Chapter 16 –
Gothic Art and Architecture
Gothic got its name from the Italian Renaissance art historian Giorgio Vasari, claiming it was a "barbarous German style." He preferred a return to the classical Roman/Greek styled architecture that characterized so much of the architecture of the Italian Renaissance.
Early Gothic
1120 – 1200

High Gothic
1200 – 1280

High Gothic -> Late Gothic
Rayonnant Style
1240 – 1350

Late Gothic
1280 – 1500
Flamboyant Style
Perpendicular Style
ROMANESQUE:
Saint-Sernin, Toulouse, Romanesque Pilgrimage Church, c. 1080-1120

GOTHIC:
Amiens Cathedral
Gothic Cathedral, begun 1220
GOTHIC CATHEDRALS:

- solid walls of Romanesque give way to large window bays
- Nave expands, transept shortens
- radiating chapels incorporated into interior open space
- cross-vaults, sexpartite vaults
- vertical height increases dramatically
**Romanesque**

low, heavy forms  
small, simple windows  
dark interiors  
rounded arches  
barrel vaults  
massive compound-piers  
minimal decoration

**Gothic**

verticallity & height  
stained glass windows & light  
pointed arches  
groin vaults  
slender columns  
delicate decoration: tracery, spires, ribbed vaulting
Notre-Dame, Paris
107 ft. high

Chartres
118 ft. high

Amiens
144 ft. high

Beauvais
156 ft. high
Chartres Cathedral
Elevation of
Nave Wall

Clerestory   >

Triforium   >

Aisle/
Nave arcade   >
Nave elevations of four French Gothic cathedrals at the same scale (after Louis Grodecki): (a) Laon, (b) Paris, (c) Chartres, (d) Amiens.
Medieval Craftsmen - belonged to “guilds” (modern day labor union)
Labor Heirarchy
- Master Mason (Supervising Architect)
  Journeymen
  Laborers
  Apprentices
Early Gothic

Cathedral of Notre Dame
1163 – 1345
Paris, France
Notre Dame, Paris

Flying buttresses
Notre Dame, Paris
West Façade

Kilometer Zero, in front
Notre-Dame Cathedral interior nave showing

Sexpartite Vaulting
Sexpartite vaults

Quadripartite vaults
Chartres Cathedral
1134 – 1220
(north spire – 1510)
Chartres, France
Chartres Cathedral
West Façade (Royal Portal)
1134 – 1200
(north spire – 1510)
Chartres, France
Royal Portal, Chartres Cathedral
Prophets and Royal Ancestors of Christ
From Royal Portal, Chartres Cathedral
1150 C.E.
Carved stone
Romanesque - Moissac

Early Gothic - Chartres
Rose Window and Lancet Windows
North Transept, Chartres Cathedral
1230 – 1235
stained glass
Amiens Cathedral
13th Century C.E.
Amiens, France
(144 feet high)
Crossing and Vaults of Amiens Cathedral
Beauvais Cathedral
13th Century C.E.
Beauvais, France

Highest internal vault – 157 feet
Interior – *Beauvais Cathedral*

*Beauvais* floor plan
Beauvais – Cross-bracing and elevation diagram
Rayonnant Style

*Sainte-Chapelle (Holy Chapel)*
1245 C.E.
Paris, France

Royal Chapel in Paris holds important relics, including Christ’s Crown of Thorns
Reims Cathedral
West Façade
1211 – 1275 C.E.
Reims, France
World War I – German shelling destroyed much of the roof and superstructure.
Early Gothic

Rayonnant Gothic
West Portal, Reims Cathedral
The Annunciation and The Visitation
Reims Cathedral Portal
1230 – 1240 C.E.
Late Gothic Flamboyant Style

Church of Saint Maclou, Rouen
1436 – 1521 C.E.
Rouen, France
Flamboyant Style - Flame-shaped tracery and pinnacles
Early Gothic

Rayonnant Gothic

Late Gothic (Flamboyant)
Late Gothic
Perpendicular Style

Chapel of Henry VII
Westminster Abbey
1510 C.E.
London, England
Westminster Abbey

Fan vaulting (left)
Pendant Vaulting (right)
Gloucester Cathedral, England
14th – 15th century
Gloucester Cathedral
Choir Section
1330
Gloucester Cathedral ceiling - showing net vaulting
Gloucester Cathedral Cloister
Gloucester Cathedral *Lavatorium*
St. Maurice
13th century
painted stone
From Magdeburg Cathedral, Germany
Ekkehard and Uta
1245 – 60 C.E.
painted stone
In Naumberg Cathedral, Germany
cathedral donors
*The Virgin of Paris*
1300
Stone
Notre-Dame Cathedral, Paris
Jean Pucelle
*Belleville Breviary*
*(David before Saul)*
1325
Illuminated manuscript
Late Gothic Style -
- elegant
- swaying / curving
- decorative
Vocabulary Terms

triforium
flying buttress
quadripartite vault
sexpartite vault
ribbed vault
rose window
lancet window
tracery
pinnacle
fan vaulting
pendant vaulting
net vaulting