



ROMANESQUE & GOTHIC

ART & ARCHITECTURE

ROMANESQUE

-From the 11th century, a new style of art spread throughout Western Europe called **Romanesque**.

-It was called Romanesque because it is reminiscent of Roman art.

AIMS

- to spread religion
- bring people closer to God

ARCHITECTURE

- churches, cathedrals, and monasteries

SCULPTURE AND PAINTING

- used to convey spirituality

FEATURES

- Symbols were very important.
- Everything had a message including the shapes and materials.
- Artists were anonymous craftsmen.

ROMANESQUE ARCHITECTURE

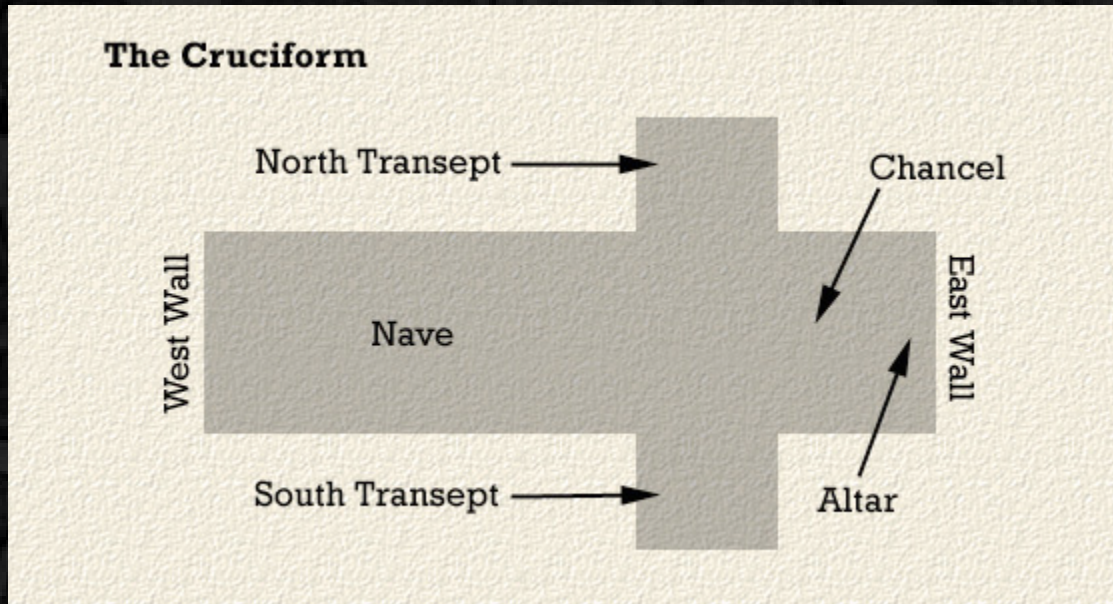
FEATURES

- The main buildings were made of stone because it was safer than wood.
- Characterized by semi-circular arches
- Roman elements such as **barrel vaults** and **domes** were used.
- The buildings also had **round arches** and big **columns** and **pillars**.
- Thick walls
- Large towers
- Very small windows, not many windows
- Not a lot of light let inside
- The buildings looked very solid and compact.

barrel vault: a single arched surface extends from wall to wall, the length of the space to be vaulted, for example, the nave of a church



ROMANESQUE ARCHITECTURE

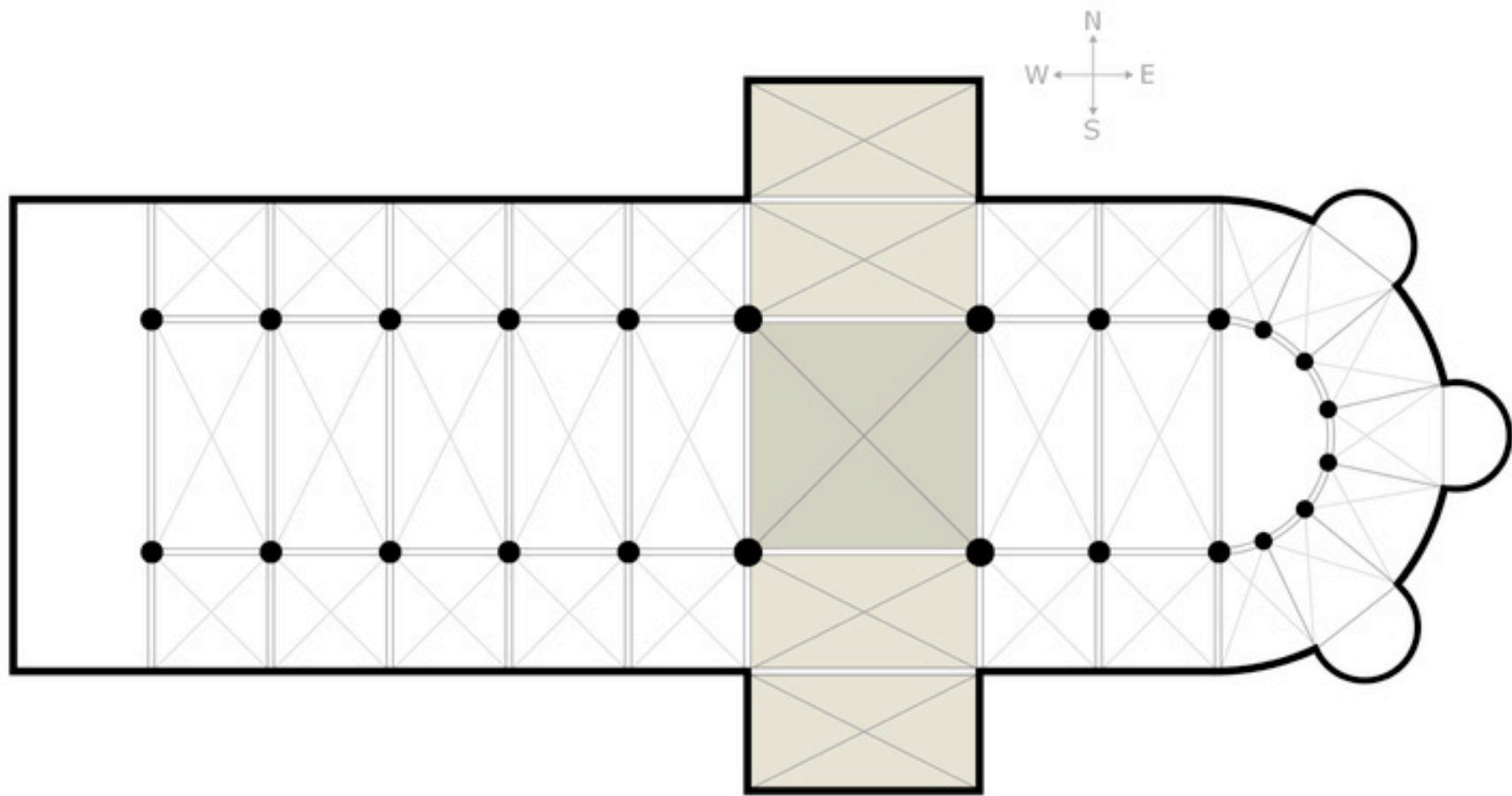


CHURCHES

- They were usually **cruciform** (having the shape of a cross), which recalls the cross on which Jesus died: a Latin cross.
- The long arm of the cross was made up of one or more naves finishing in an **apse**.
- The shorter arm of the cross is called the **transept**.

FAMOUS EXAMPLES

- the Cathedral of Pisa (which includes the Leaning Tower), Italy; France's Mont St. Michel.



Cathedral ground plan. The shaded area is the transept; darker shading represents the crossing.



CLONFERT CATHEDRAL IN GALWAY, IRELAND



LESSAY ABBEY, NORMANDY, FRANCE



**THE CATHEDRAL OF SANTIAGO DE
COMPOSTELA, SPAIN**

MAINZ CATHEDRAL, GERMANY

ROMANESQUE SCULPTURE

FEATURES

- It had an educational and religious function since most people could not read or write.
- Sculptures were adapted to fit into the space available.
- Human figures were unrealistic
- Painted in bright colors
- facades** of the churches were decorated with subjects such as Christ in Glory and the Last Judgement
- The **capitals** and the **cloisters** were decorated with animals, plants, Biblical stories, and everyday scenes.
- The altars had wooden carvings.
- Two main themes that were shown included the **Virgin and Child** and **Christ on the Cross**

ROMANESQUE PAINTING

-The most important paintings were inside churches.

FEATURES

-Human figures were rigid and schematic. Some were painted bigger to show their importance.

-Bright colors

-The figures were outlined in black.

-The eyes and hands were emphasized

-There were no background landscapes

-**Mural painting**: common on walls, favorite themes were Christ in Glory and the Virgin and Child

-**Panel painting**: used on altars and small altarpieces, they showed the lives of saints and martyrs

-**Miniatures**: small paintings which illustrated bibles and manuscripts



GOTHIC SCULPTURE

- At the end of the 12th century, the Romanesque style gave way to the **Gothic** style, which originated in France, and quickly spread throughout Europe.
- Like Romanesque sculpture, Gothic sculpture had a religious and educational purpose.

FEATURES

- Figures were not adapted to fit architecture. They became independent, more realistic and natural.
- Clothes and gestures were more detailed.
- Curved lines became popular.
- The figures showed movement.
- There was an interest in expressing feelings (ex: Christ suffers on the Cross, while the Virgin plays happily with her child).

GOTHIC SCULPTURE

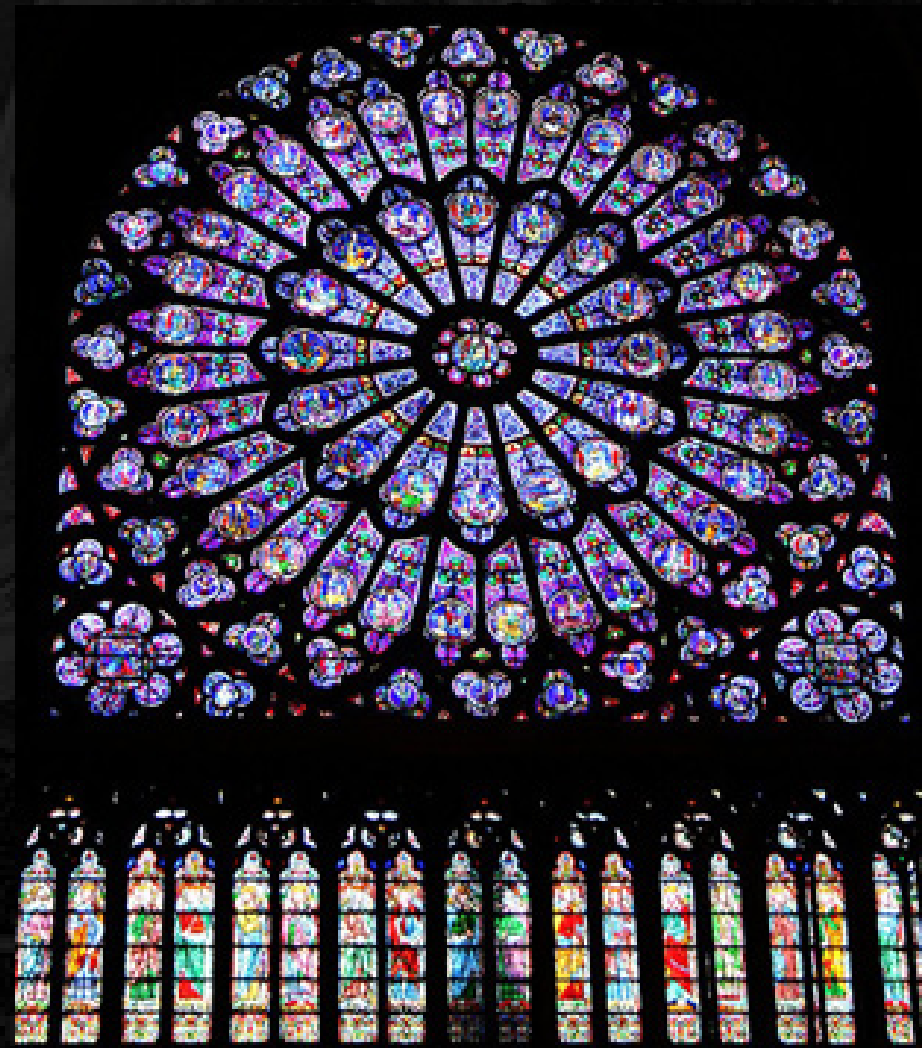
FEATURES

- Stone was the most commonly used material, but wood became popular.
- Great altarpieces were made for cathedrals and churches.
- Choir stalls were decorated with intricate scenes.
- Capitals were decorated with plants, leaves, and fruit rather than religious scenes.
- Funeral sculpture was important.
- Gargoyles were sculpted on the outside of cathedrals.



GOTHIC PAINTING

- The popularity of mural painting was replaced by large stained glass windows.
- Mural painting and miniatures were the most important types of painting at first. They illustrated books.
- Painting on wood became popular.
- Altarpieces were painted on wood.



ROSE WINDOW

GOTHIC PAINTING

PAINTINGS

- They mostly represented religious icons.
- Portraits also became important. They were commissioned by nobles to show their power.

FEATURES

- Bright colors
- The use of gold
- Background landscapes
- Greater realism and movement of the figures



GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE

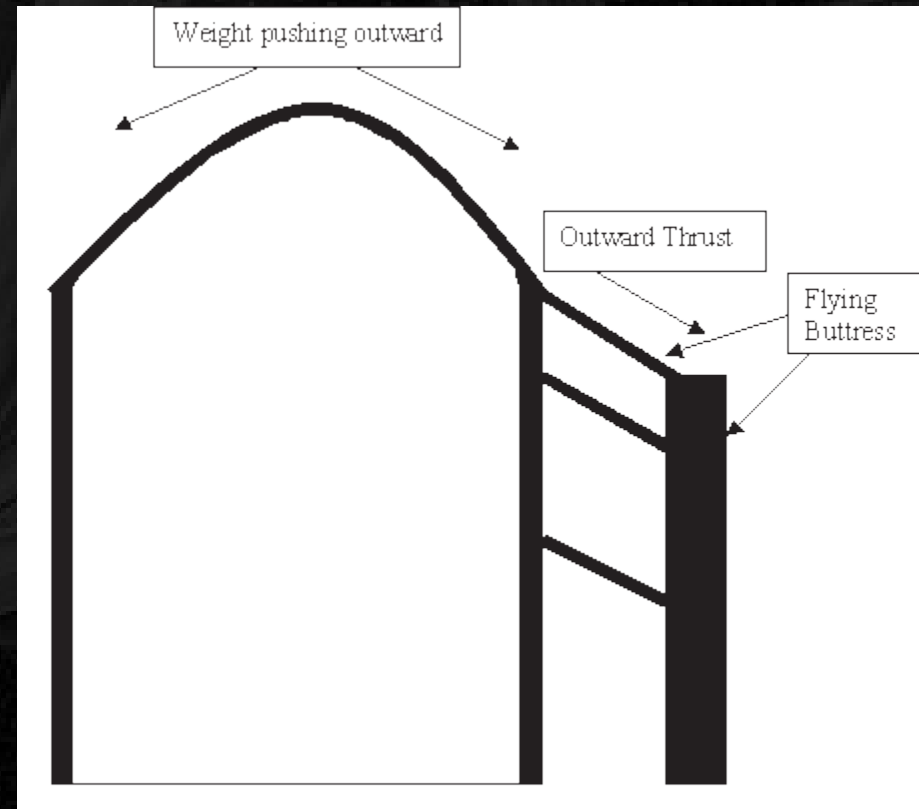
-Gothic architecture was religious, it also showed the power and wealth of the cities.

-The **cathedral** was the most representative building, and became the center of the city.

-Cathedrals were always built to face the same direction. The altar is the most sacred place and is at the east end where the sun rises because Christians believe in the resurrection of Christ in the east.

FEATURES

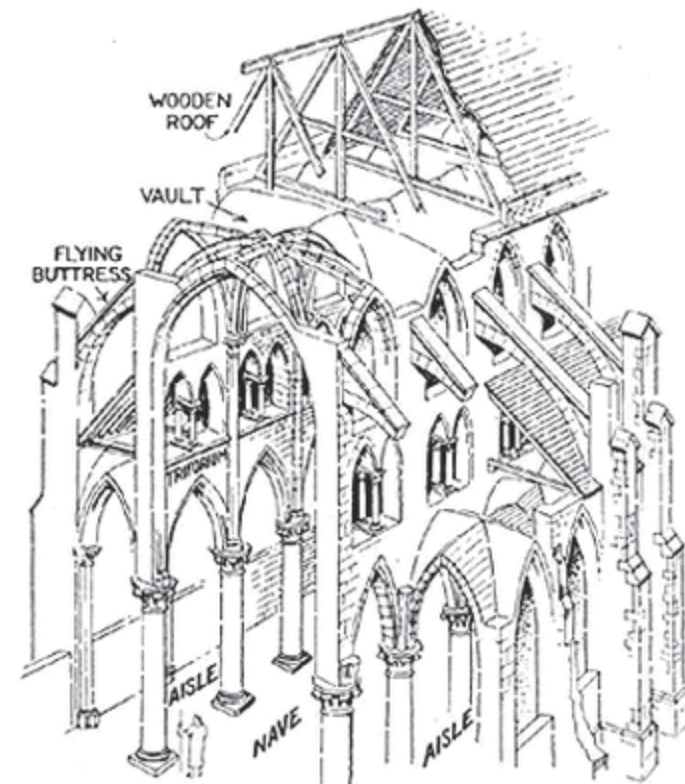
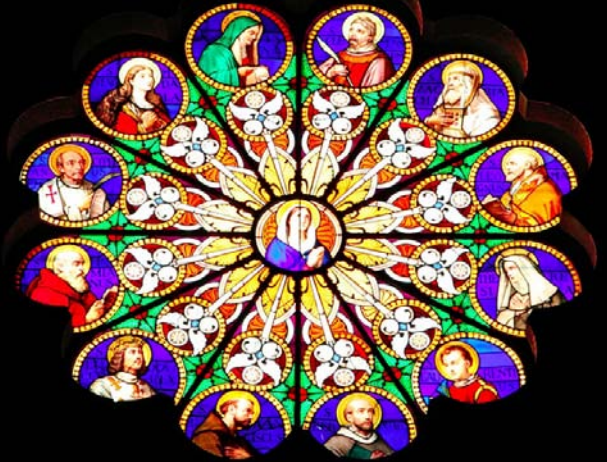
-New techniques included **pointed arches** and **rib vaults**, the weight of the rib vault rested on the **pillars** inside the cathedral and on the **flying buttresses** outside



GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE

FEATURES

- Thick walls were no longer necessary.
- Large windows could be built.
- Windows were made of stained glass, there were also rose windows in bright colors
- Gothic cathedrals were high and filled with light, to represent heaven.
- The ground plans were different. The Latin cross shape was still used, but the east ends were polygonal, not semicircular, and the central nave was much higher and wider than the side aisles.



GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE

FEATURES

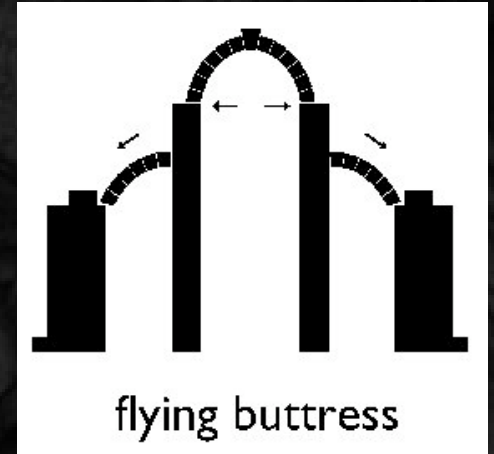
flying buttress: most strongly associated with Gothic church architecture.

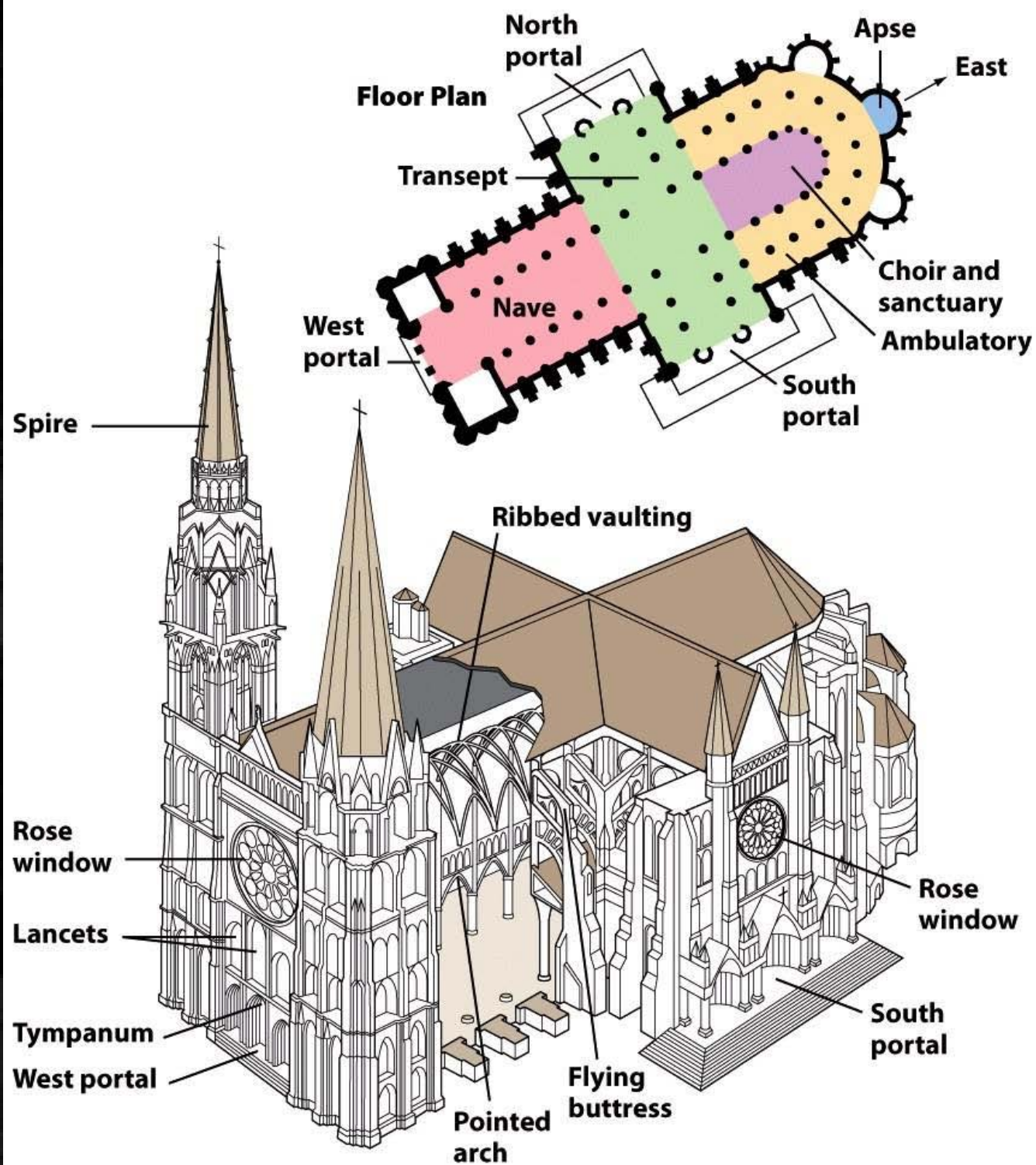
An inclined bar carried on a half arch that extends (“flies”) from the upper part of a wall to a pier some distance away and carries the thrust of a roof or vault.

The design increased the supporting power of the buttress and allowed for the creation of the high-ceilinged churches typical of Gothic architecture.

FAMOUS EXAMPLES

-Westminster Abbey, London; the Abbey of St. Denis and Notre Dame Cathedral, both in Paris; St. Peter's in Rome (a Renaissance example); and Chartres Cathedral in France



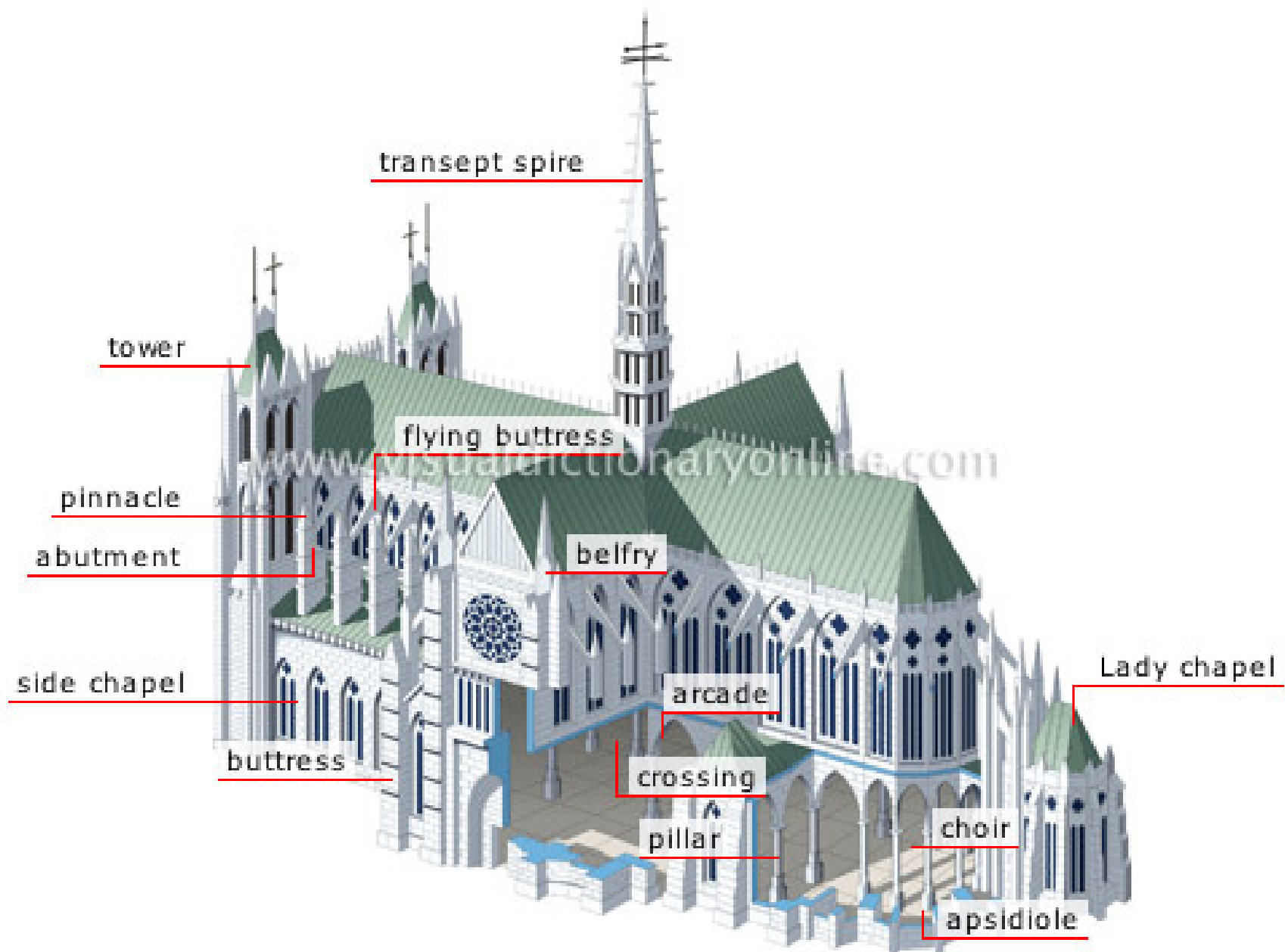


Elements of a Gothic Church (Chartres Cathedral)

Chapter 11, *Western Society: A Brief History*

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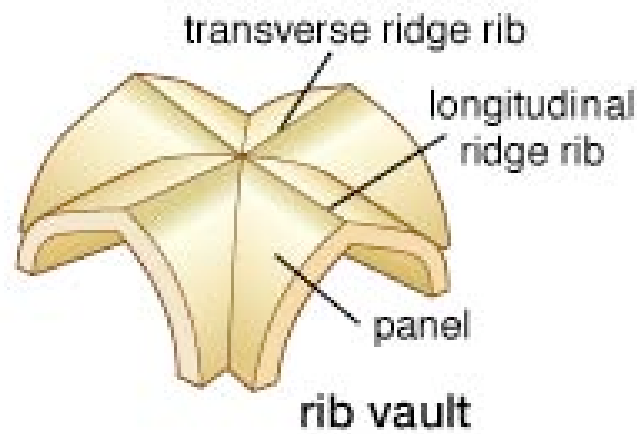
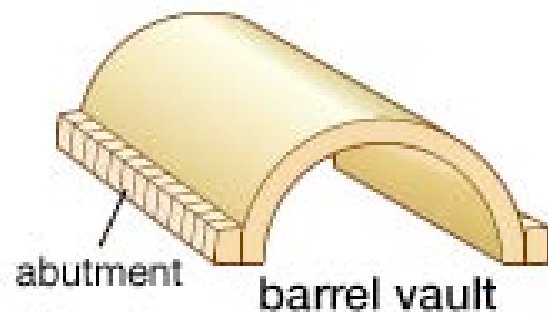
LEÓN CATHEDRAL

ROMANESQUE ARCHITECTURE

- barrel vault (bore such a resemblance to the classical Roman arch)
- semicircular arches
- thick walls
- fewer windows, less light
- dimly lit
- large, blunt towers
- solid, compact

GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE

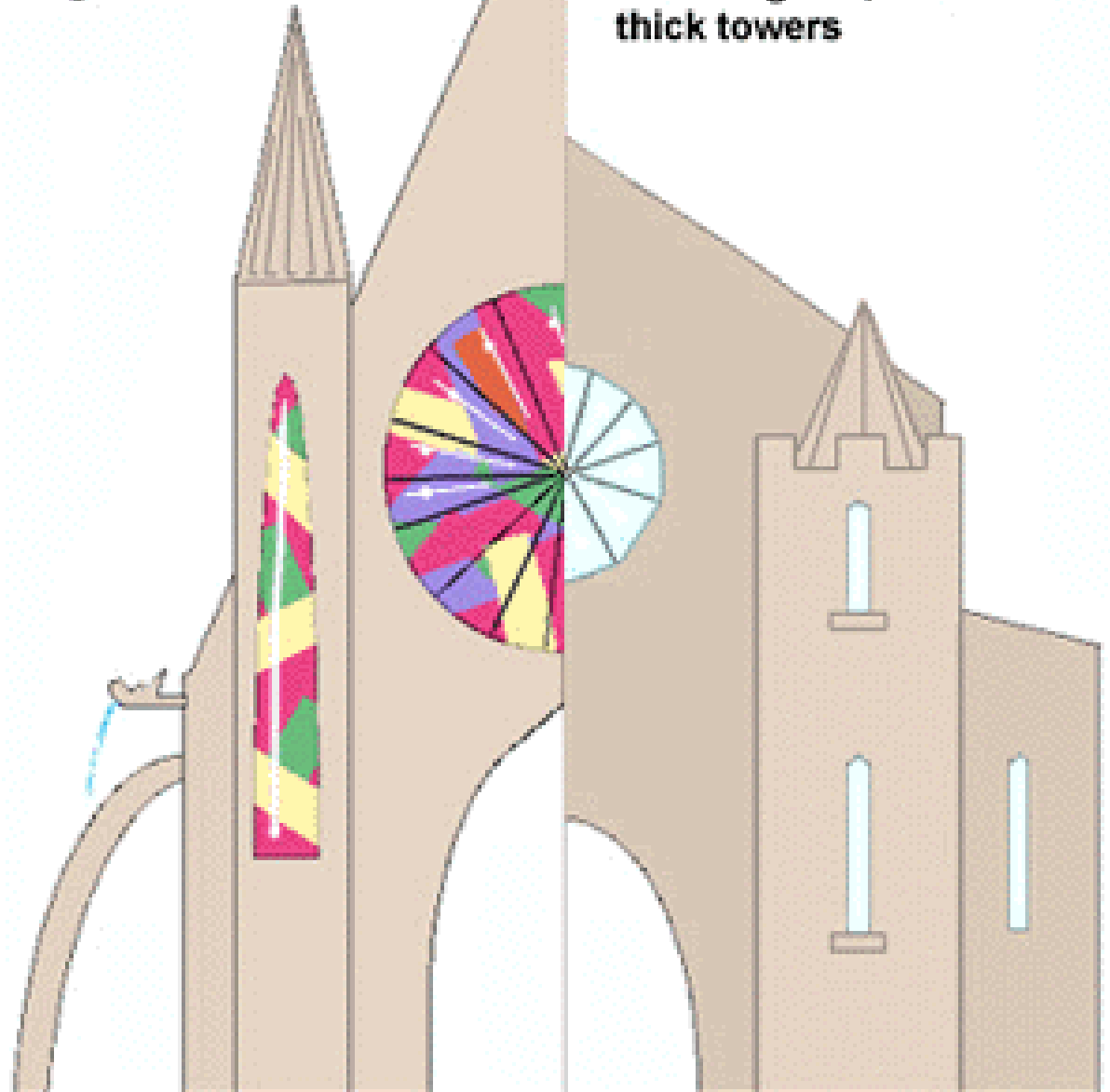
- ribbed vault
- pointed arches
- flying buttresses
- taller
- thinner walls
- rose windows
- churches designed to resemble heaven: soaring, colorful, and bright



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"Pure" Gothic
 High pointed arches and
 spires, buttresses, gargoyles,
 large colored windows

Romanesque Gothic
 Thick supporting walls
 with a few small windows
 of clear glass, and
 thick towers



Church facades: Gothic (left) and Romanesque Gothic (right)



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