

# Art of the High Middle Ages

**Romanesque** c. 1050-1200 (12<sup>th</sup> century)

Early Gothic c. 1140-1200

**High Gothic** c. 1200-1300 (13<sup>th</sup> century)

Late Gothic c. 1300-1500

## REASONS FOR REVIVAL OF LARGE-SCALE ARCHITECTURE:

- relief over millennium
- replace destruction of 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> centuries invasions
- rise of towns
- new function of churches – not just for clergy but for laity
- beautify house of God
- **PILGRIMAGES**

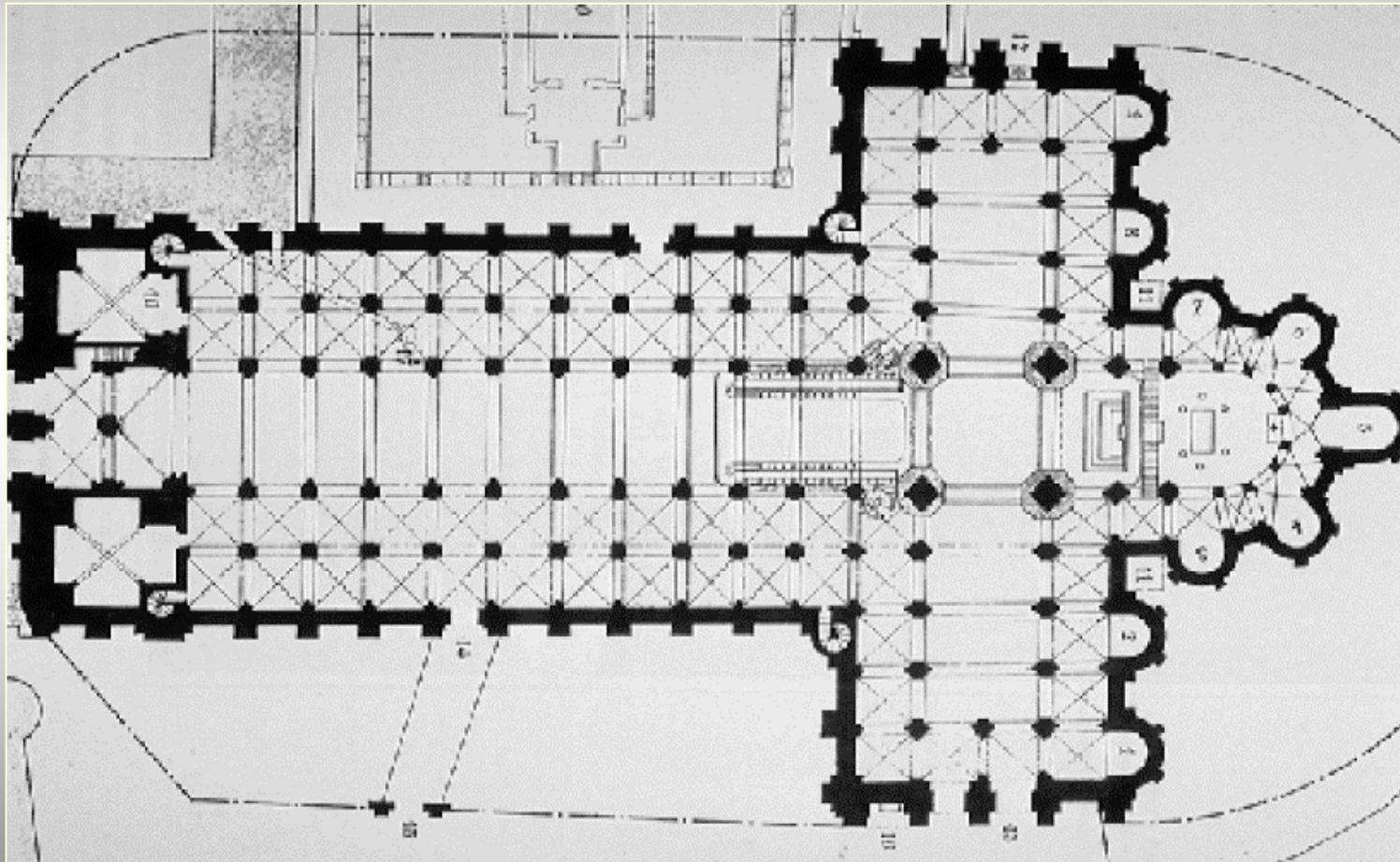
## ARCHITECTURAL GOALS:

- height (towards heaven)
- light (metaphor for God)
- stone vaulting (1. fireproof 2. acoustics 3. looks cool)

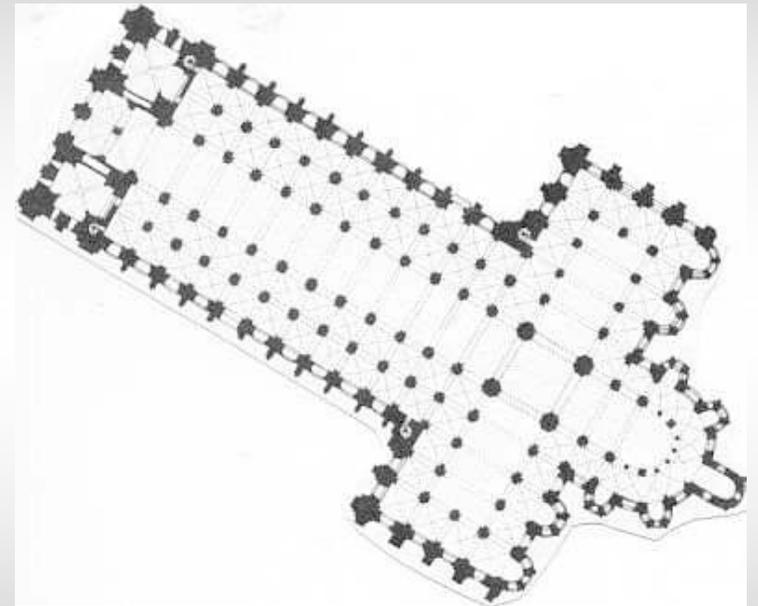
# ROMANESQUE CATHEDRAL ARCHITECTURAL STYLE

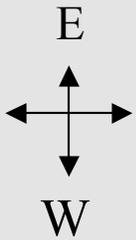
- **Rounded Arches.**
- **Barrel vaults.**
- **Thick walls.**
- **Darker, simplistic interiors.**
- **Small windows, usually at the top of the wall.**

# ROMANESQUE FLOOR PLAN



## St. Sernin, Toulouse, 1080-1120





Apse

Transept

Crossing  
Square

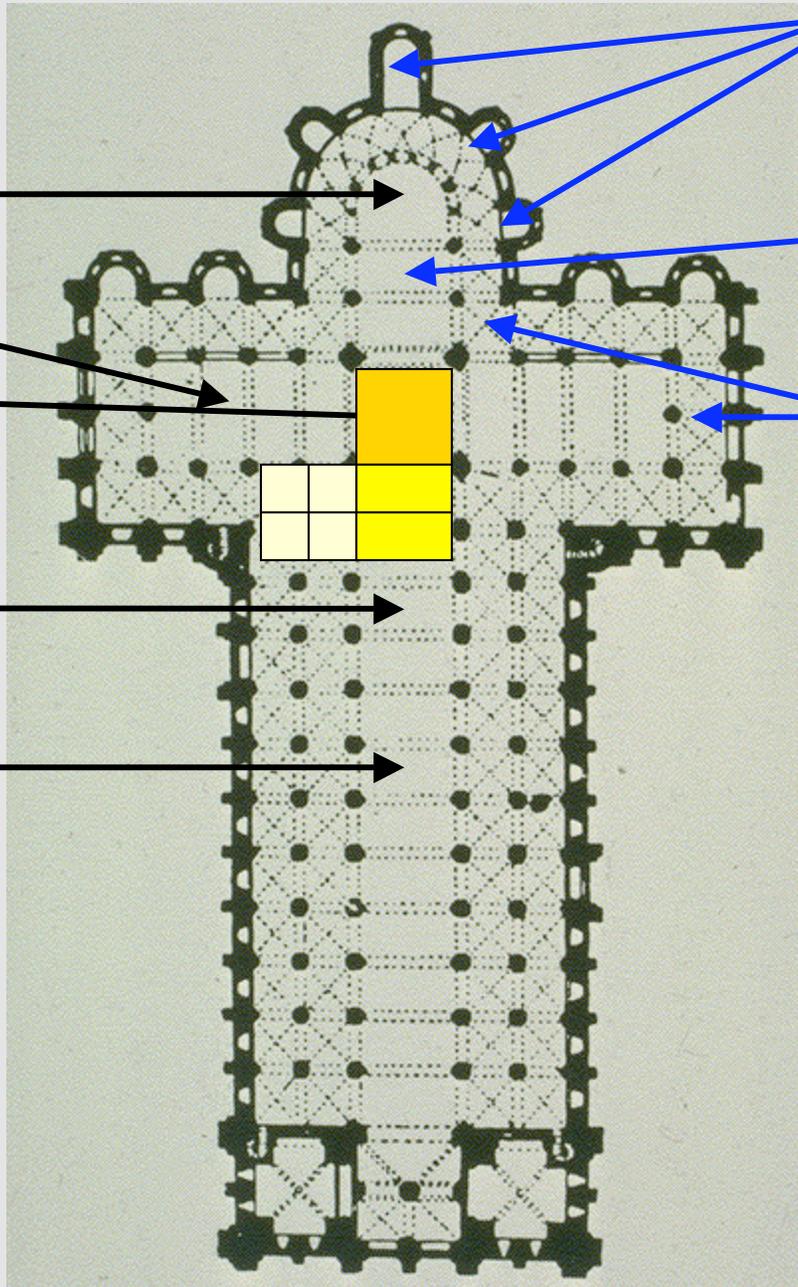
Bay

Nave

Radiating  
Chapels  
(Absidioles)

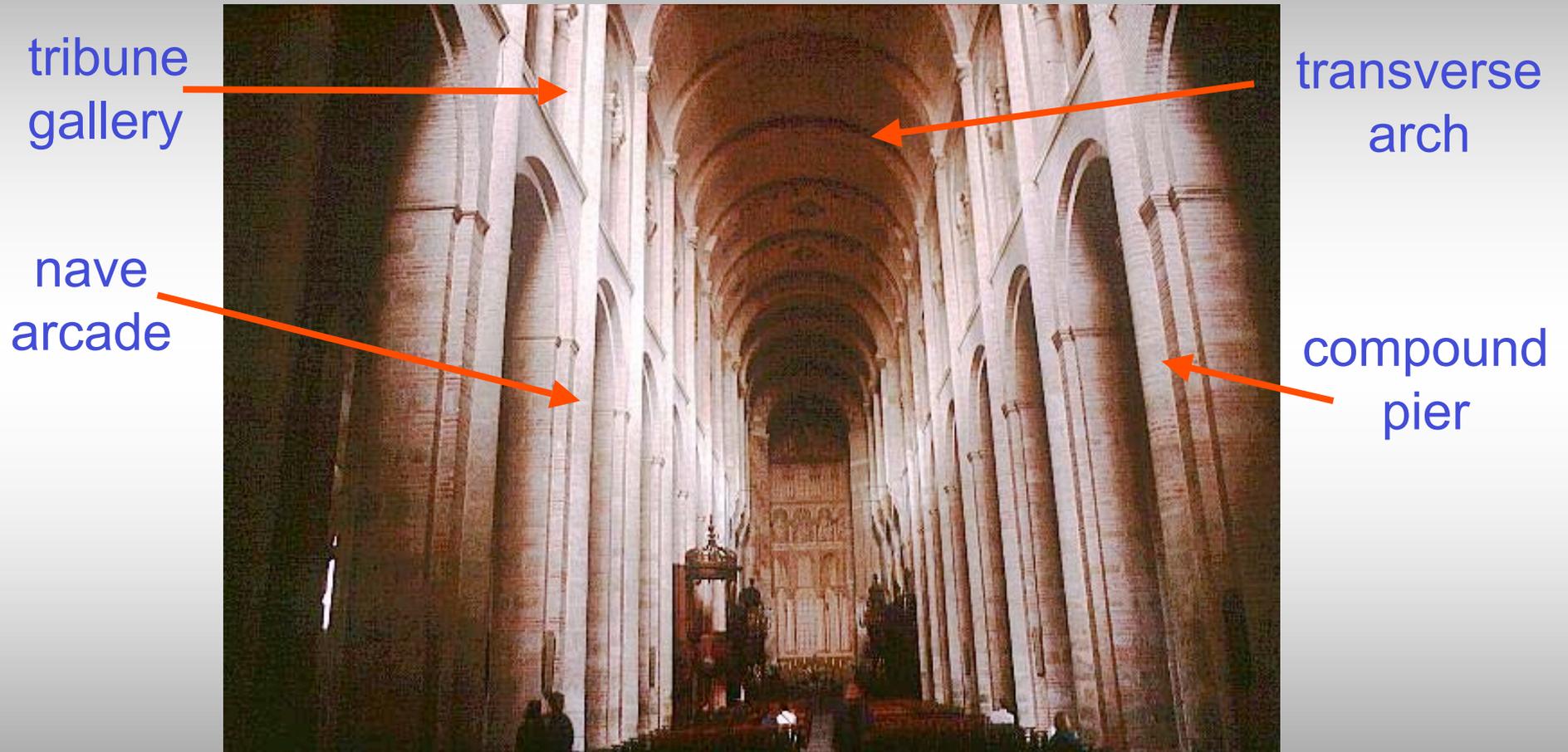
Choir

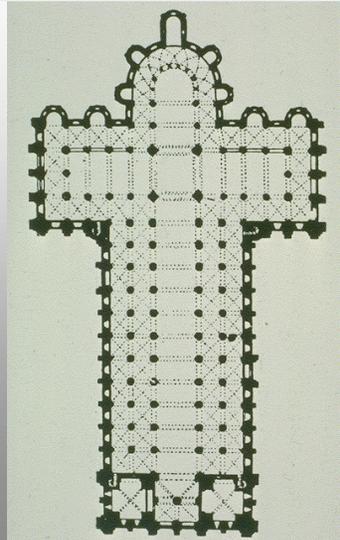
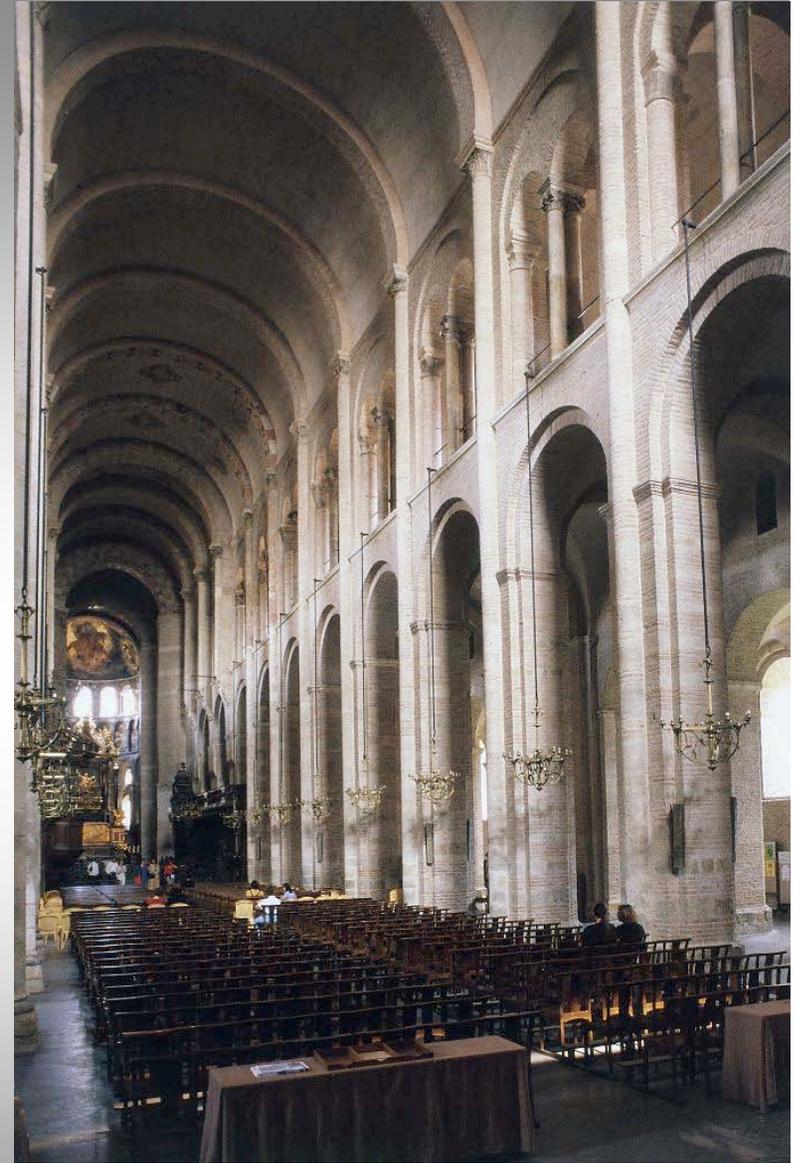
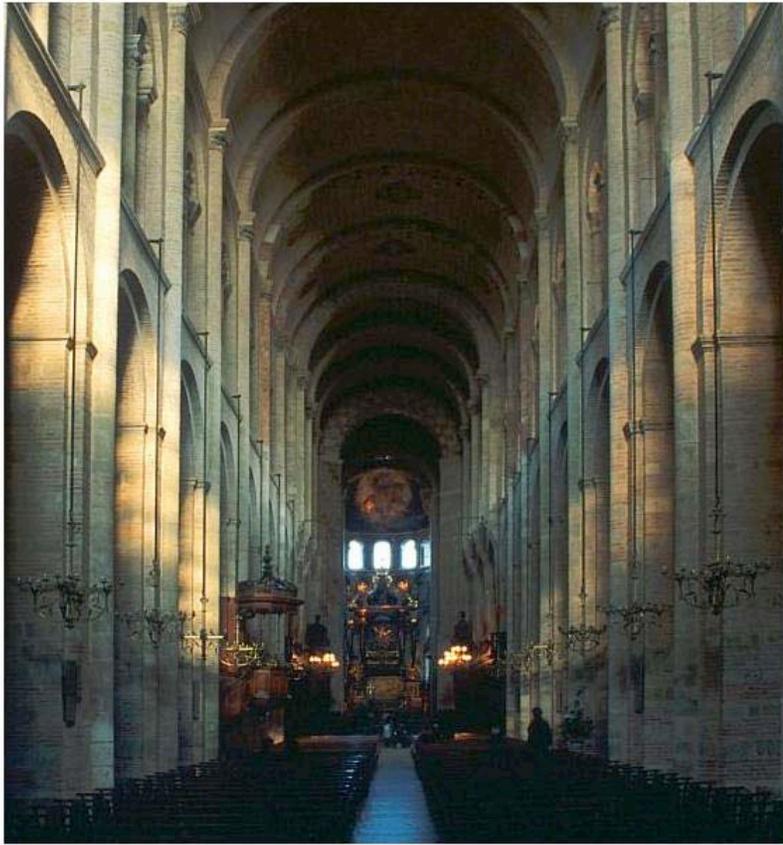
Ambulatory



**St. Sernin,**  
Toulouse,  
1080-1120

## St. Sernin, Toulouse, 1080-1120





# ROMANESQUE

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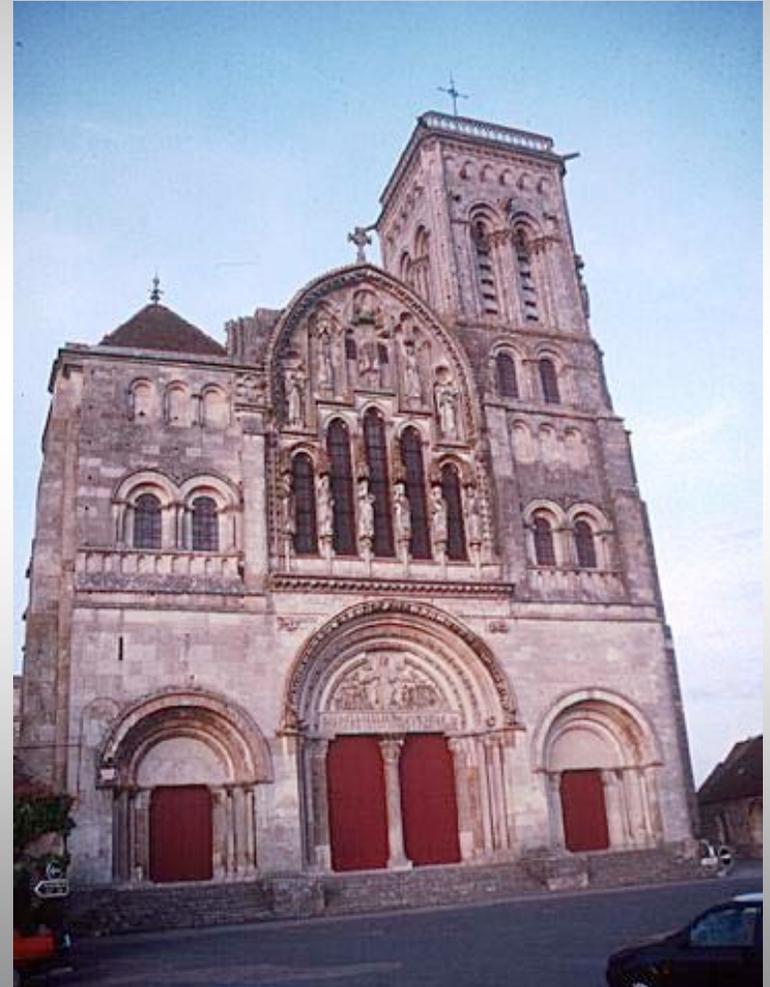
**Church of St. Etienne**  
Caen, France



# ROMANESQUE

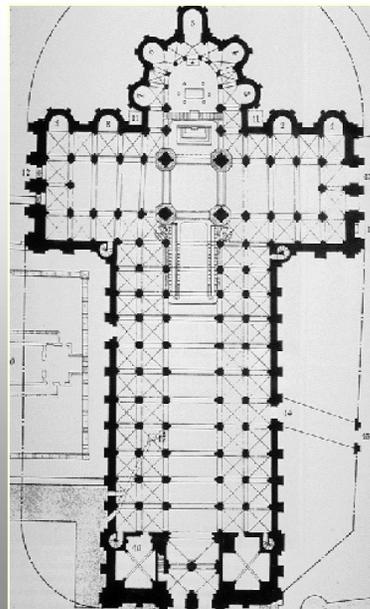
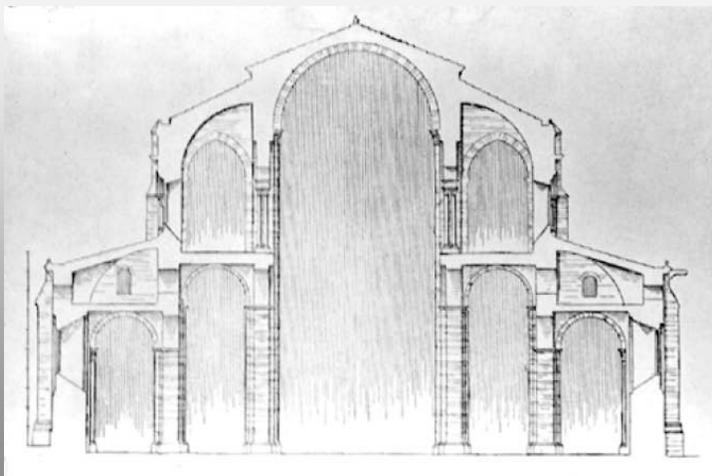
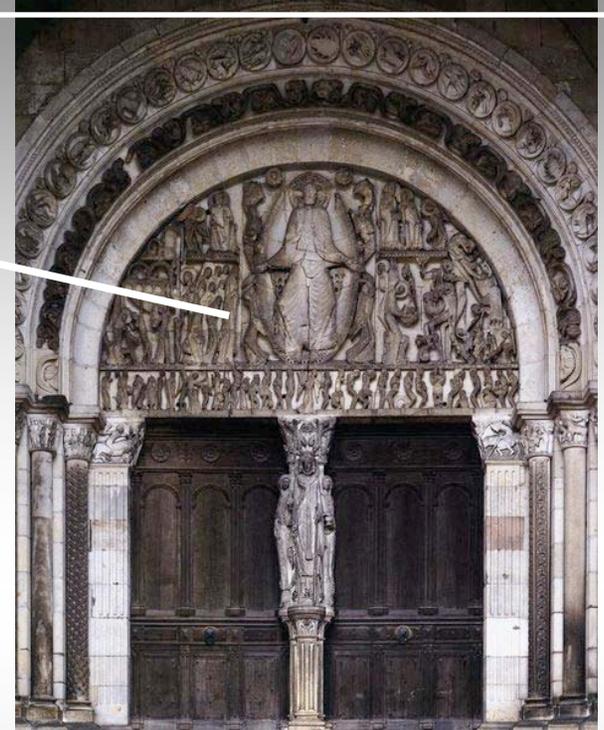
## IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF ROMANESQUE ARCHITECTURE

1. **“Romanesque” is the first international style since the Roman Empire. Also known as the “Norman” style in England**
2. **Competition among cities for the largest churches, which continues in the Gothic period via a “quest for height.”**
3. **Masonry (stone) the preferred medium. Rejection of wooden structures or structural elements.**
4. **East end of church the focus for liturgical services. West end for the entrance to church.**



# ROMANESQUE

- 5. Church portals as “billboards” for scripture or elements of faith.
- 6. Cruciform plans. Church as a metaphor for heaven.
- 7. Elevation : the nave higher than the side aisles.



# ROMANESQUE

8. Interiors articulated by repetitive series of moldings. Heavy masonry forms seem lighter with applied decoration.
9. Bays divide the nave into compartments
10. Round-headed arches the norm.
11. Small windows in comparison to buildings to withstand weight



# ROMANESQUE

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**Church of St. Etienne  
Caen, France**

**1115-1120**

**ROMANESQUE**



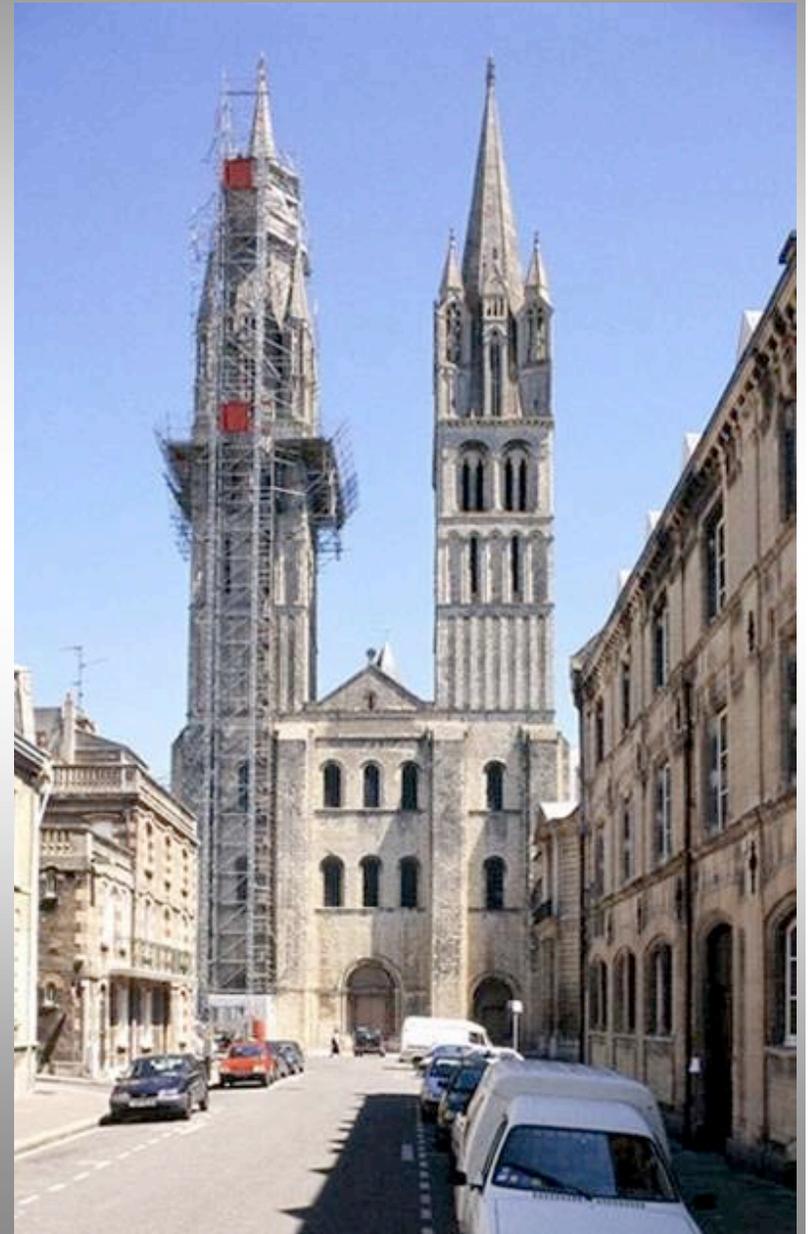
# ROMANESQUE

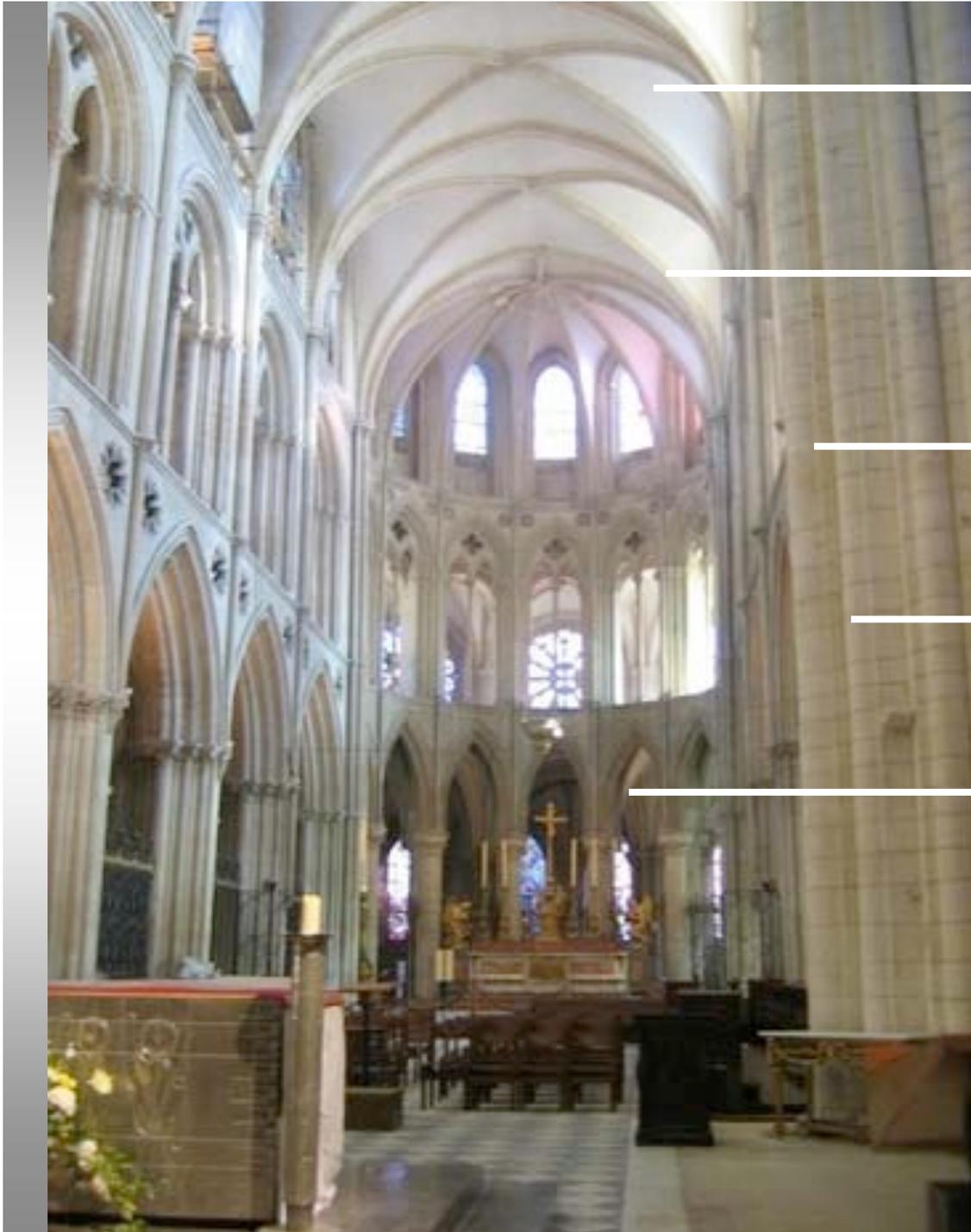
West facade of Saint-Étienne,  
Caen, France, begun 1067

Most critics consider the abbey church of Saint-Étienne at Caen the masterpiece of Norman Romanesque architecture. It was begun by William of Normandy in 1067 and must have advanced rapidly, as he was buried there in 1087.

The spires were added to the towers during the Gothic age in an attempt to bring the structure closer to the heavens.

The use of these groin vaults gave the interior a more spacious feel, and allowed for the addition of large windowed arches in the third story. The result reduced the interior wall surface and gave Saint-Étienne's nave a light and airy quality that is unusual in the Romanesque period.





**Vaulted Ceilings**

**Ribs**

**Tribune / Gallery**

**Clustered Piers**

**Ambulatory**



Pisa Cathedral Complex – Pisa, Italy (begun in 1063) **ROMANESQUE**



Pisa Cathedral Complex – Pisa, Italy (begun in 1063) **ROMANESQUE**



Sta. Sabina

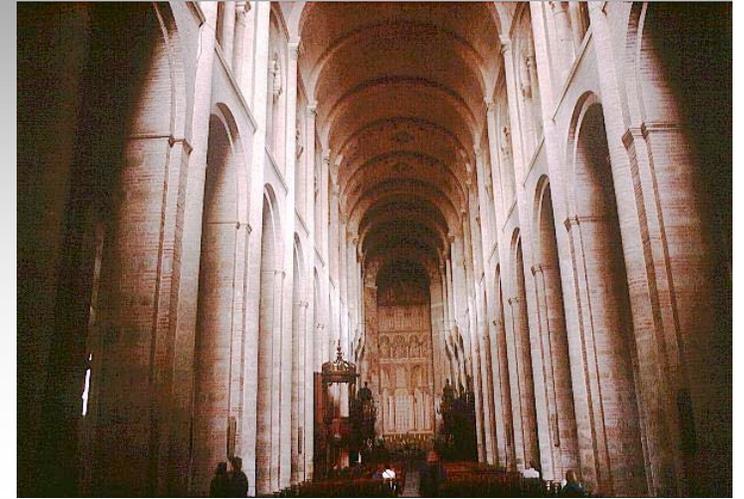
c. 425



St. Michael,

Hildesheim

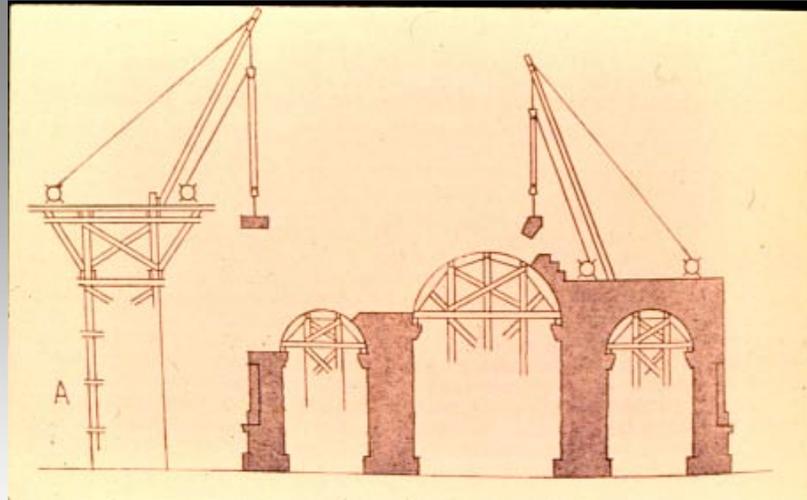
c. 1000

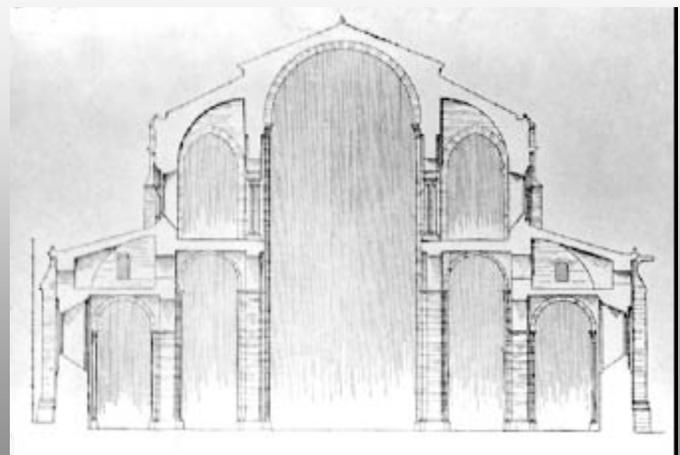
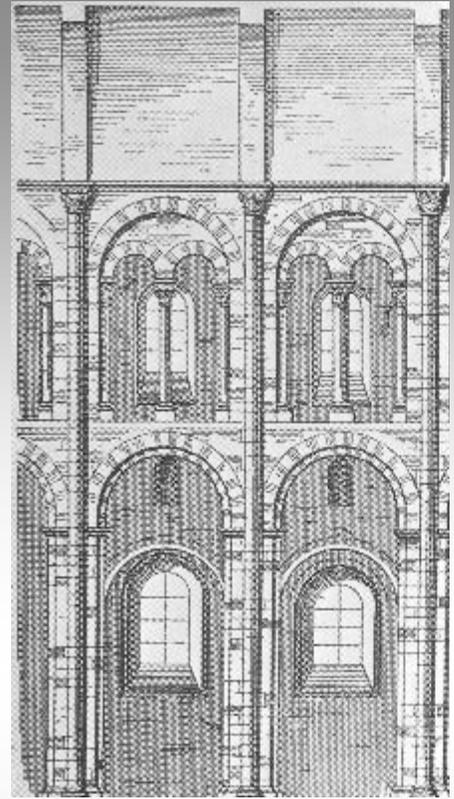


St. Sernin

c. 1100

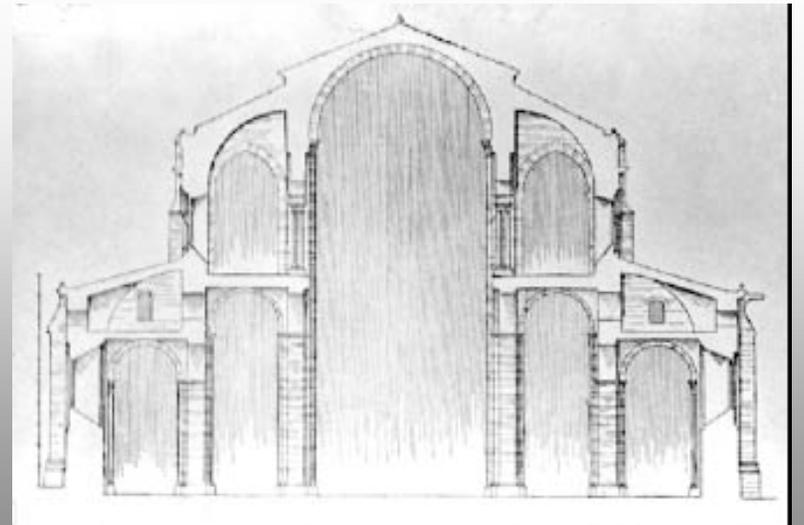
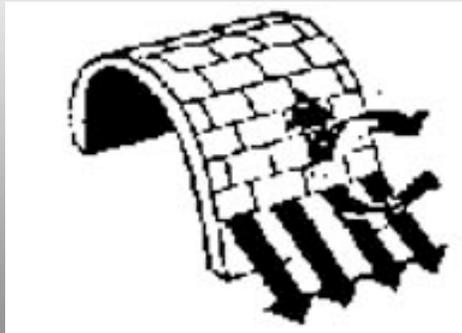
ashlar blocks  
mortar



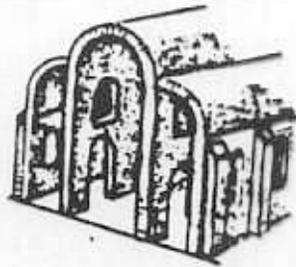




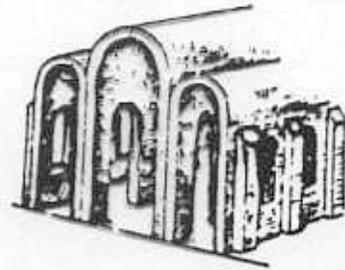
Barrel Vaulted Nave



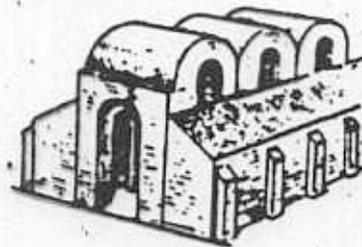
# Experiments with Barrel Vaults



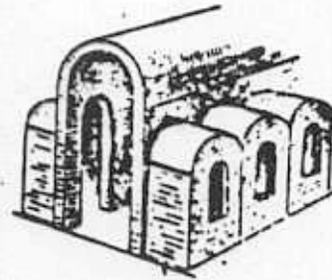
BARREL-VAULTED  
NAVE WITH 3/4  
BARREL-VAULTS  
ADJOINING OR  
ABUTTING



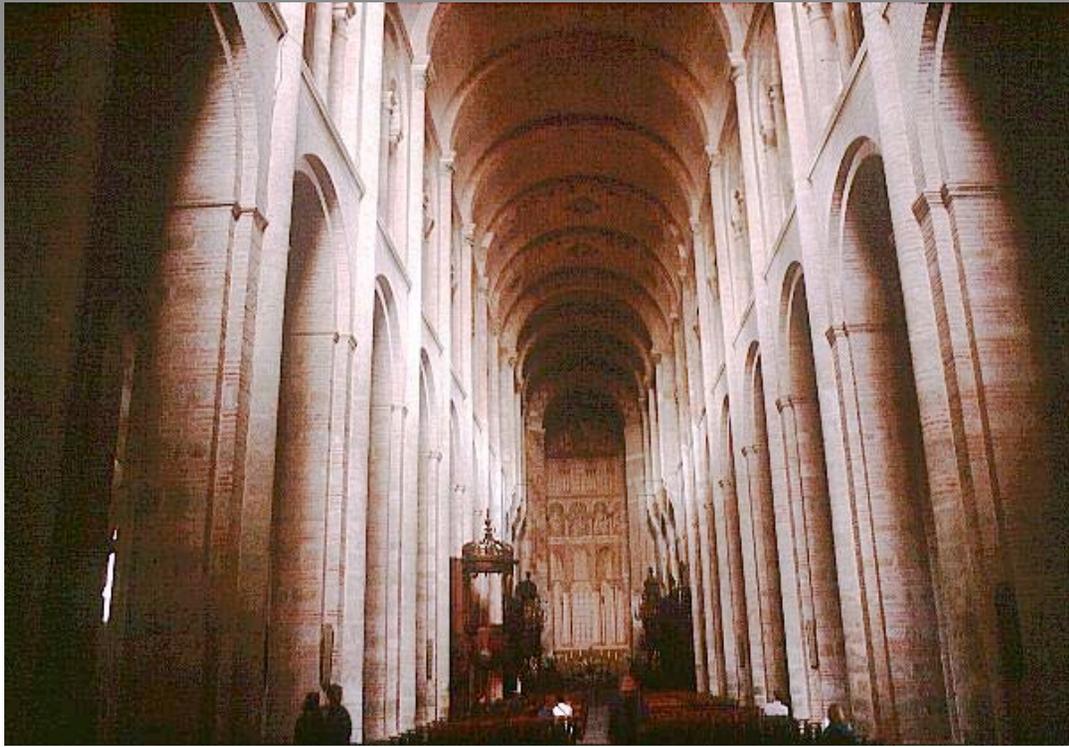
BARREL-VAULTED  
NAVE WITH PARAL.  
BARREL-VAULTED  
AISLES



NAVE WITH TRANSVERSE  
BARREL-VAULTED BAYS



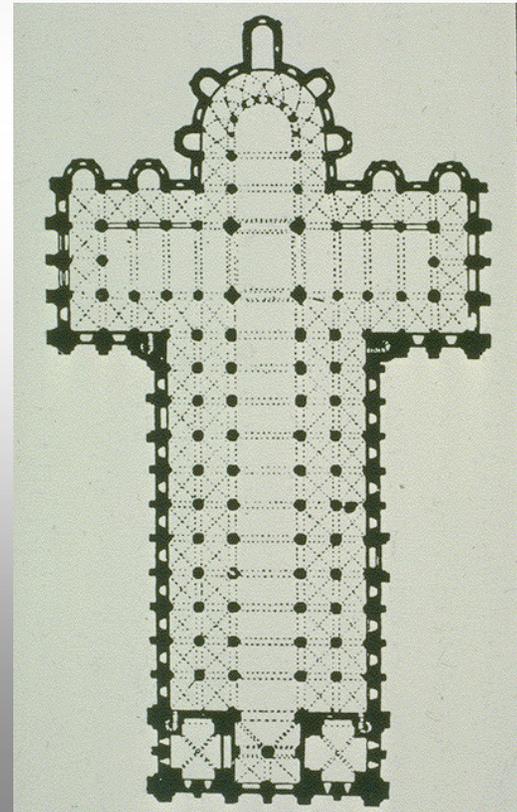
BARREL-VAULTED  
NAVE; AISLES W.  
TRANSVERSE BAR.  
REL-VAULTED BA.

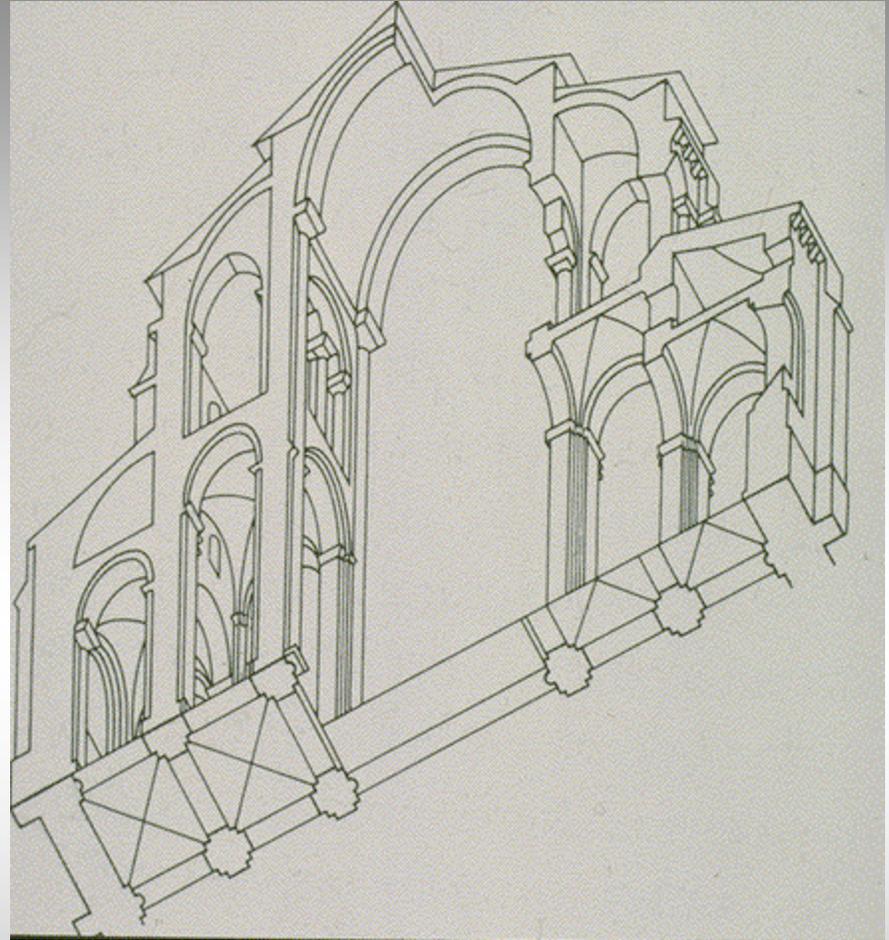


Barrel Vaulted Nave

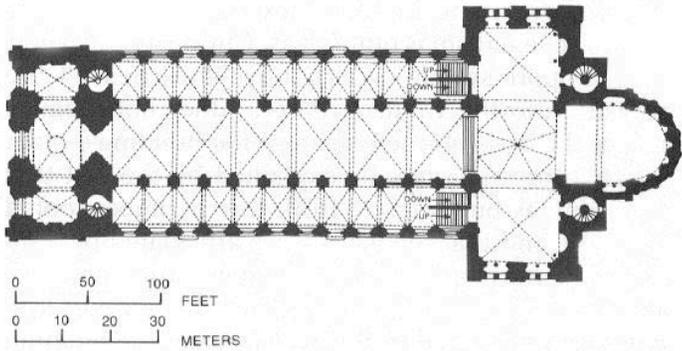


Groin Vaulted Side Aisles



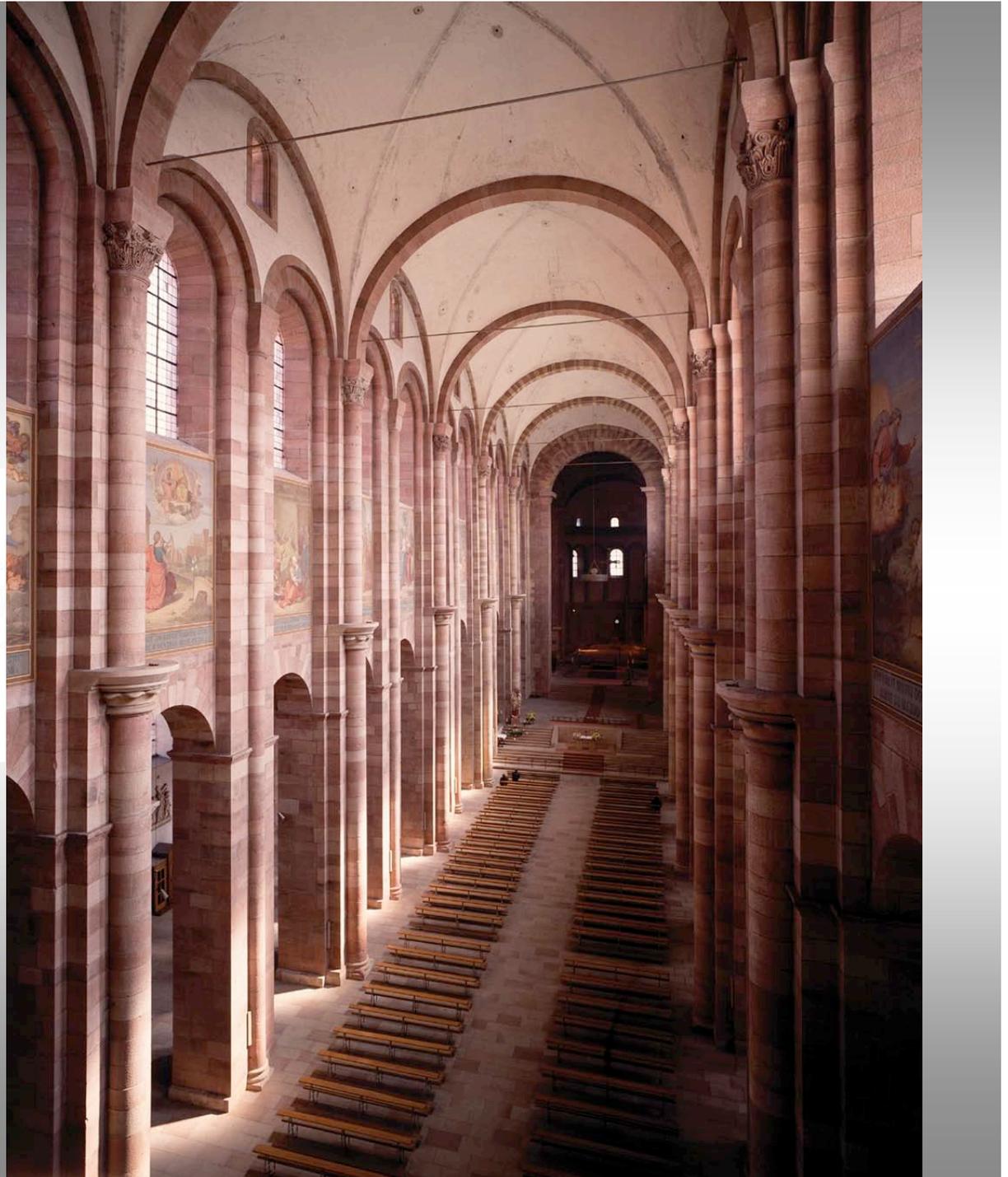


**Speyer  
Cathedral,**  
Speyer,  
Germany, begun  
1030;  
nave vaults,  
ca. 1082–1106



**Groin Vaulted Nave**

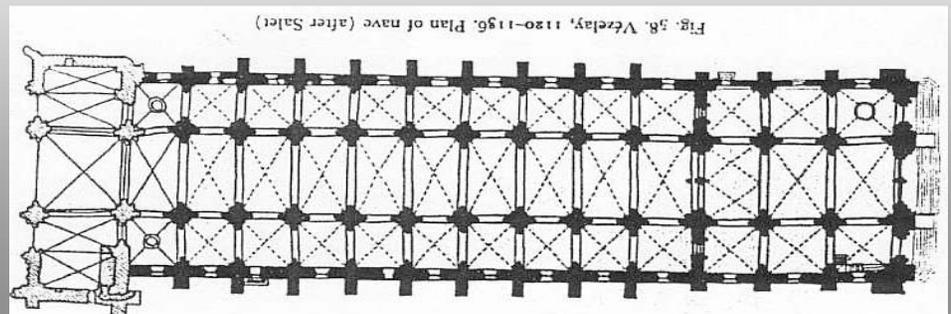
alternate support system



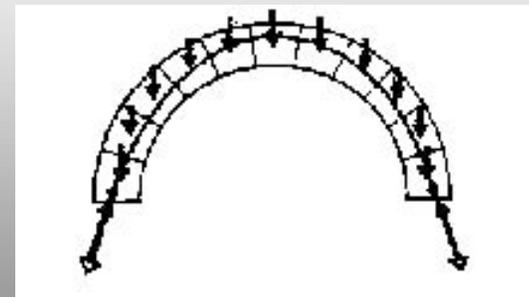
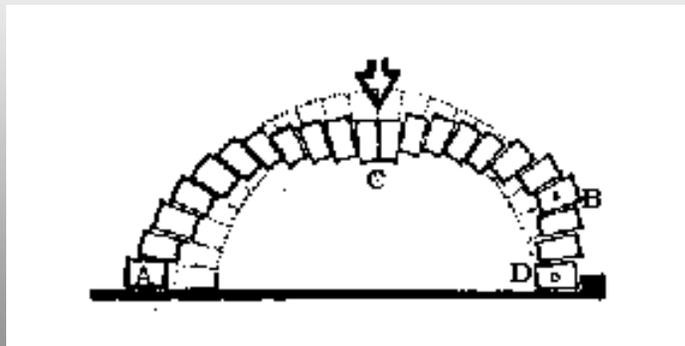
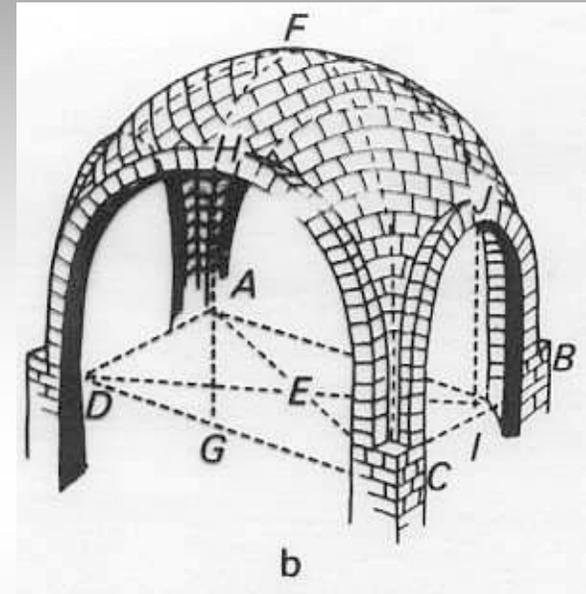
# La Madeleine, Vezelay, France, c. 1100-1120



Groin Vaulted Nave



# La Madeleine, Vezelay, France, c. 1100-1120





Sta. Sabina c. 425



St. Michael, Hildesheim  
c. 1000



St. Sernin c. 1100

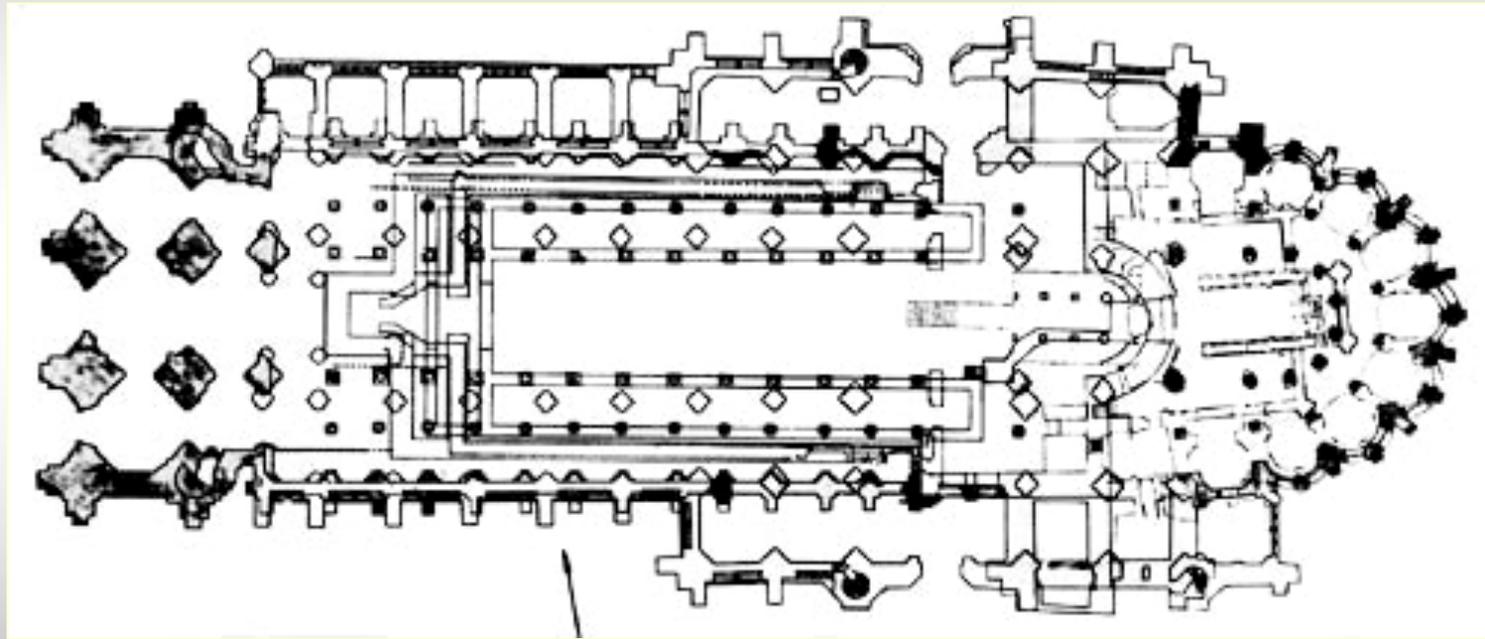
### Architectural Goals:

- stone vaulting ✓
- height ✓
- light Not so fast!

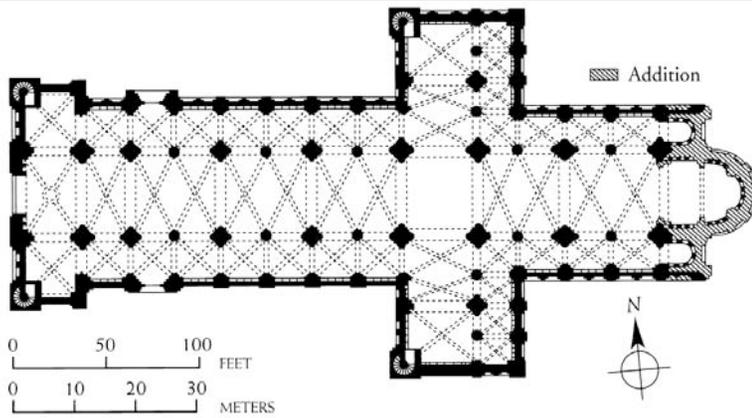
# Gothic Cathedral Architectural Style

- 🌀 **Pointed arches.**
- 🌀 **Flying buttresses.**
- 🌀 **Ribbed vaults.**
- 🌀 **Stained glass windows.**
- 🌀 **Gargoyles - drainage**
- 🌀 **Elaborate, ornate interior.**
- 🌀 **Taller, more airy à lots of light.**
- 🌀 **Lavish sculpture à larger-than-life.**
- 🌀 **3 Story Elevation: nave arcade, triforium, clerestory**

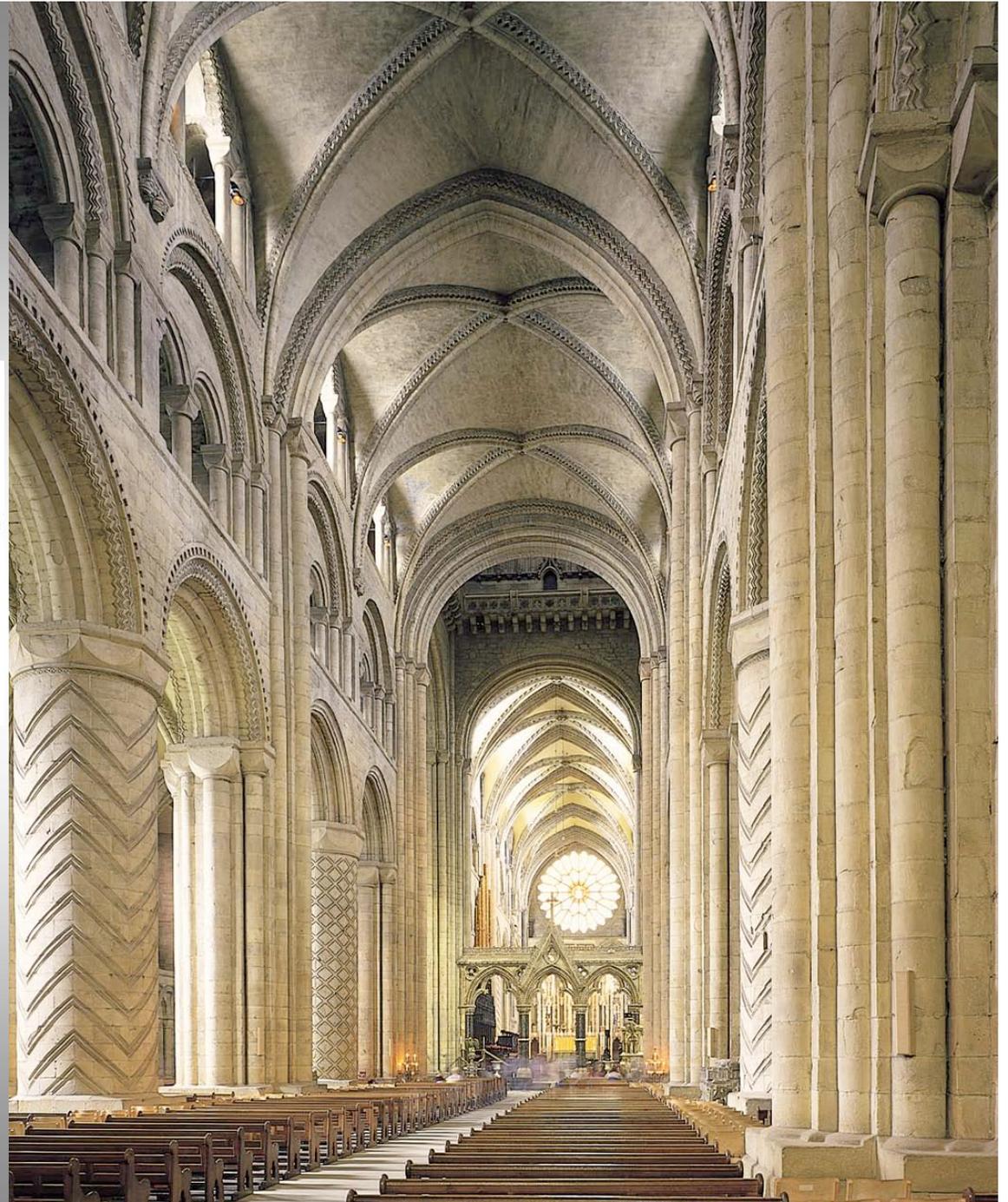
# Gothic Floor Plans



# Durham Cathedral, England, begun c. 1093

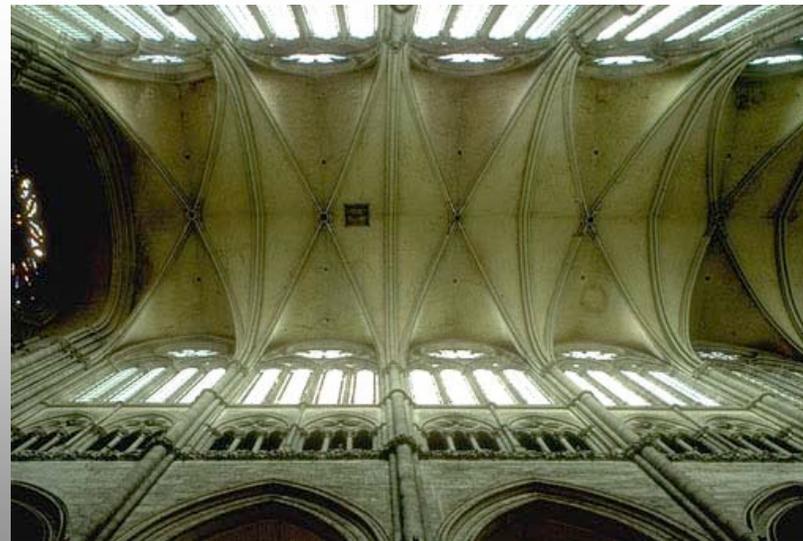
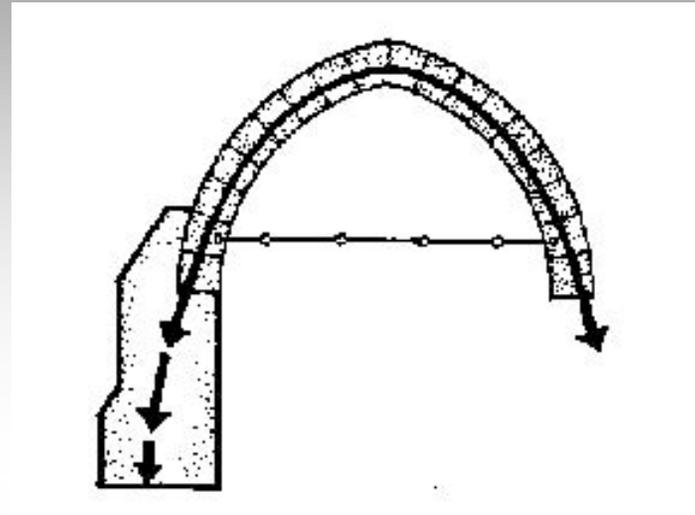


Pointed  
Arches



# Amiens Cathedral, c.1220-1270

## Gothic Pointed Arch

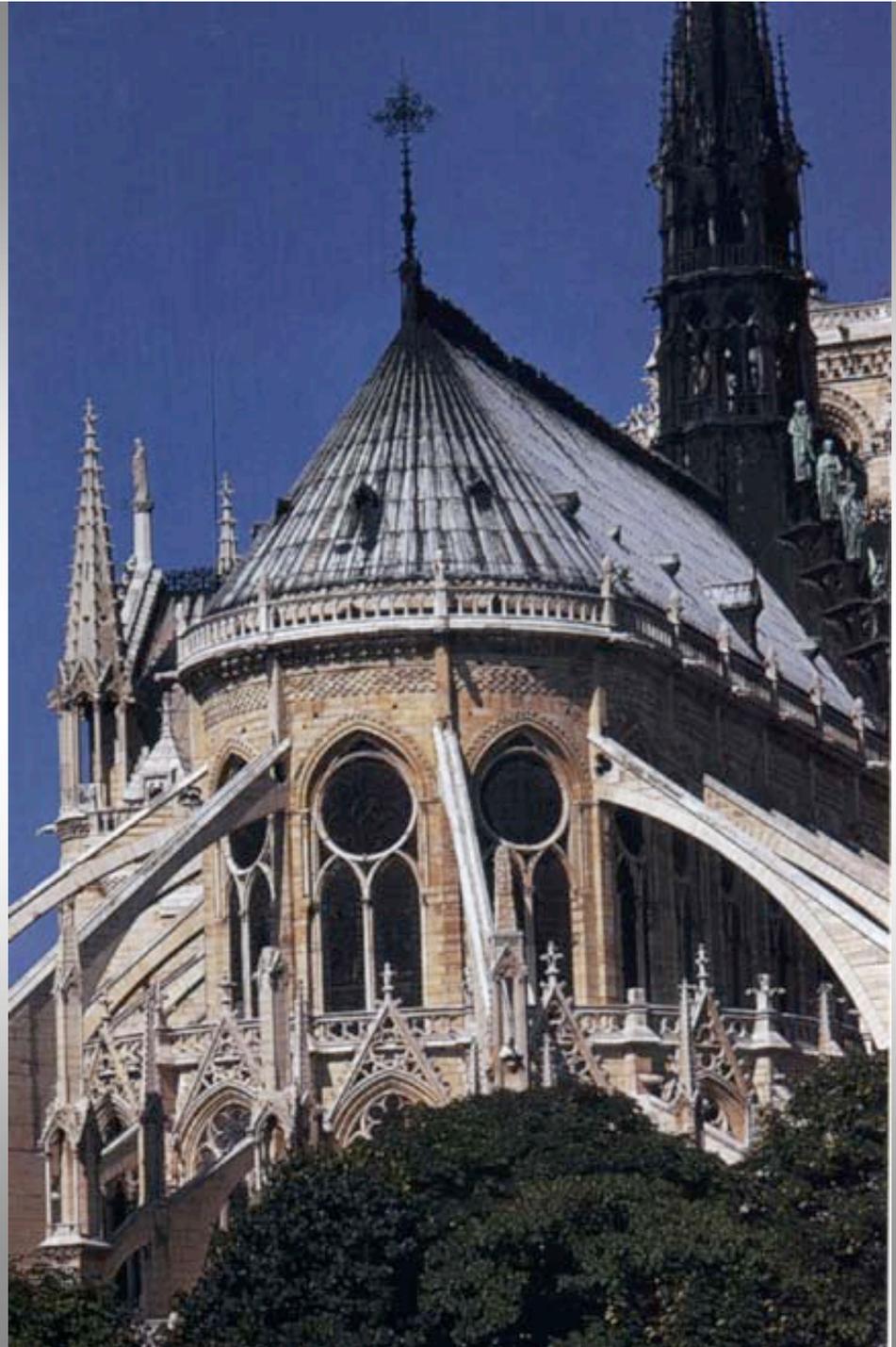




# Notre Dame Cathedral

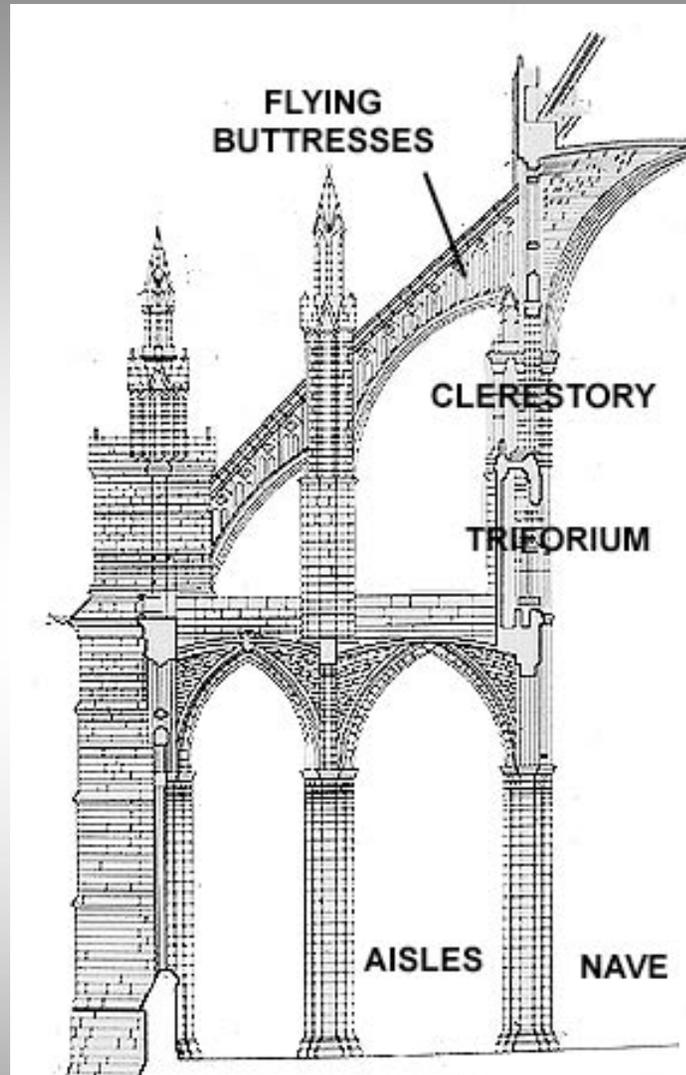
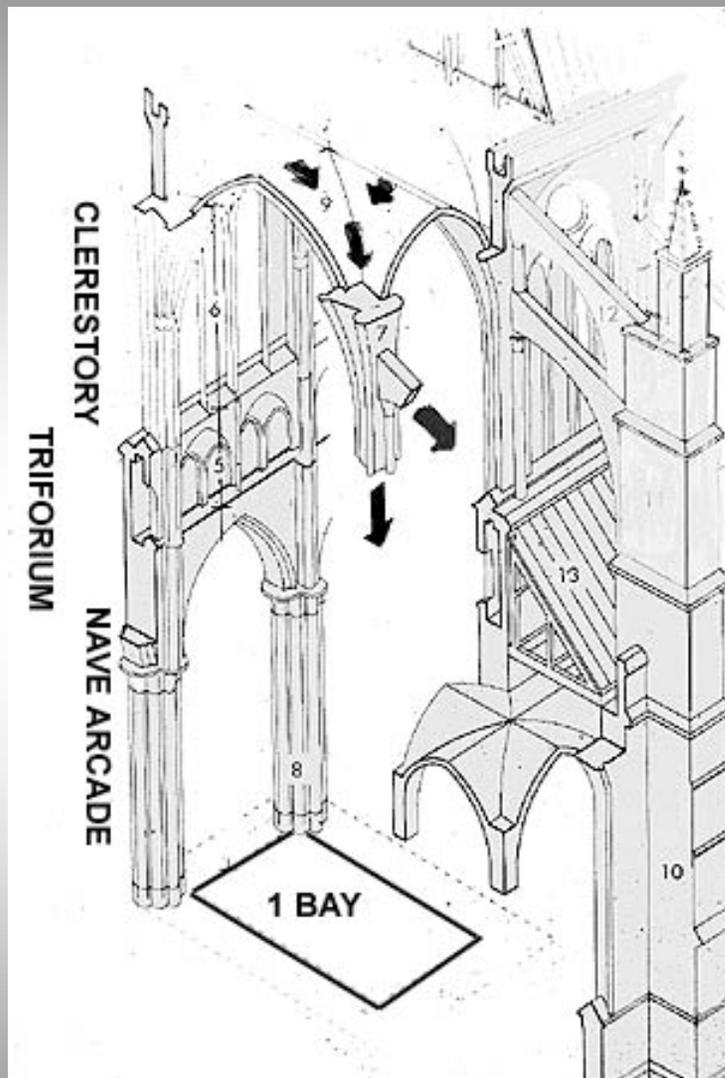


Notre Dame  
Cathedral  
flying  
buttresses  
c. 1175

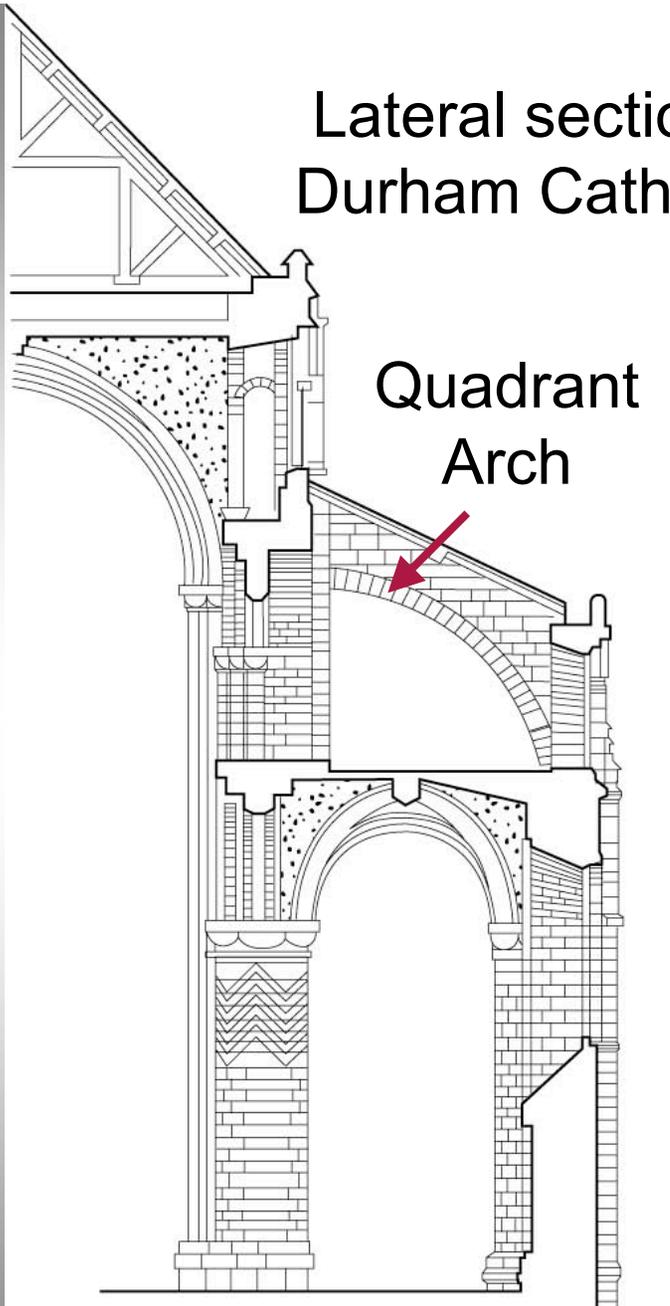




Chartres Cathedral buttresses

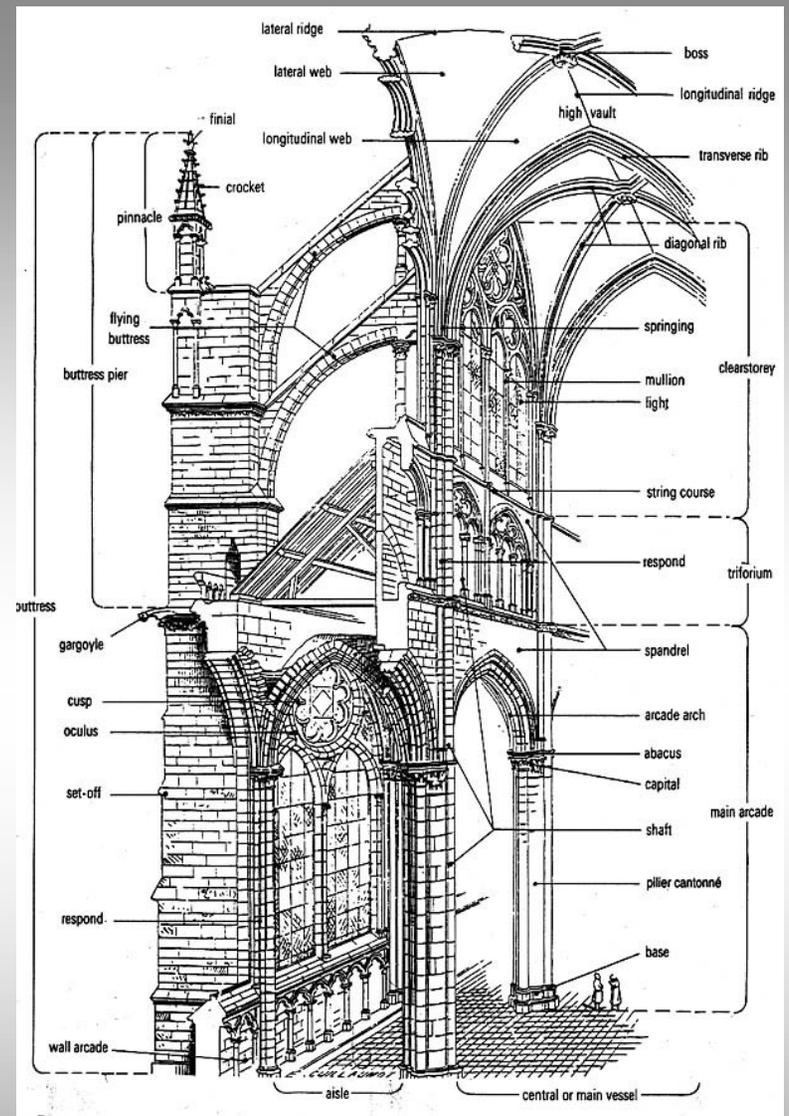


Lateral section of  
Durham Cathedral



Notre Dame, Paris  
Flying Buttress

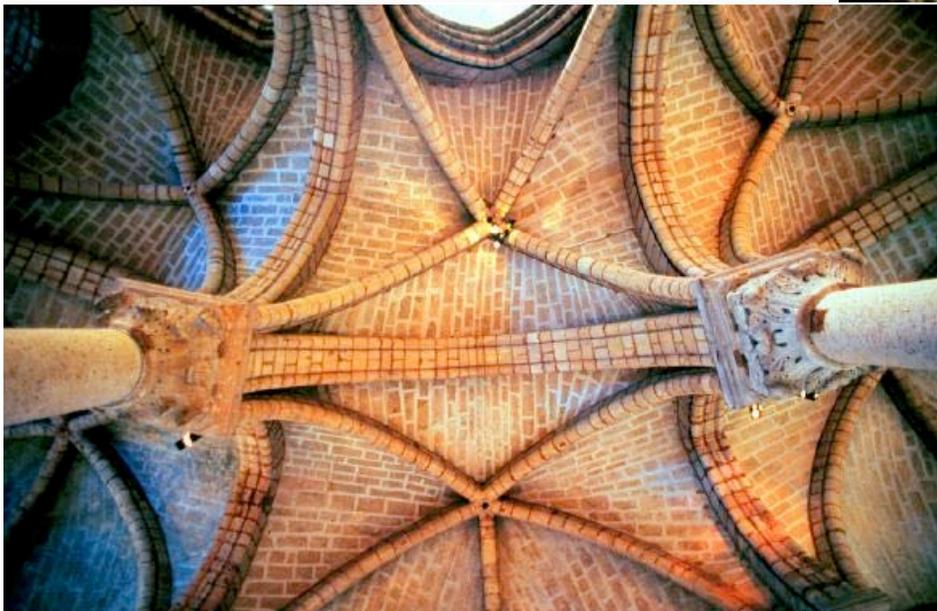
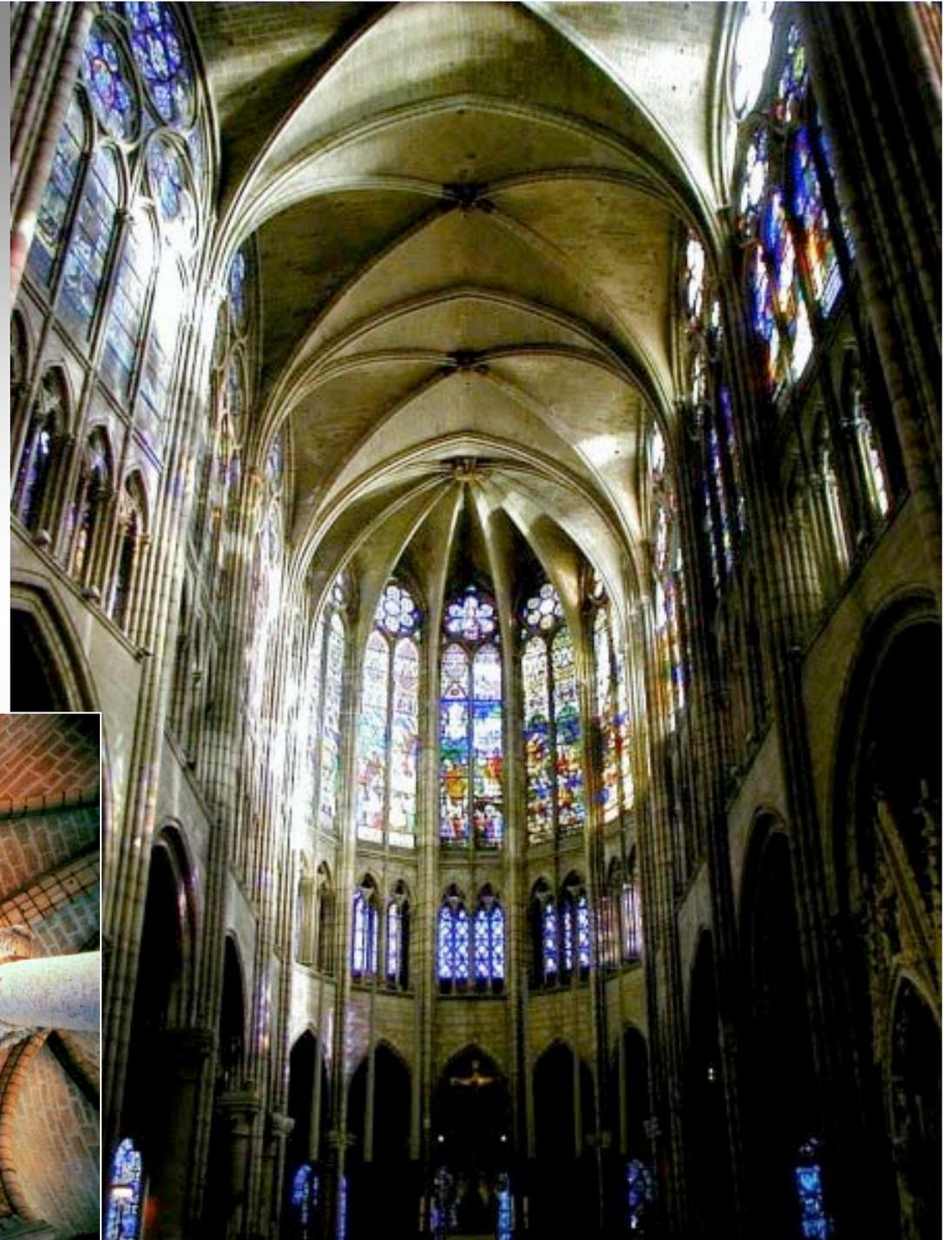




**Notre Dame, Paris**  
 Flying Buttress

# Abbey Church of Saint Denis

ribbed vaulting



# Stained Glass Windows

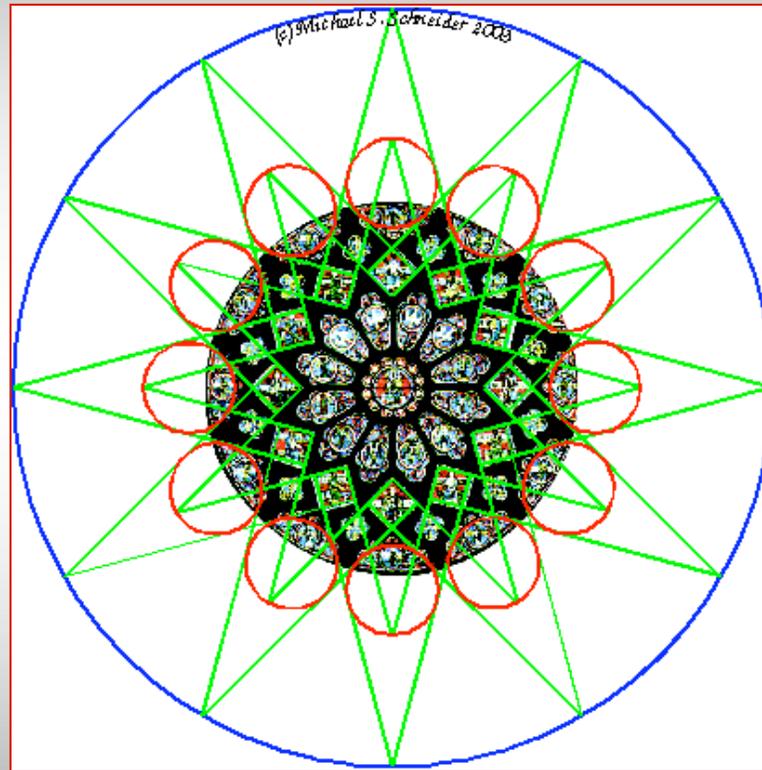
Other Gothic innovations



§ For the glory of God.

§ For religious instructions.

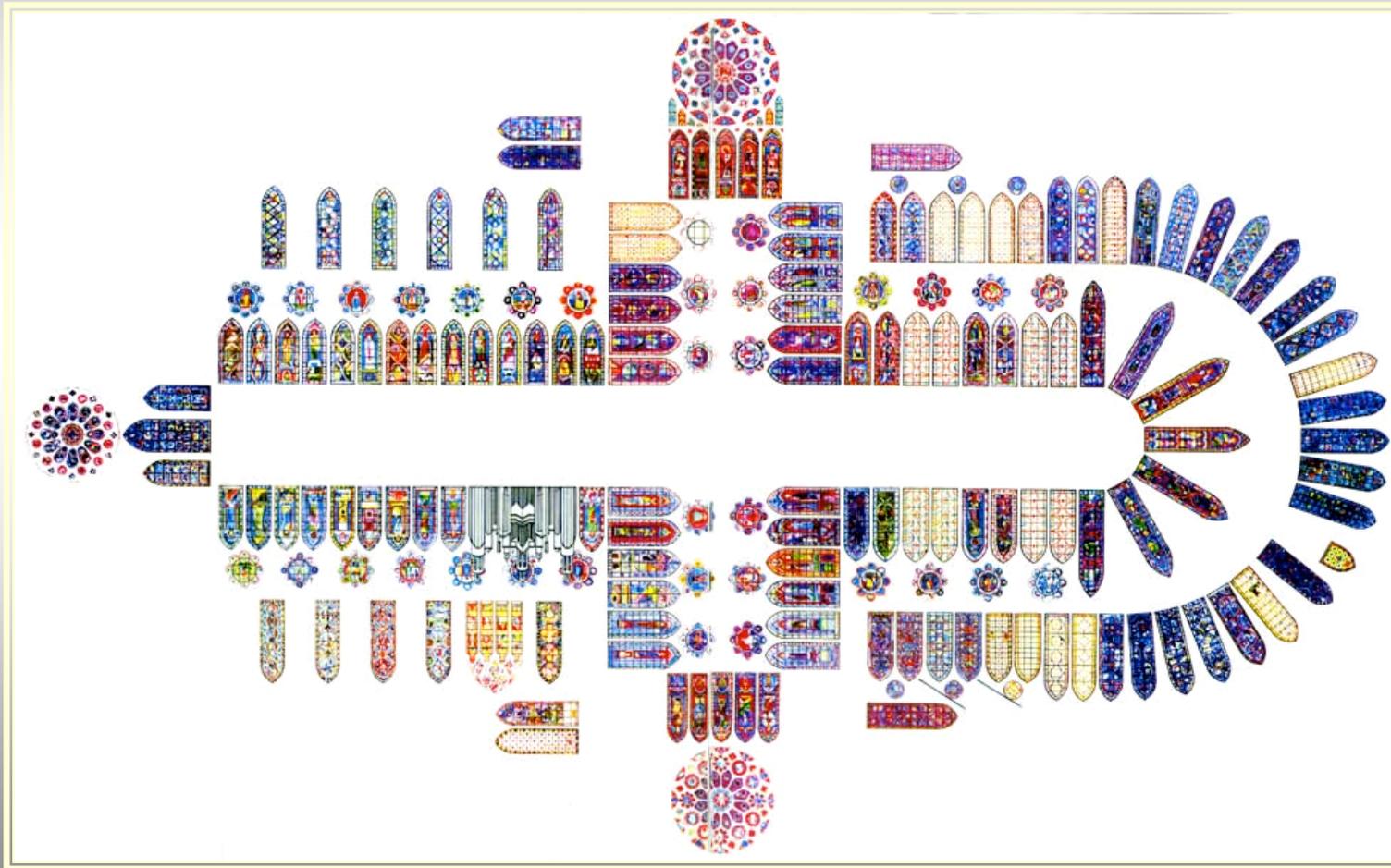
# Rose Window Chartres Cathedral, Paris



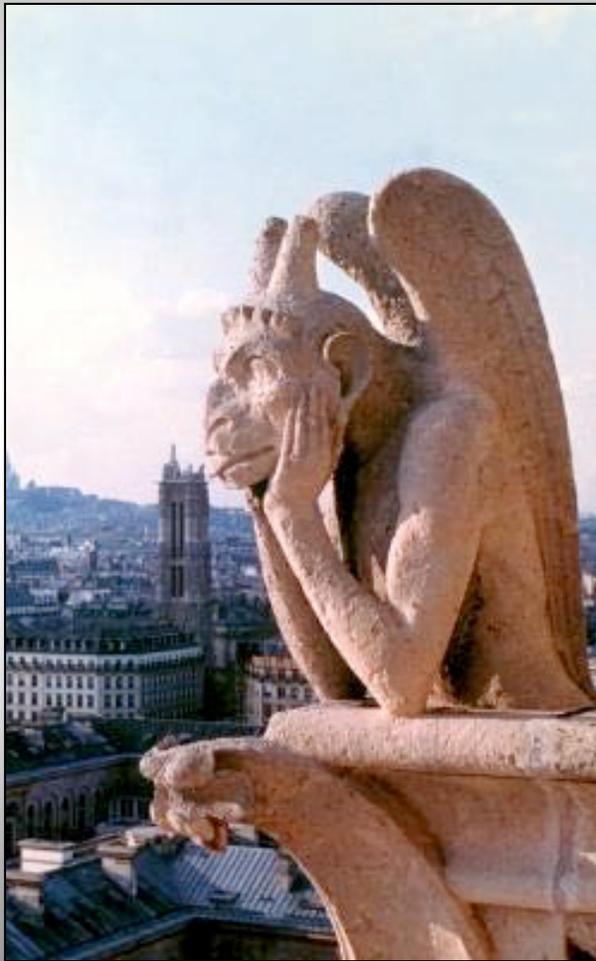
*The good, of course, is always beautiful,  
and the beautiful never lacks proportion.*

--- Plato

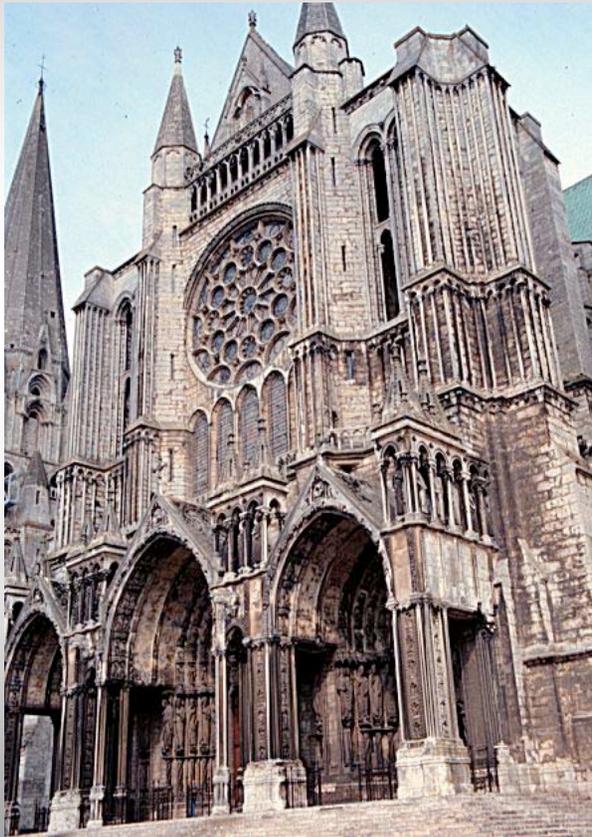
# Chartres Cathedral Plan for all Rose Windows



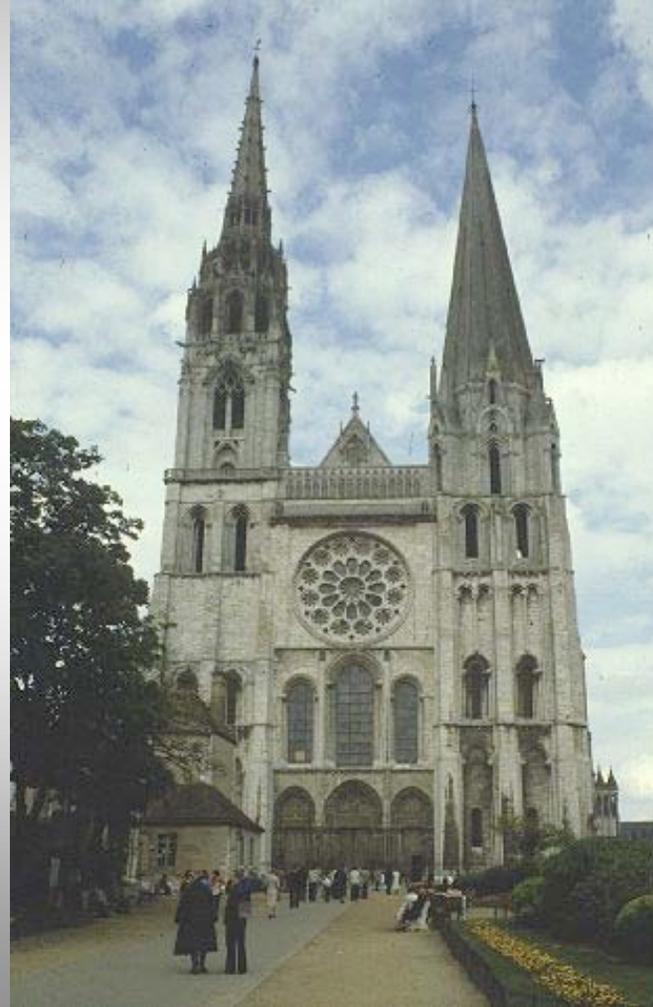
# Cathedral Gargoyles



# Verticality



Chartres Cathedral



**St. Etienne, Caen, France, c. 1068-  
1120 vaulted c. 1115–1120**



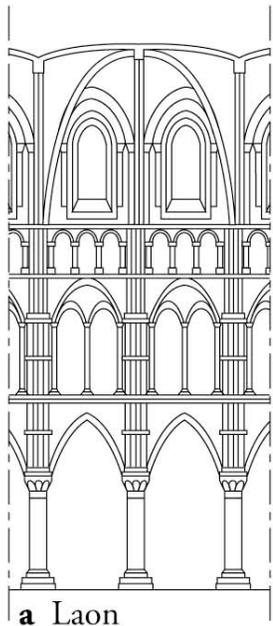
**3 Story Elevation:**

Clerestory

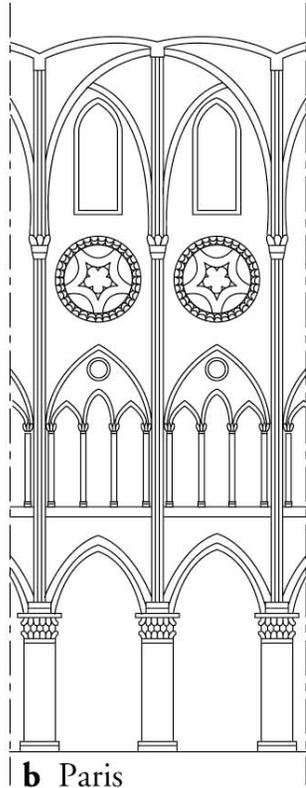
Gallery

Nave Arcade

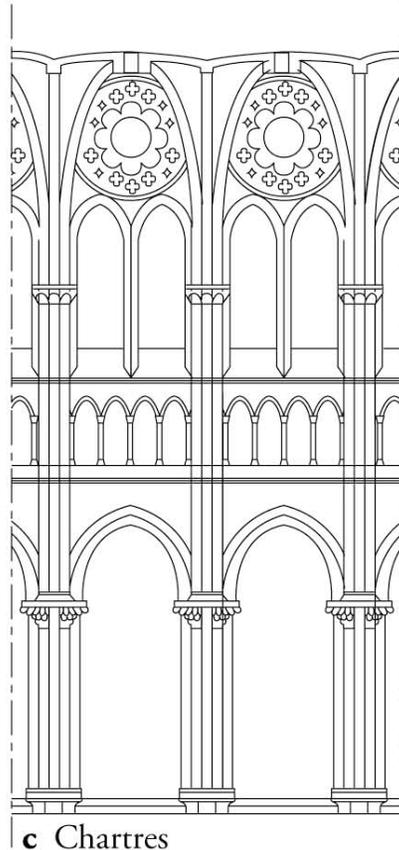
lancet &  
ocular windows



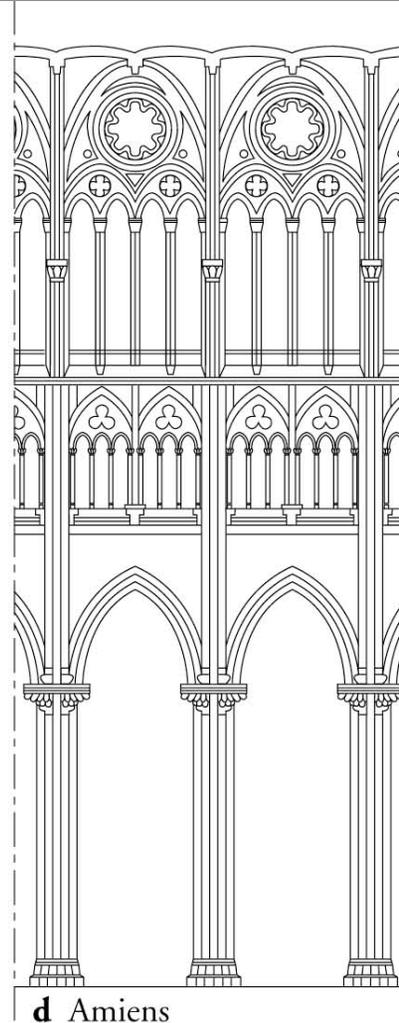
**a** Laon



**b** Paris



**c** Chartres



**d** Amiens

clerestory

triforium

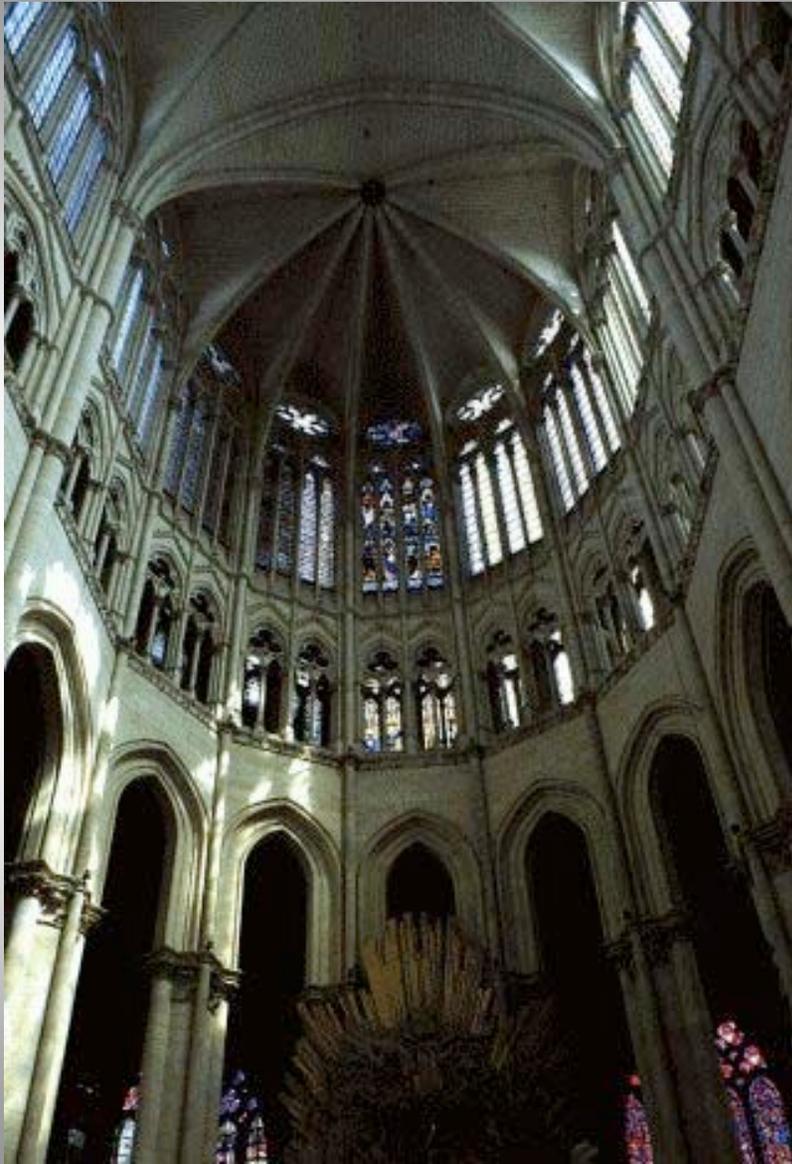
nave arcade

Nave elevations of four French Gothic cathedrals at the same scale  
(a) Laon, (b) Paris, (c) Chartres, (d) Amiens.

# Interior of a Gothic Cathedral



## Amiens Cathedral, c.1220-1270



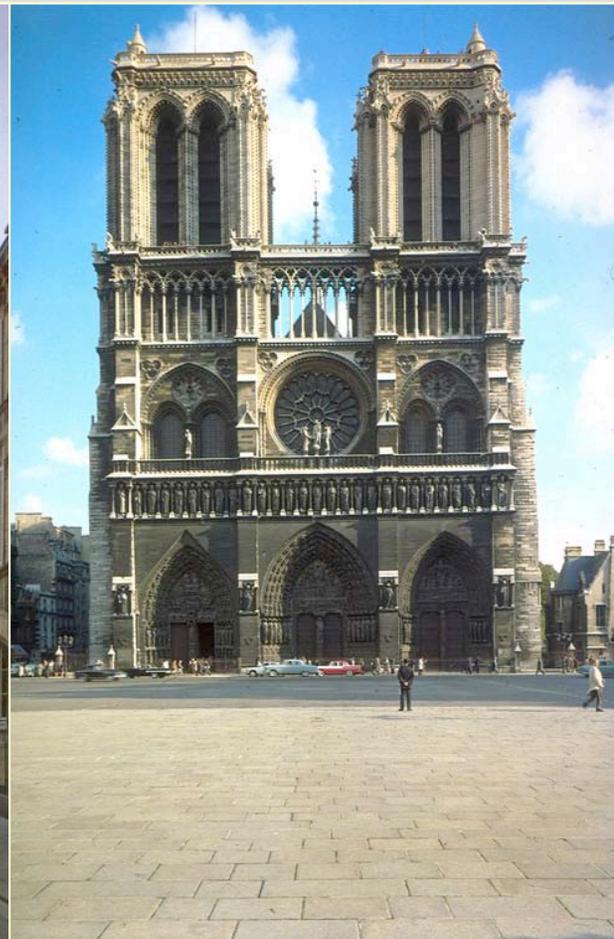
# Which Interior Is Which?



# Which Vault Is Which?



# Which Cathedral Style Is Which?



# Bonus Challenge

Got time? Go to...

<http://www.learn.columbia.edu/Mcahweb/index-frame.html>

and select “quicktime movies” on the bottom. Take a tour of this cathedral (by clicking on the yellow buttons) and tell me whether it is a Romanesque or Gothic cathedral. Give me five examples to prove you are right.

Then, go back to the home page and select “sculpture program”. Follow the directions so you can listen to the story of one of the sculptures on the church. Tell me about one story you heard.

## Sources for photos

[http://www.bc.edu/bc\\_org/avp/cas/fnart/arch/contents\\_europe.html](http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/cas/fnart/arch/contents_europe.html)

<http://web.kyoto-inet.or.jp/org/orion/eng/hst/hist.html>

<http://www.pitt.edu/~medart/index.html>