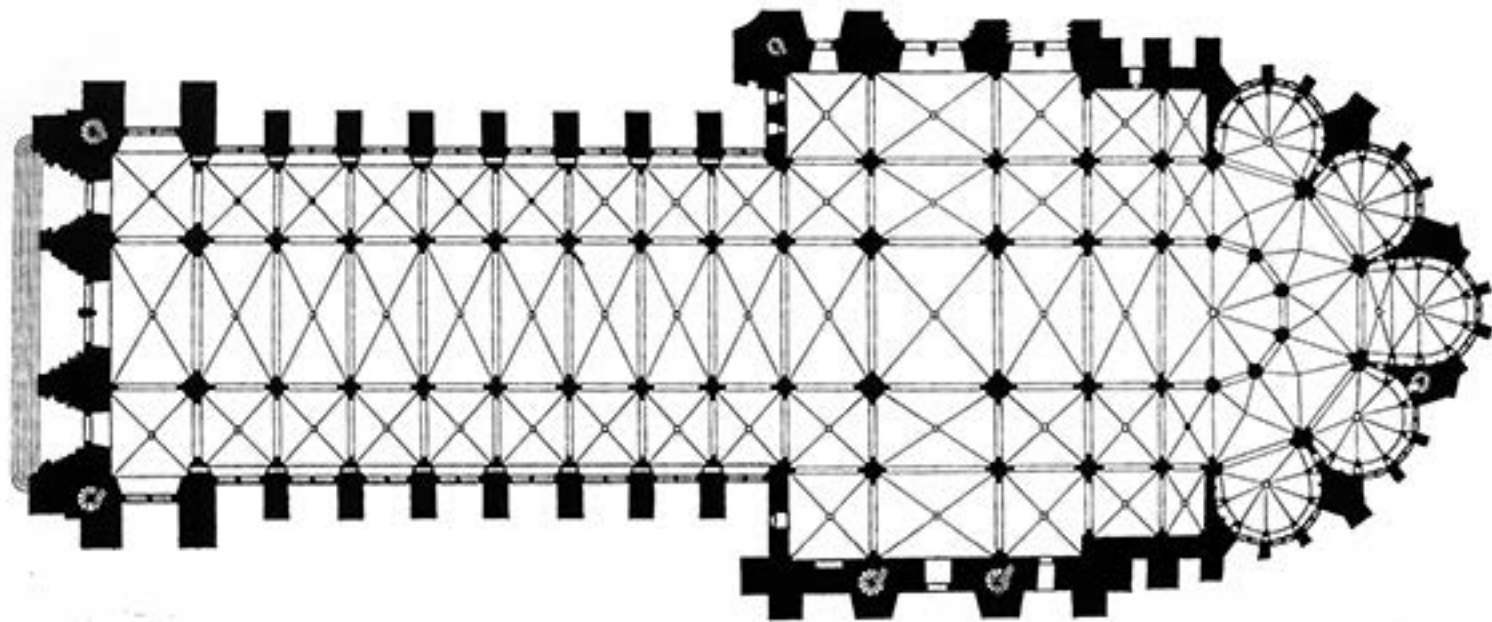


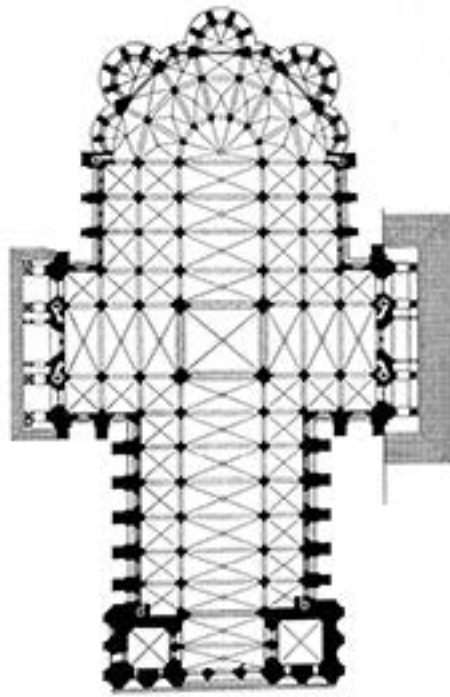
Reims Cathedral



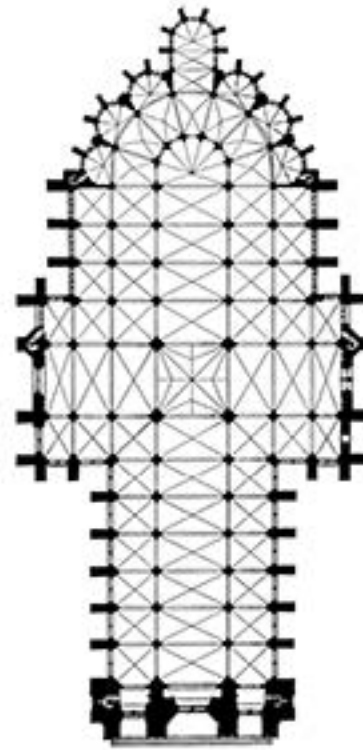
- Gargoyles vs Grotesques



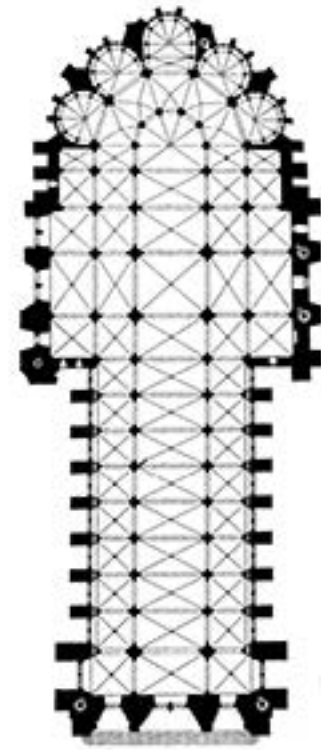




Chartres



Amiens



Reims

Comparison of French High Gothic Cathedrals



Notre-Dame de Paris (1163 – 1345)





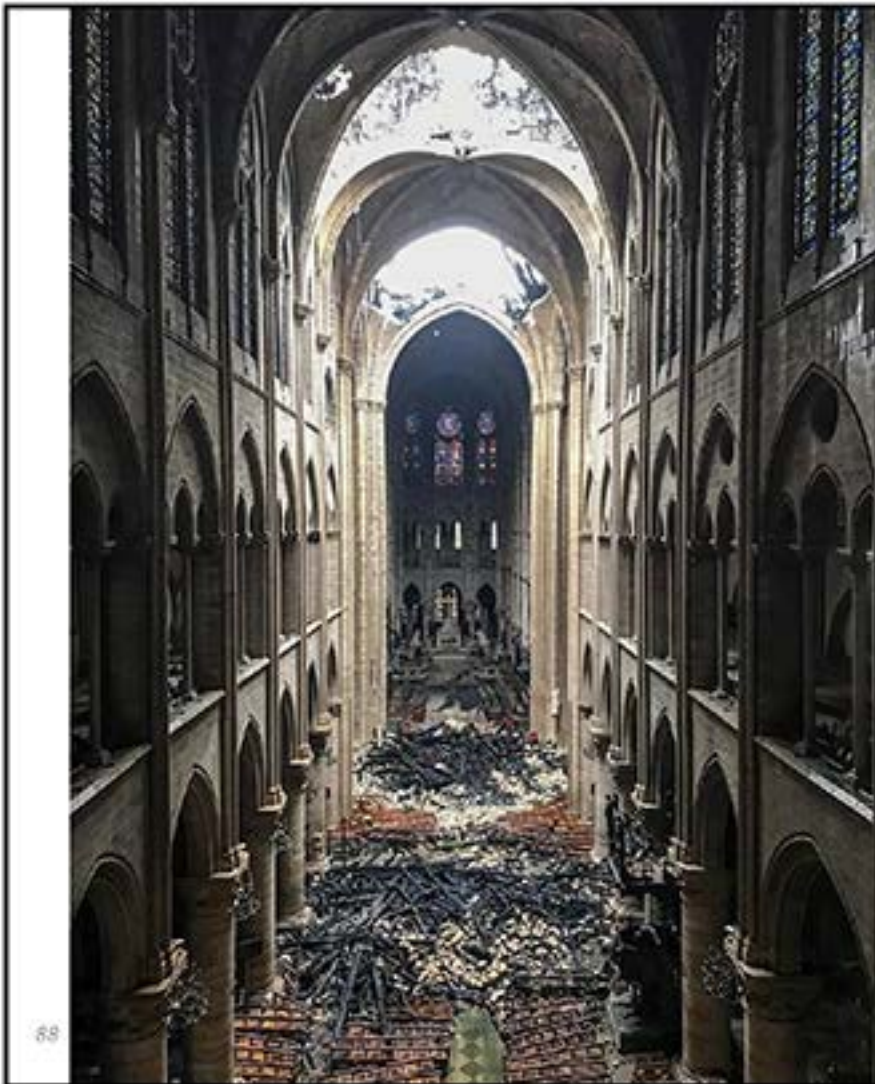
Notre-Dame de Paris (1163 – 1345)



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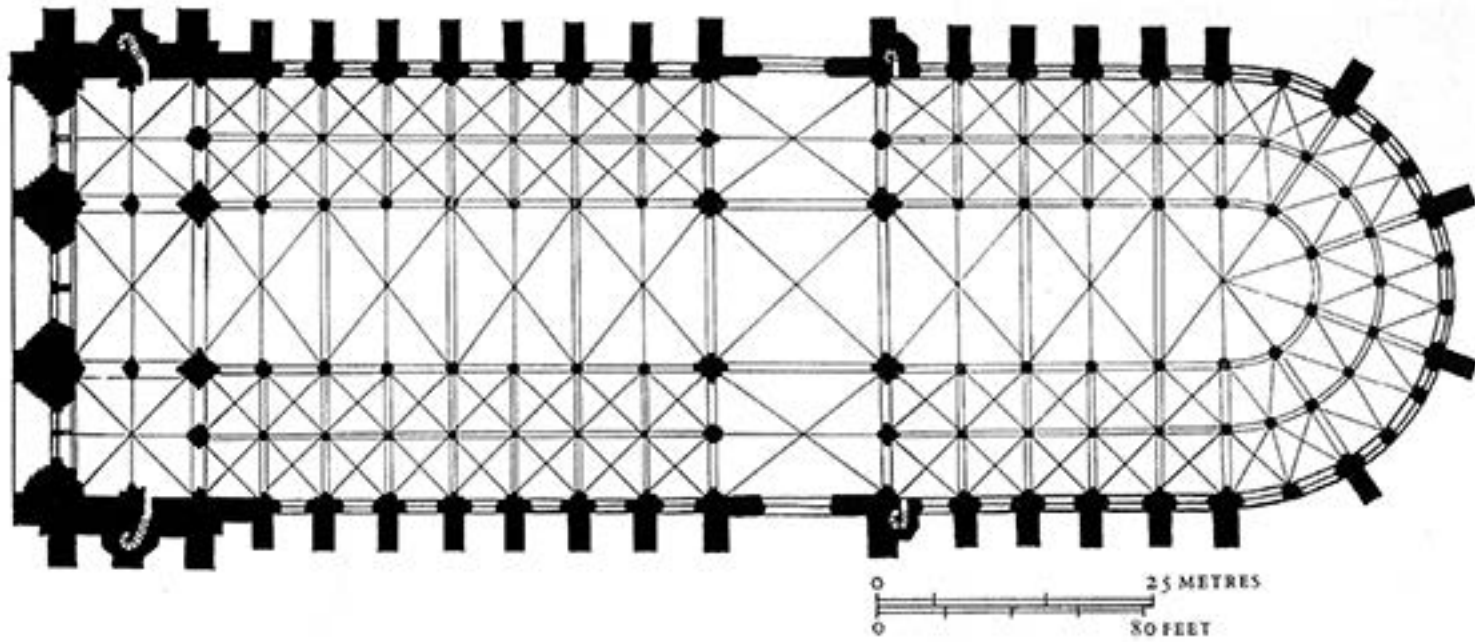
Notre-Dame de Paris (1163 – 1345)



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Notre-Dame de Paris (1163 – 1345)









ENGLISH GOTHIC

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- Also known as NORMAN GOTHIC

ENGLISH GOTHIC

DECORATED → PERPENDICULAR

GEOMETRIC / CURVILINEAR

1250 - 1350

c. 1350 - 1550

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- Decorated Period: look for tracery
- Perpendicular: emphasis on vertical lines
 - Very large windows with elaborate tracery
 - Fan vaulting



Geometric Decorated



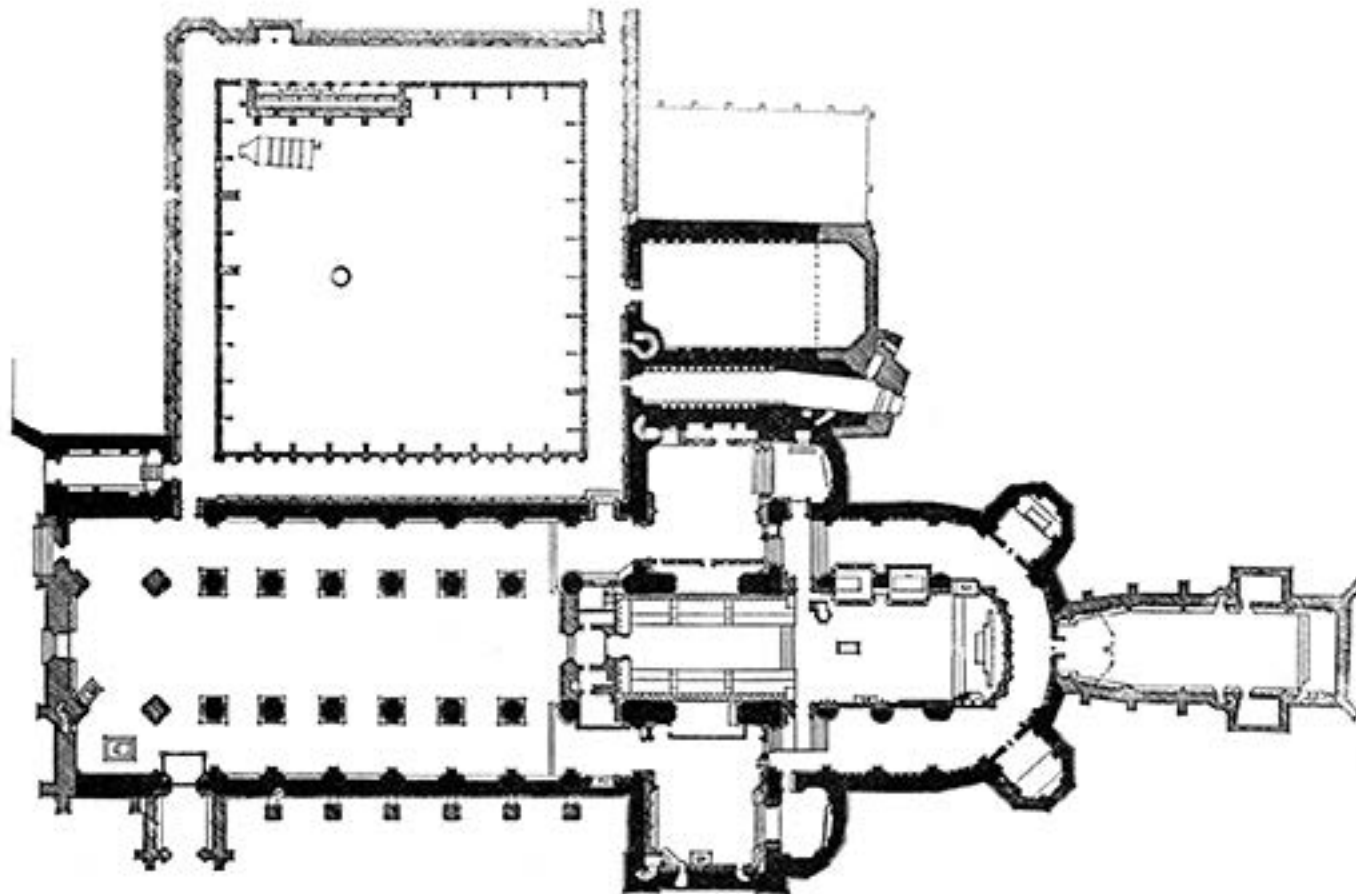
Curvilinear Decorated



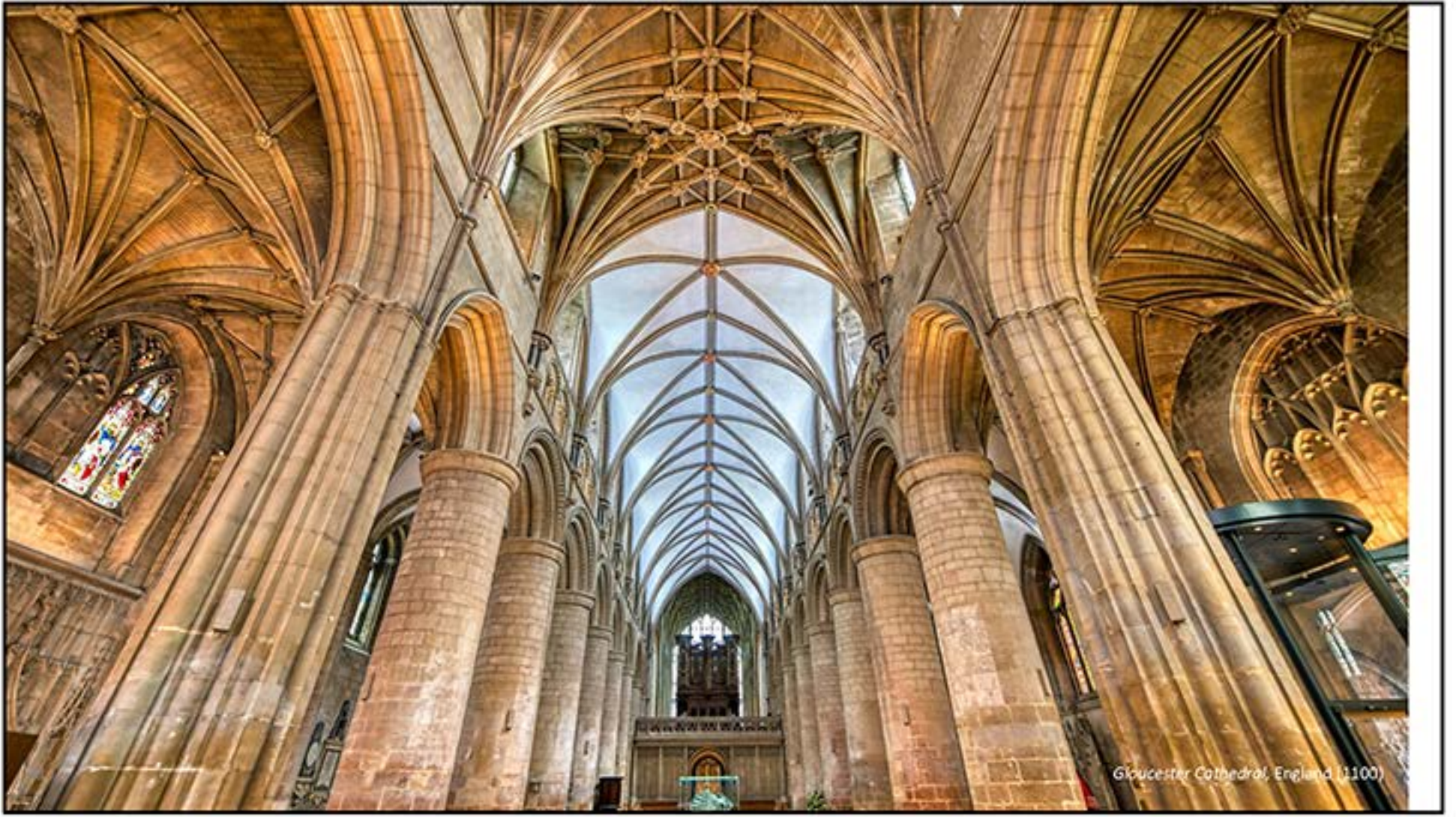
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Gloucester Cathedral, England (1100)

- Paradigm of the High Gothic, or Decorated Style



- Big square are the cloisters
- Appendage called the Lady Cathedral



Gloucester Cathedral, England (1100)





Lady Chapel of Gloucester Cathedral, England (1100)



Lady Chapel at Gloucester Cathedral, England (1100)



Lady Chapel at Gloucester Cathedral, England (1100)



- Fan Vault



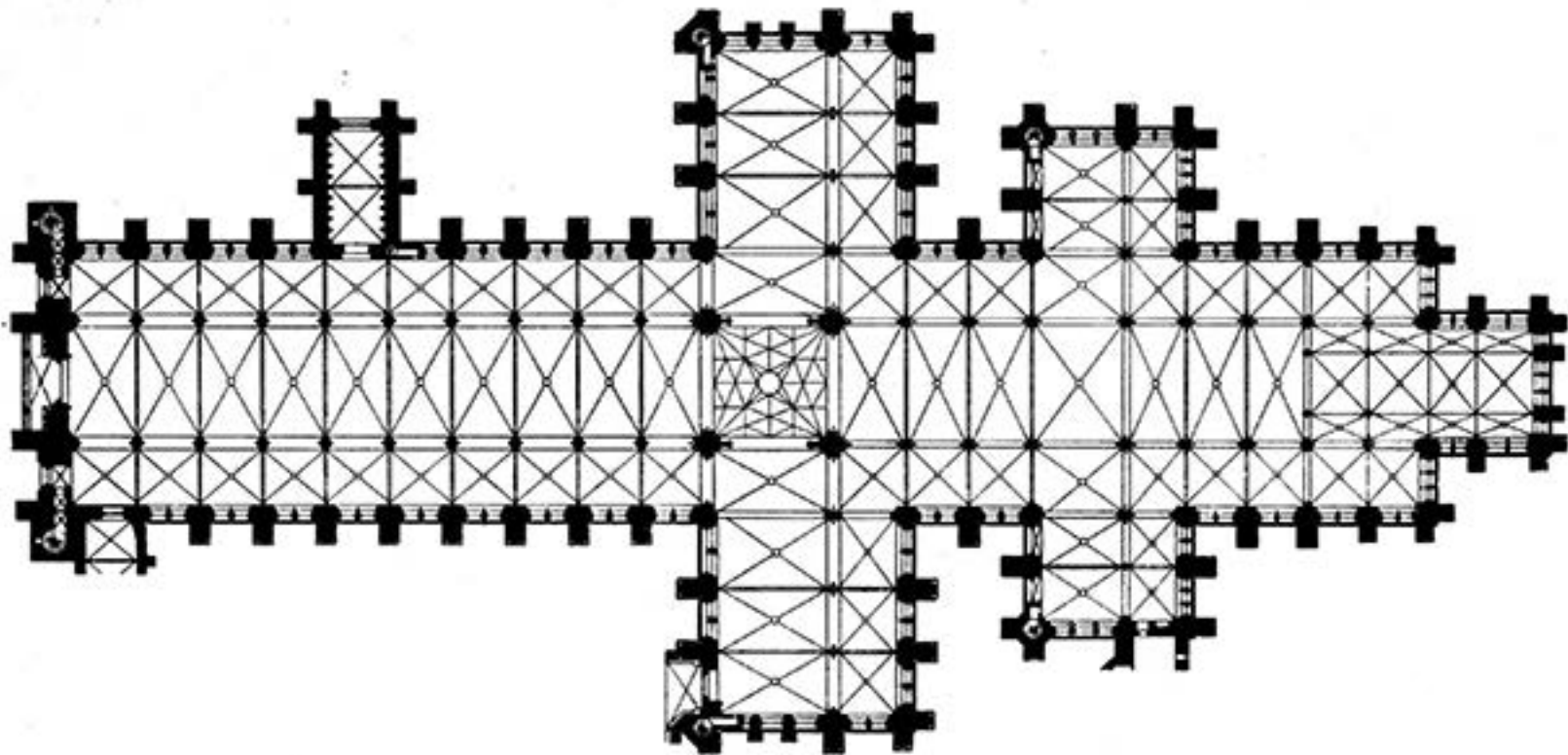
Gloucester Cathedral, England (1100)



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Salisbury Cathedral, England (1220 – 58)

- Example of lancet window, thin and tall
- Good example of Early English style – relatively clean lines with vertical repetition



- Double transept



Salisbury Cathedral, England (1220 – 58)







Salisbury Cathedral, England (1220 – 58)



- King's College Chapel, example of the Perpendicular Style



King's College, Cambridge [1446 - 1536]



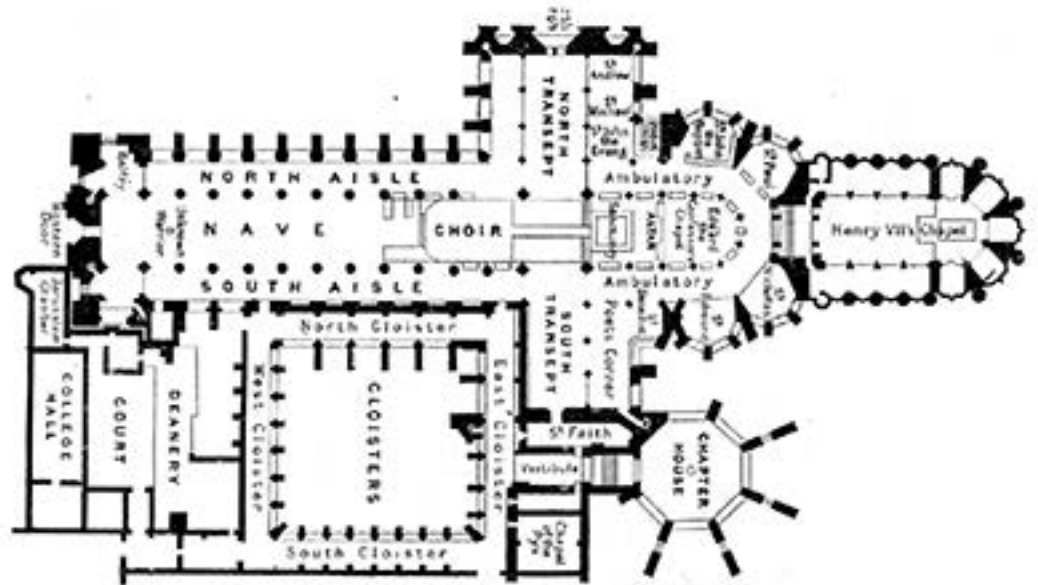
The East Prospect of the Abby of S. PETER & of the PARISH CHURCH of S. MARGARET. Westminster Abbey, London [1245 - 18th century]
WESTMINSTER.



Westminster Abbey, London [1245 – 18th century]



Westminster Abbey, London [1245 – 18th century]



Westminster Abbey, London [1245 – 18th century]



- Perpendicular Style evident from Lady Chapel



Westminster Abbey, London [1245 – 18th century]



Westminster Abbey, London [1245 – 18th century]

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(~1280 - 1500)

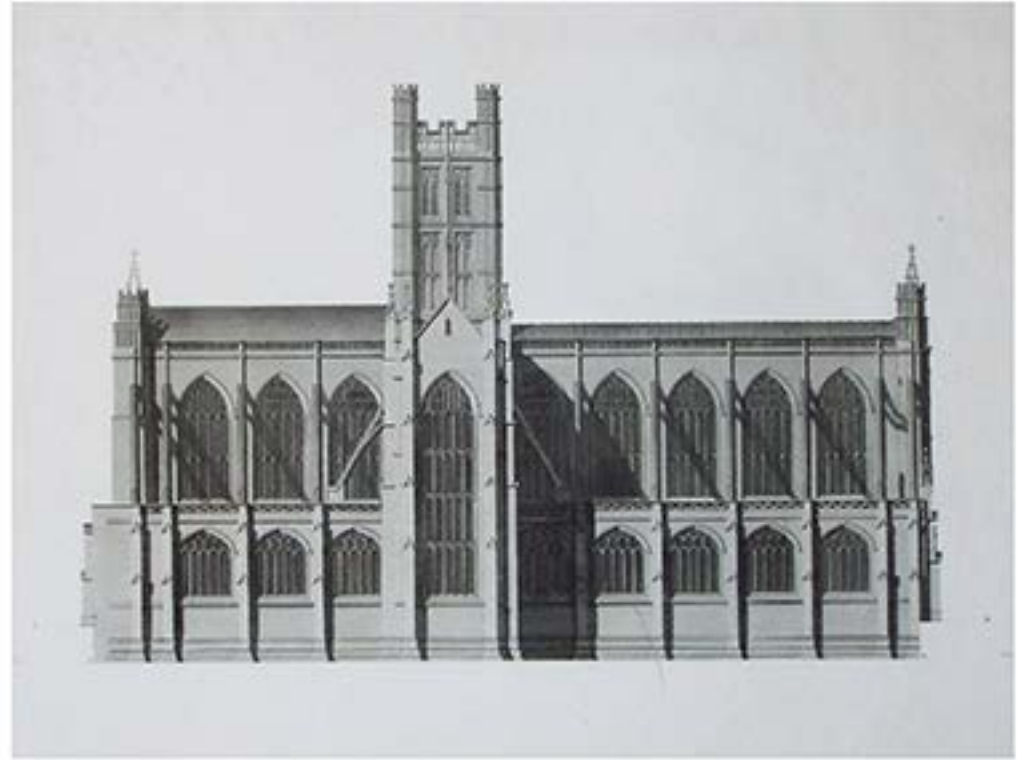
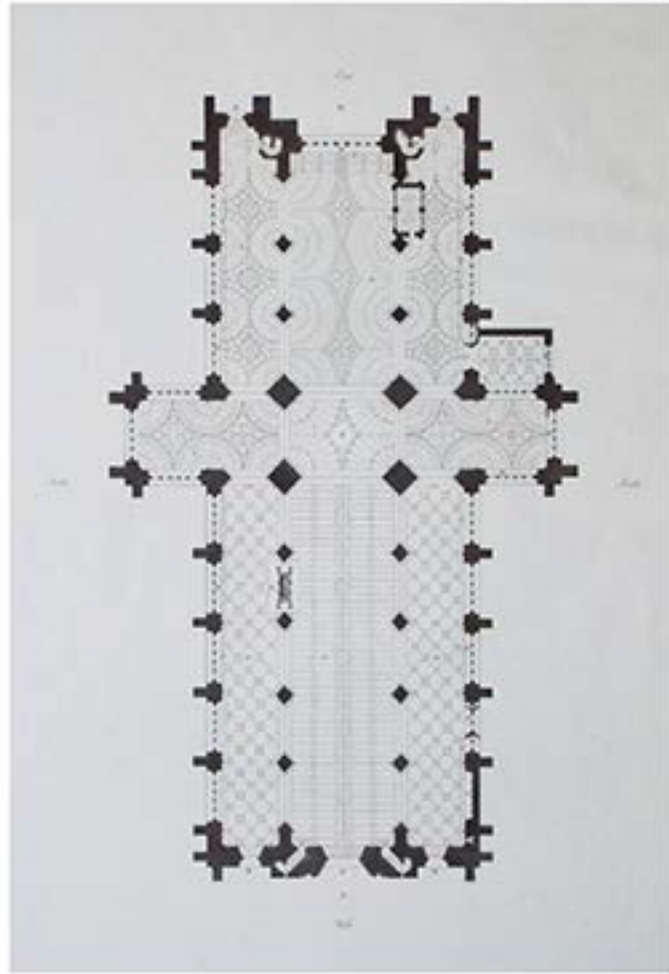
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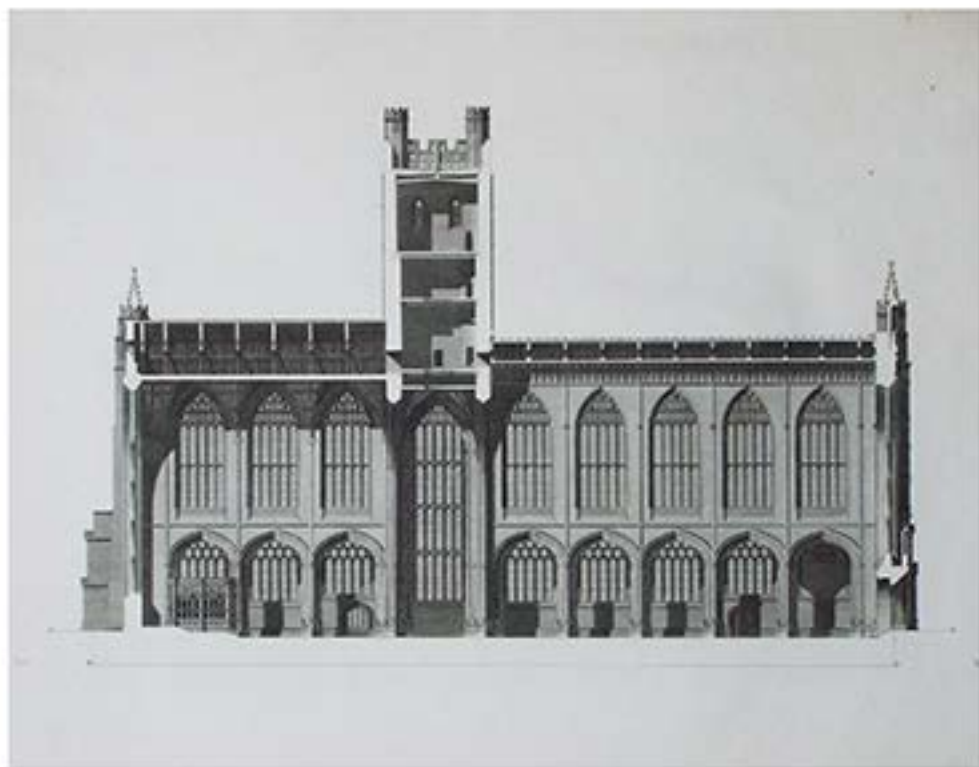
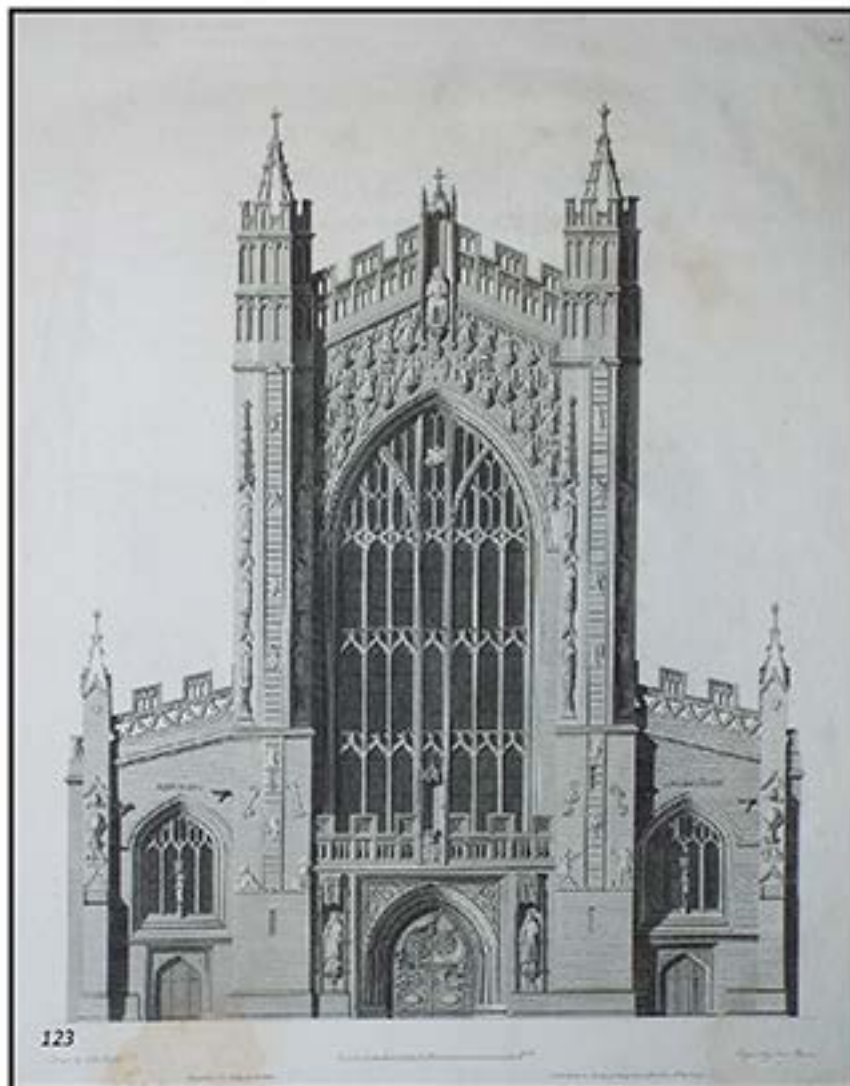
- As we can see, the success of the Gothic Style resulted in its spread outside of France
- Period of variation of basic stylistic tendencies, but also advancements in technology



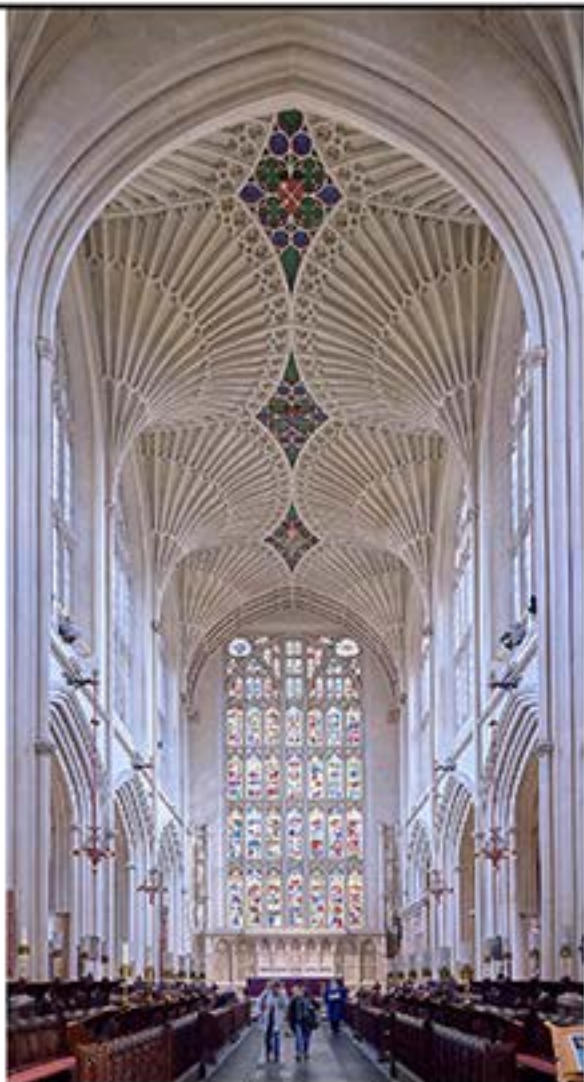
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*Bath Abbey, Bath [*12th – 16th centuries]*





Bath Abbey, Bath [*12th – 16th centuries]



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Bath Abbey, Bath [*12th – 16th centuries]



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Bath Abbey, Bath [*12th – 16th centuries]

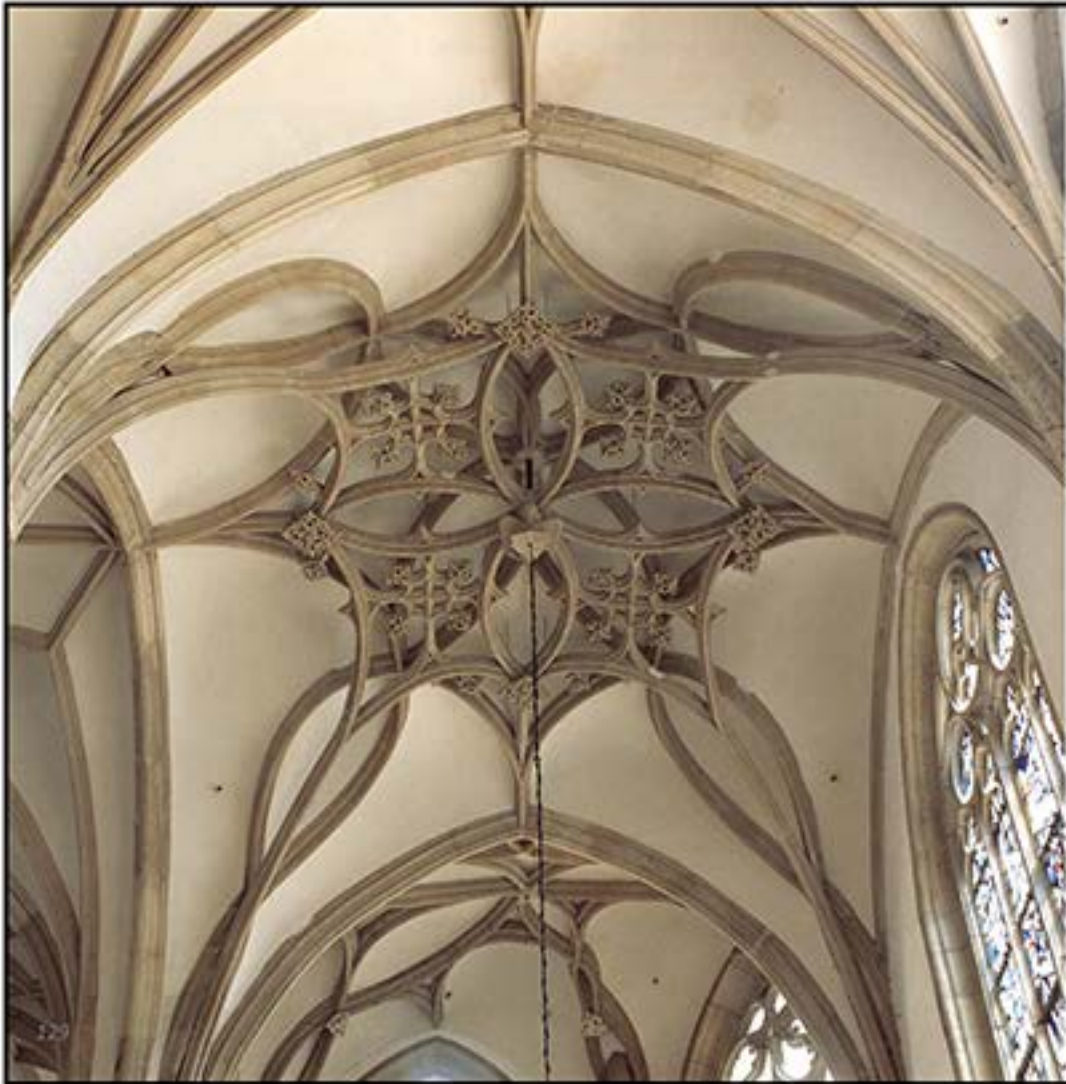




Flying rib

A structural or ornamental rib that is articulated off the surface of its accompanying vault





Examples of Flying Ribs



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Examples of Flying Ribs



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Cologne Cathedral, Germany (1248 – 1880)

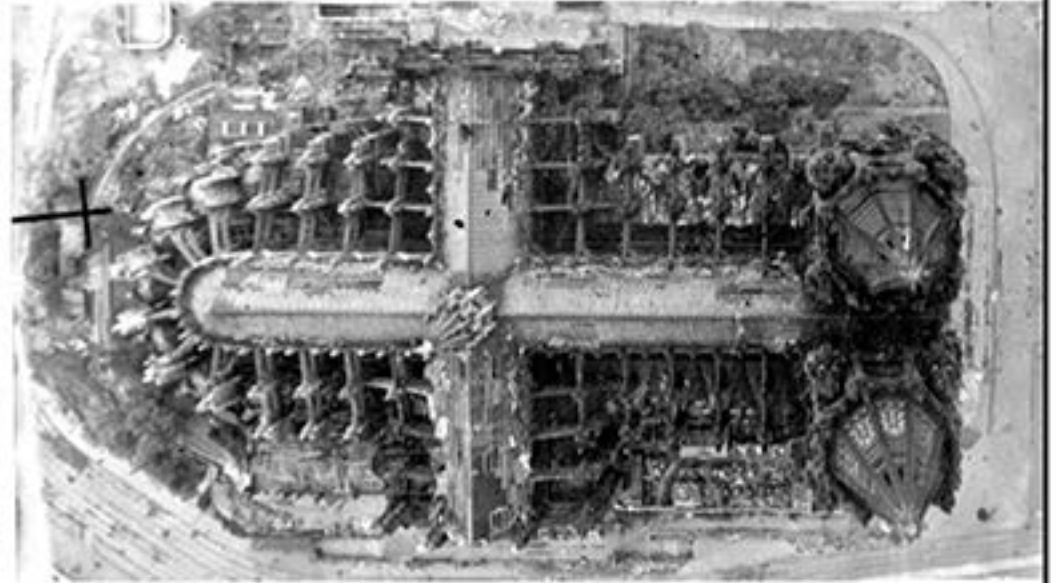
- Took over 500 years to complete
- World's tallest structure until 1884 – when the Washington Monument was complete



- Heavily damaged in WWII, but restored in 1948



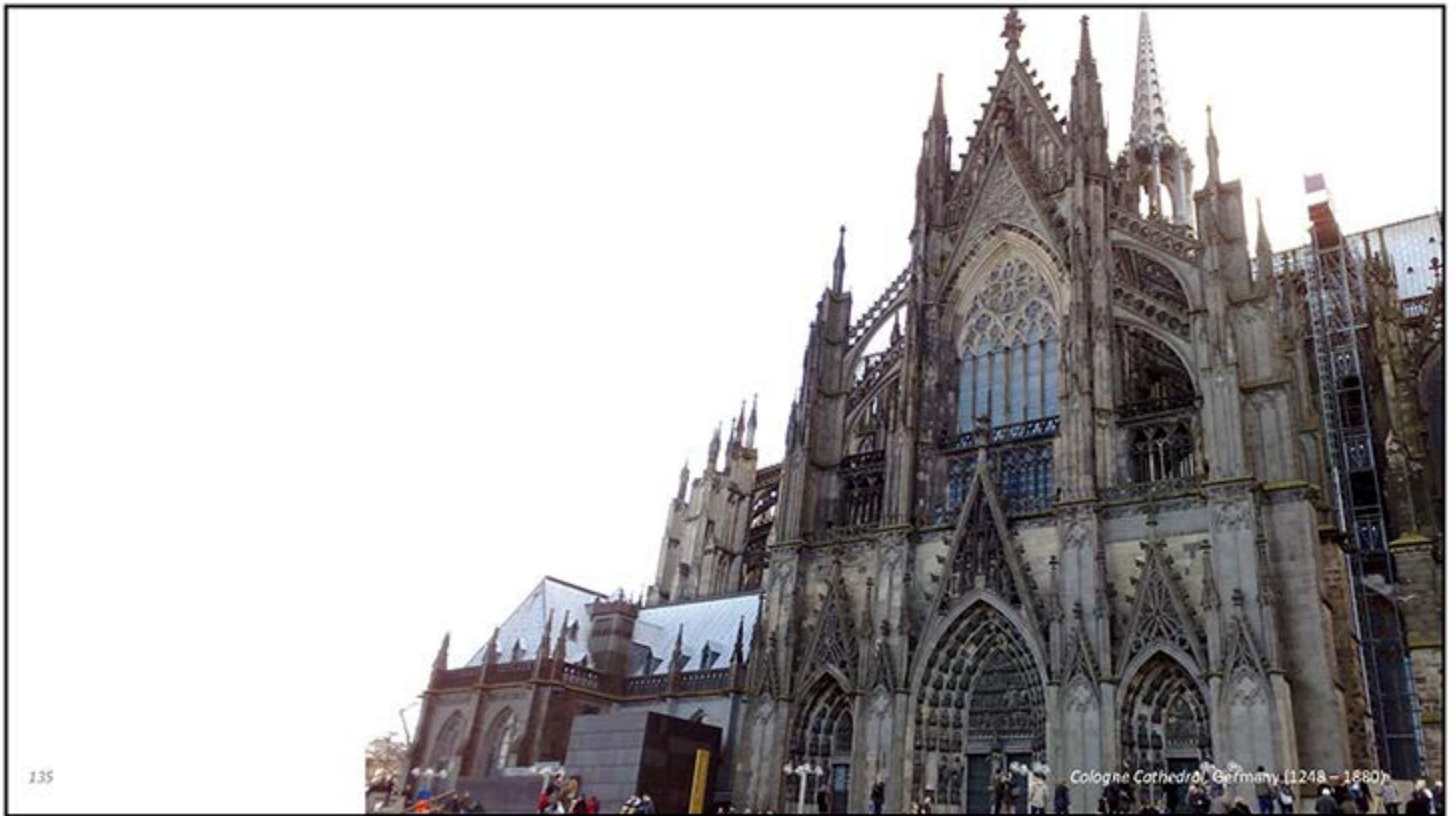
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Cologne Cathedral, Germany (1248 – 1880)

- Heavily damaged in WWII, but restored in 1948





- Quatrefoil detailing on the flying buttresses
- Extensive use of crockets, with heavily ornamented spires



St. Annenkirche, Annaberg-Buchholz, Germany [complete 1525]

- Important example of the Late-Gothic style, possibly first use of double-curved rib



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St. Annenkirche, Annaberg-Buchholz, Germany [complete 1525]







Cathedral of Saint-Pierre (Beauvais Cathedral), France [13th – 16th century]

- Ambition to make the tallest cathedral
- In 1284, part of the choir collapsed – partially due to ambitiousness, but also because design changed, and so structure was correctly reassessed
 - Notice the tension rods on the choir end



Cathedral of Saint-Pierre (Beauvais Cathedral), France [13th - 16th century]

- Wooden bracing permanent



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Cathedral of Saint-Pierre (Beauvais Cathedral), France [13th – 16th century]

- Wooden bracing permanent

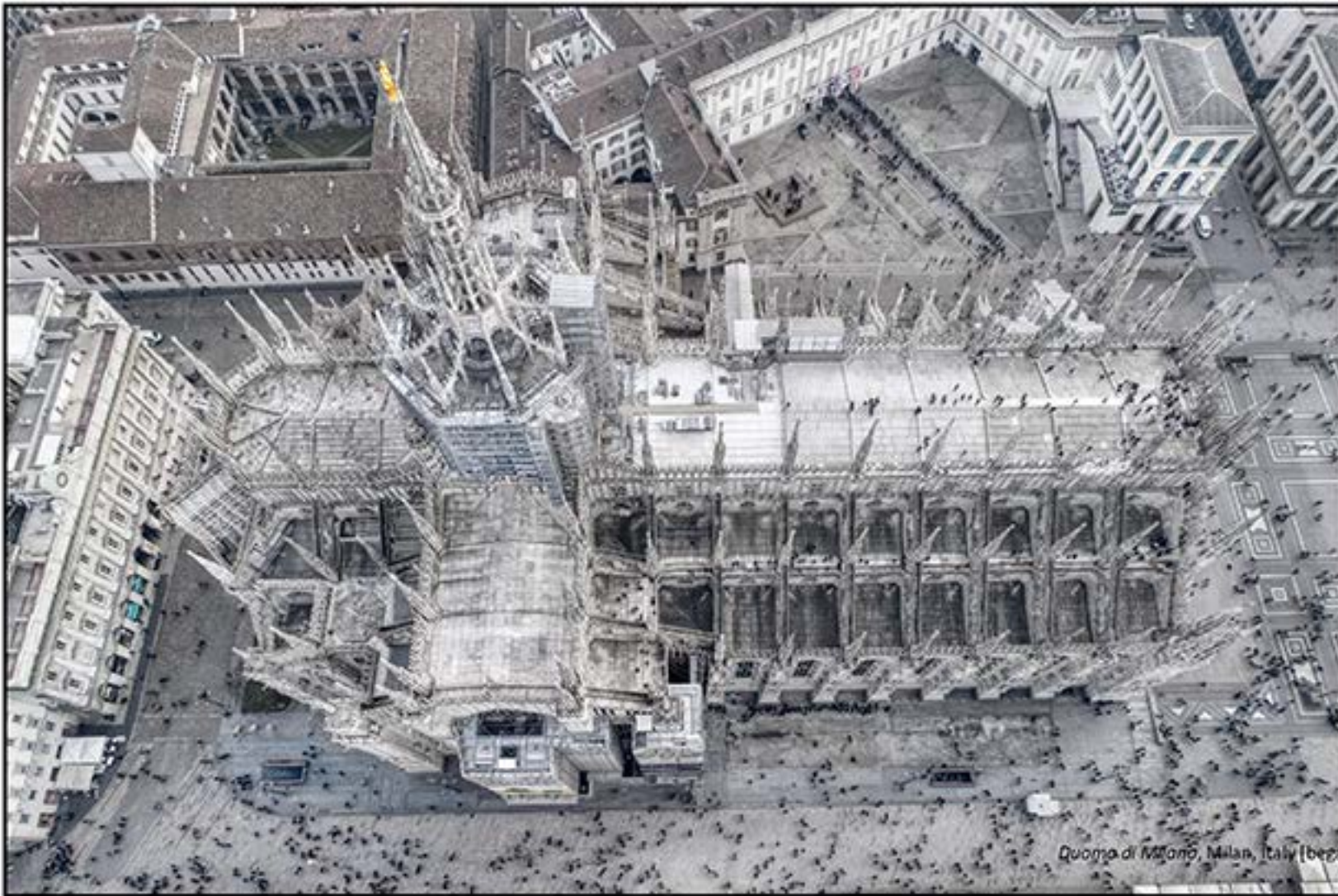


Cathedral of Saint-Denis (Norman Gothic), France [13th – 16th century]



Duomo di Milano, Milan, Italy [began 1336 – 20th century]

- Largest cathedral in Italy (don't count the Vatican... technically a different country)



Duomo di Milano, Milan, Italy [began 1536 – 20th century]

- Almost 6 centuries to complete





Duomo di Milano, Milan, Italy [began 1386 - 20th century]



- Example of the ornate crockets along the roof



- Signified excess, a kind of fetishism with technique and loss of perspective as what good architecture should be
- Sets the stage for the next period, the Renaissance