

Romanesque Architecture

History of Architecture

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Introduction

- Romanesque architecture is the style that was established on the decay of the Roman architecture, and spread in the non-Byzantine countries.
- The period under study starts with the 9th century, and continues to 12th.
- Sometimes the style's beginning is connected the rule of Charlemagne; the first Frankish king of the Roman empire.
- Charlemagne was the greatest king to rule the (Holy Roman Empire), which ruled France, Germany, northern Italy and parts of central Europe.
- The papacy in Rome was rising to become the most powerful party in Europe.
- It was the source of education and civilization, and in many cases building a church would result into building a city around it.

Introduction

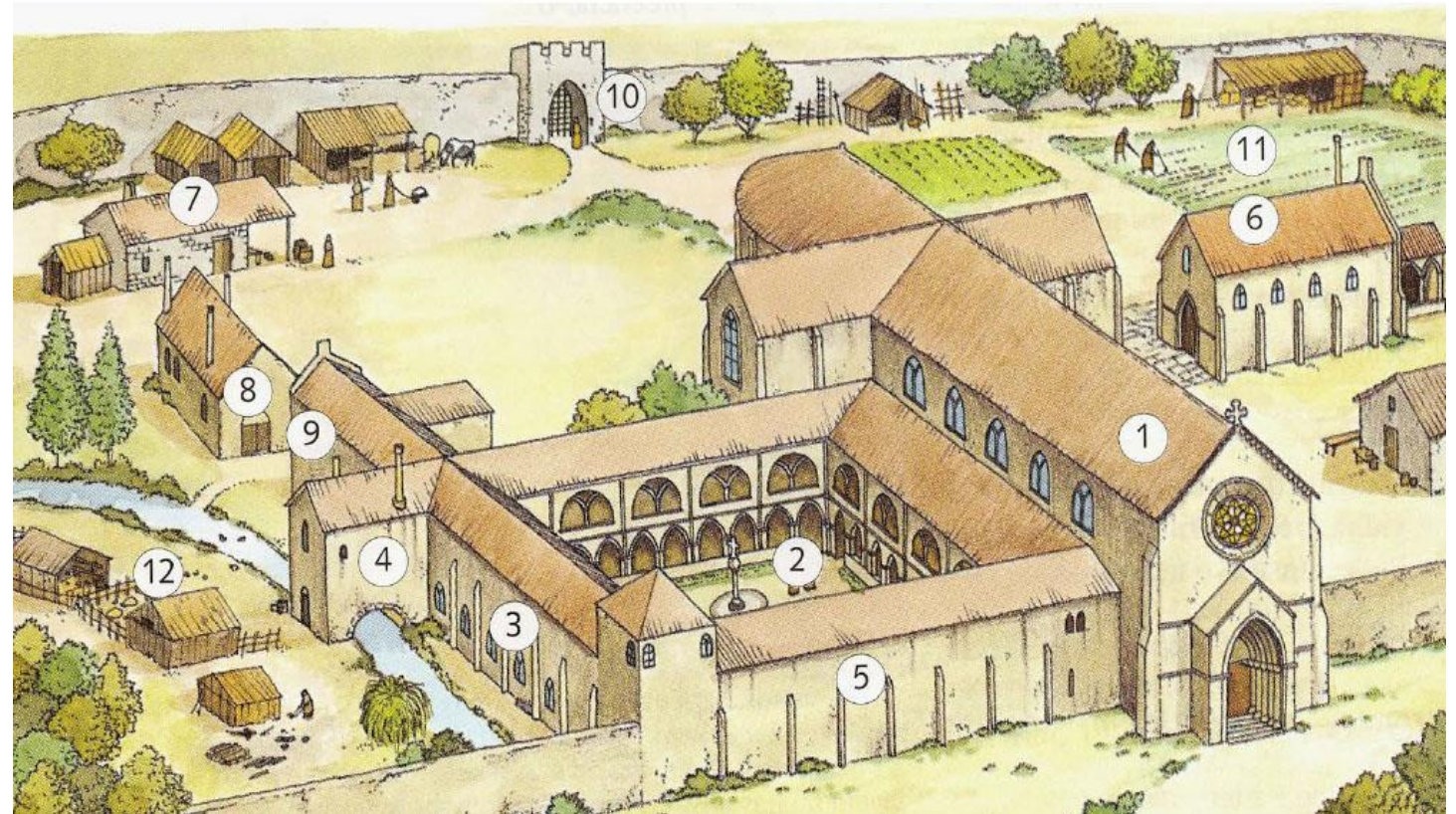
- Lands were ruled by lords and Bishops in a feudal system.
- The feudal system led to an overall poverty of the common class.
- The cities also had a greater independence due to weak governments.
- Continuous wars led to unsettled conditions for people, and the skill and craftsmanship levels were the lowest.
- The modern day states started to form at the end of this period.
- One very important element of the European culture at the time were monasteries.

Introduction

- Monasteries: complex of buildings where monks and nuns lived.
- These institutions were the keepers of knowledge at the time, and there were educational institutions attached to it in many cases.
- Monasteries were established under certain monastic orders.
- Each order had its own rules in religion, life and even art, which led to different architectural characteristics of these different monasteries, depending on the order it follows.

Introduction

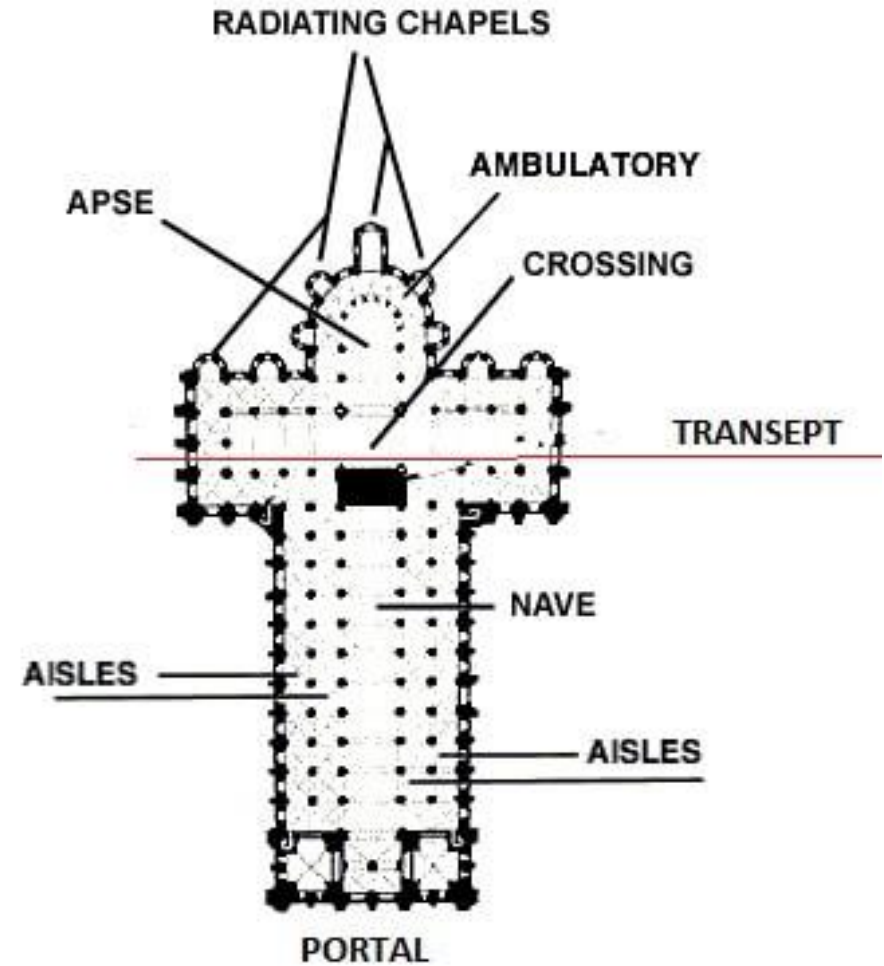
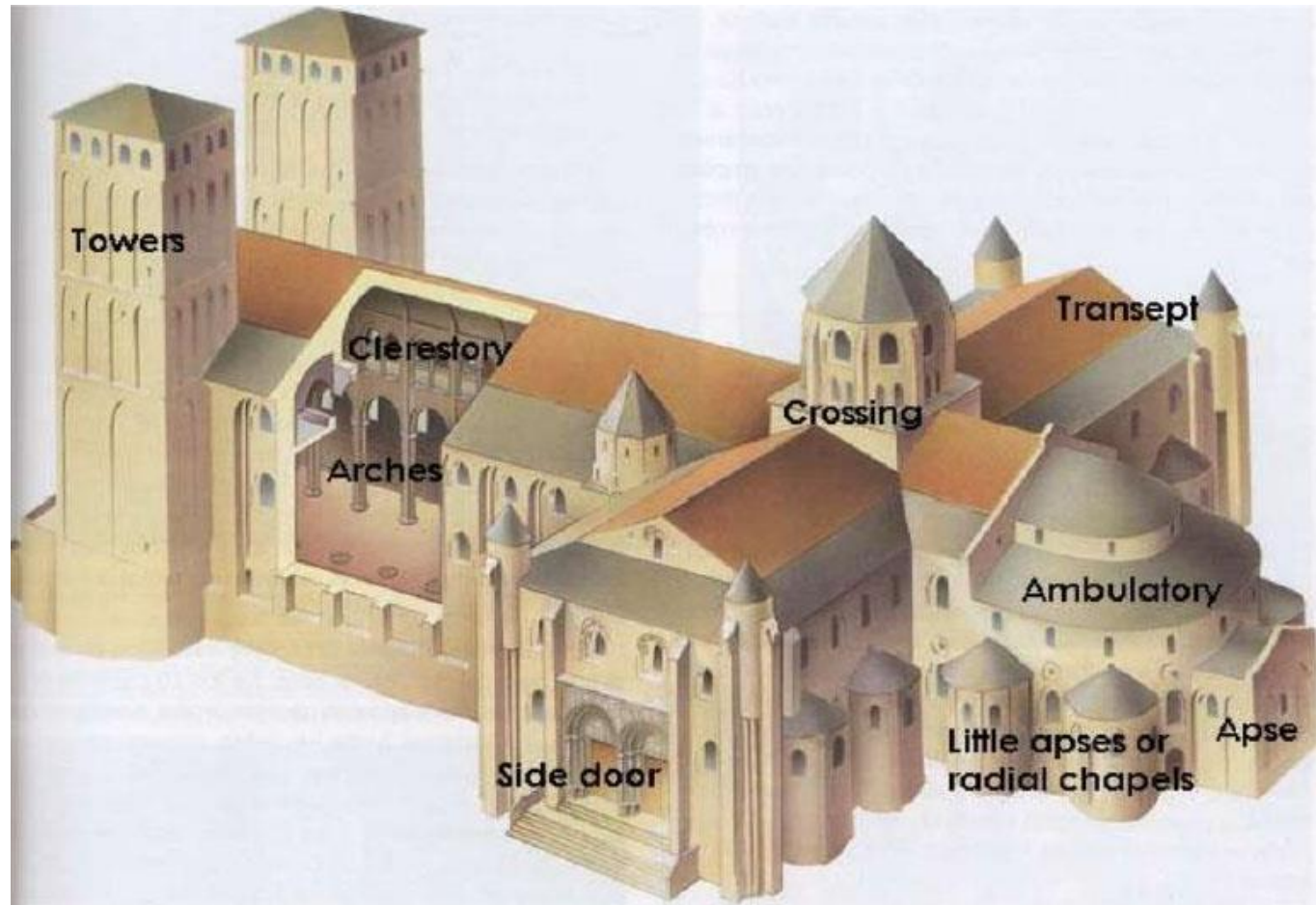
- Monasteries:
- Usually a monastery would include several other functions, like a school, a library, working labs etc.



1- The church 2- The cloister 3- The refectory 4- The kitchen 5- The dorms 6- The hospital 7- The pottery 8- The bakery 9- The guesthouse 10- The entrance 11- The farm 12- The animals shed

Introduction

- Different parts of a church:



Architectural Character



Pisa complex, Rome.

Architectural Character

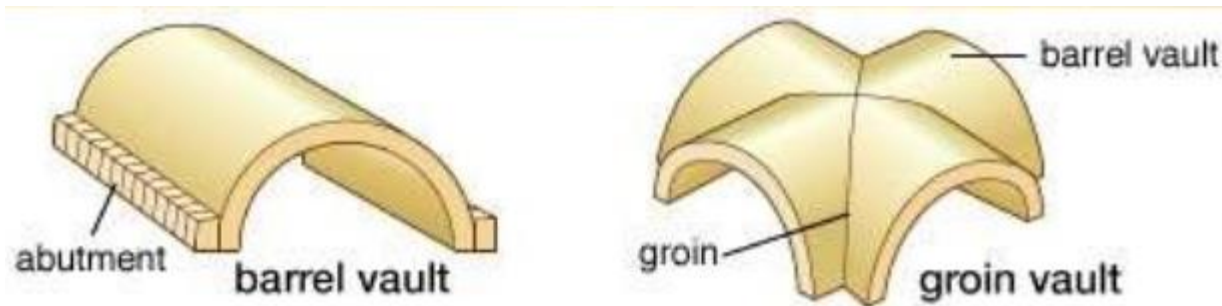
- The term Romanesque architecture is used to describe all the styles that imitated the Roman art in western Europe until the arrival of the pointed arch.
- The architecture was affected by the weakened society, along with a strong history.
- The leftovers of the Roman buildings, some intact and some destroyed, inspired the architects to continue within the same line.
- Romanesque architecture was picturesque.
- Many Romanesque buildings were built from the remains of the ancient Roman buildings.

Architectural Character

- The Romanesque architects introduced the use of dressed stonework in comparatively small pieces.
- They used the Roman architectural principles such as semi-circular arches.
- Romanesque buildings were heavy and low, due to the heavy materials and construction methods; The walls and columns were thick and heavy.
- The buildings were also dark, because of the small windows, since large windows were not possible.
- They used round arches extensively.

Architectural Character

- The Romanesque architects developed the vaults architecture to a new level, with the use of semi-circular (round) section
- They also introduced the groin vault, a vault resulting from two perpendicular vaults (barrel vaults).



Architectural Character

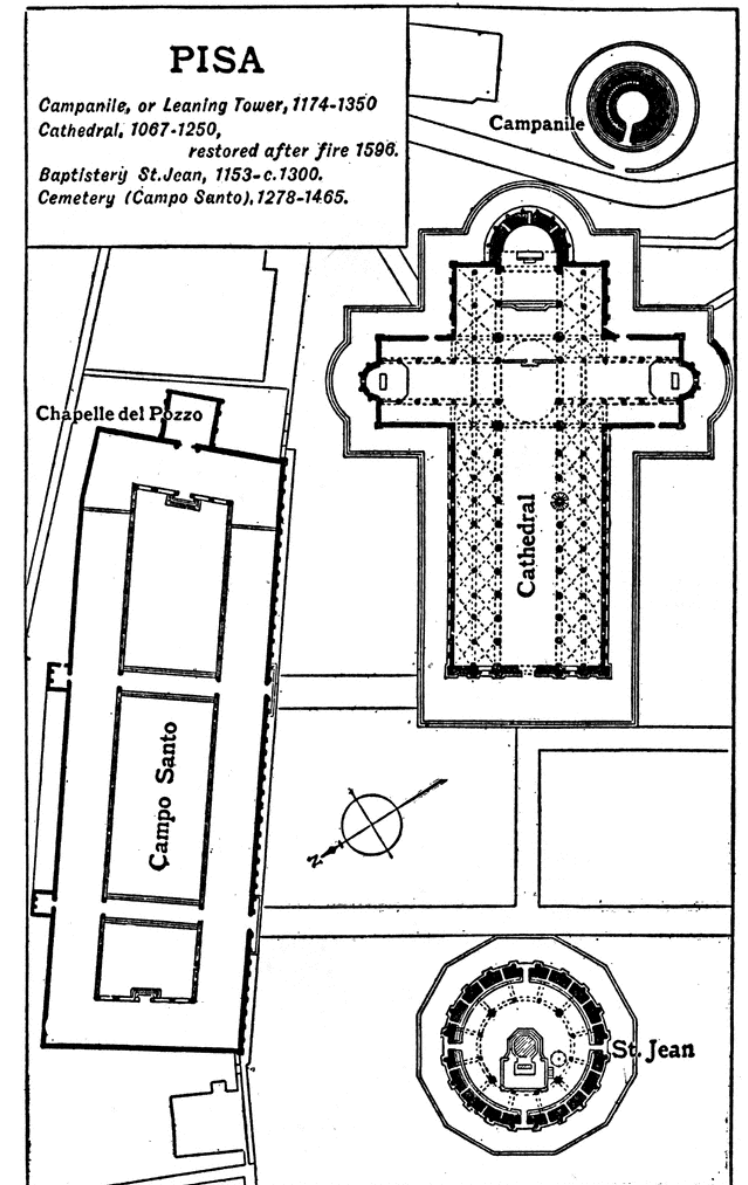
- The Basilica was taken as a model and transept was added to the churches, which gave the plans a well defined shape of a cross.
- The transept had the same width of the nave, and the naves had double the width of aisles usually.
- Churches started to have heavy towers, with windows on each story.
- Openings (doors and windows) started to be built within repeated recesses.
- Vaults were used to cover the aisle; central naves were covered with wooden roofs.
- Ornaments were derived from many types of vegetables and animals, but with low quality, except the columns' capitals.

Italian Romanesque

- The Italians had a greater sense for beauty in details than developing a bold construction system.
- The Byzantine influence was the strongest in the Italian cities.
- The plans were same as Basilicas, mostly vaulted, and mostly small.
- Some circular planned churches were also built.
- The towers were sometimes detached.
- They tried to use the dome for roofing, but it was limited.
- There was also a strong influence of the classical details.
- Blind arches were mainly an Italian feature.

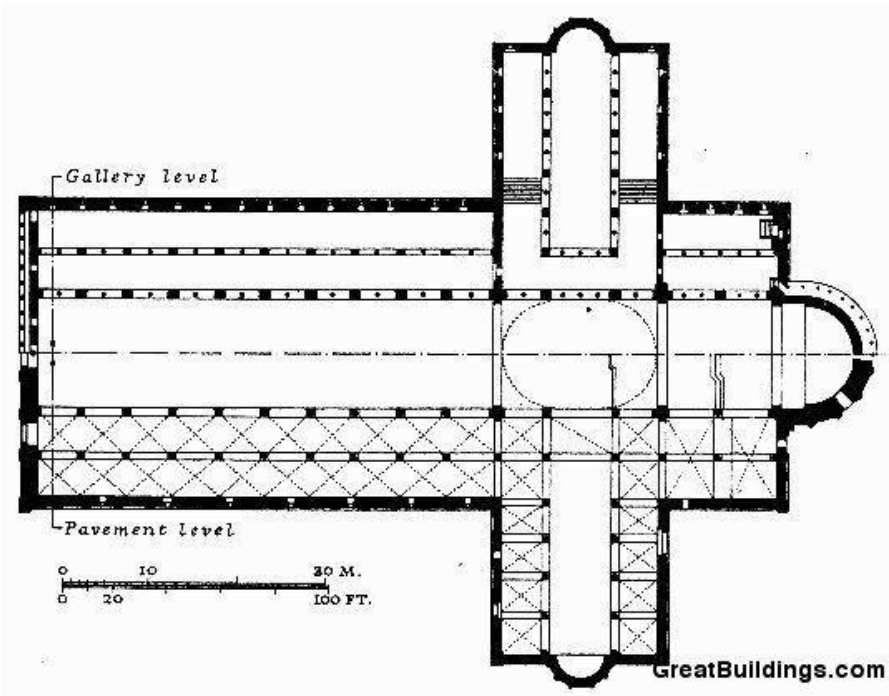
Italian Romanesque

- Pisa complex, Pisa:
- The complex is made of three buildings: the cathedral, the baptistery and the campanile.



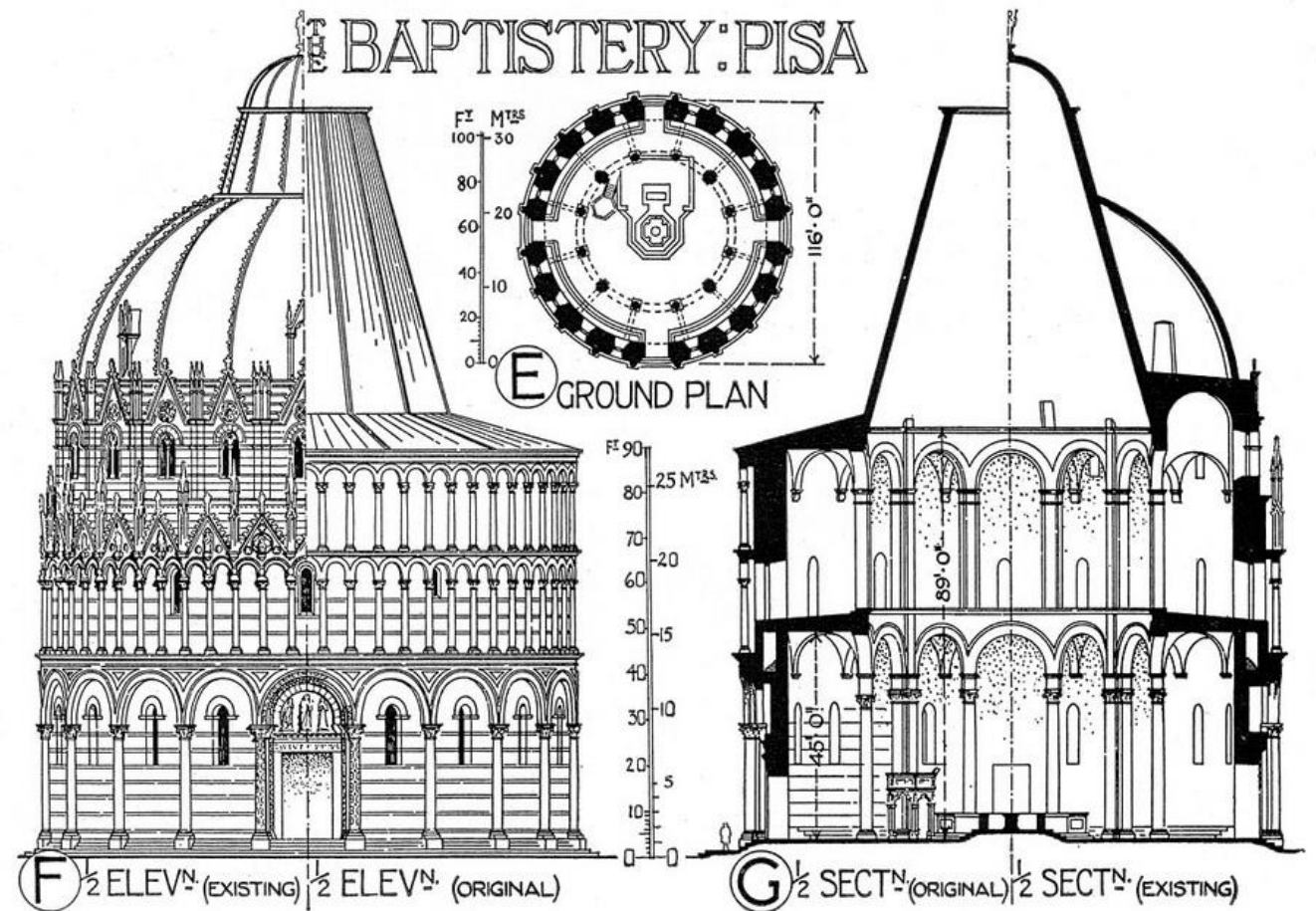
Italian Romanesque

- Pisa complex, Pisa:
- The cathedral



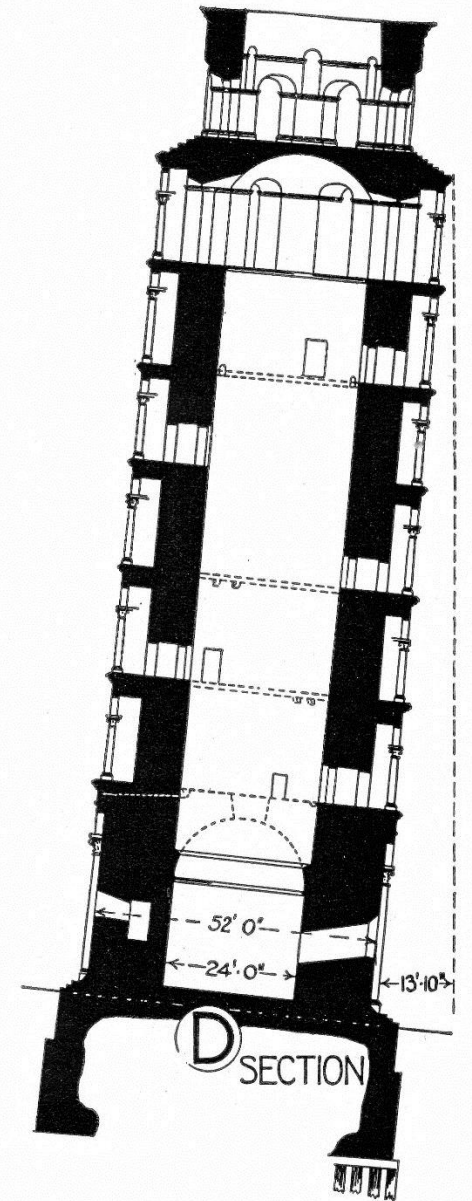
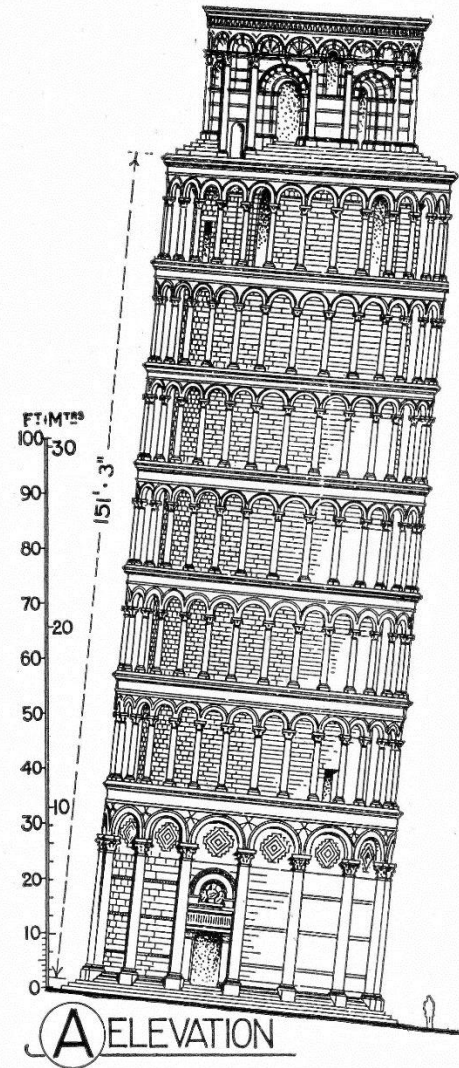
Italian Romanesque

- Pisa complex, Pisa:
- The baptistery



Italian Romanesque

- Pisa complex, Pisa:
- The campanile



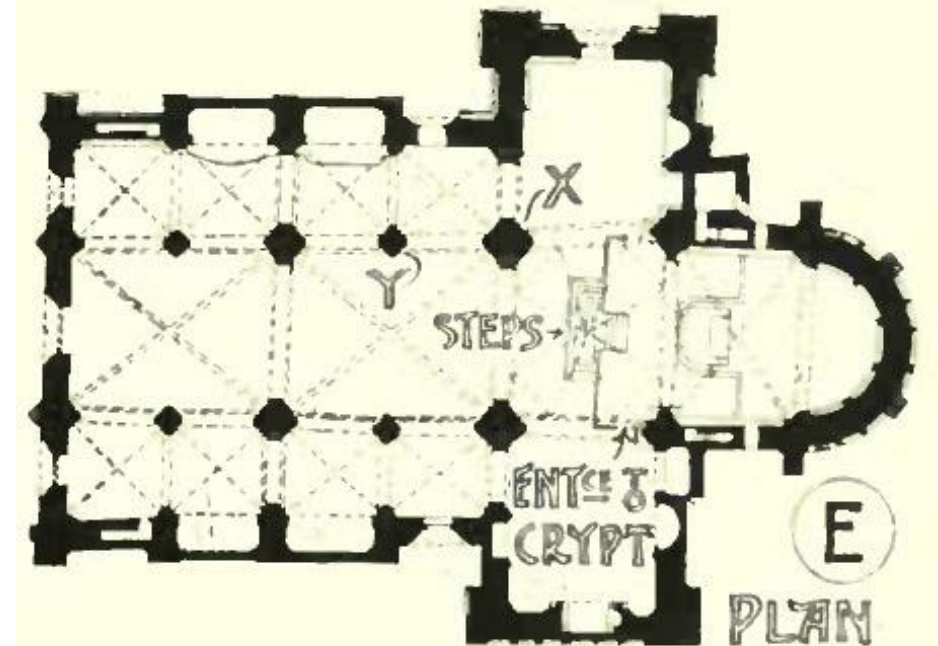
Italian Romanesque

- S. Miniato, Florence:



Italian Romanesque

- S. Michele, Pavia:



Italian Romanesque

- Monreale Cathedral, Sicily:



Italian Romanesque

- S. Nicola, Bari:

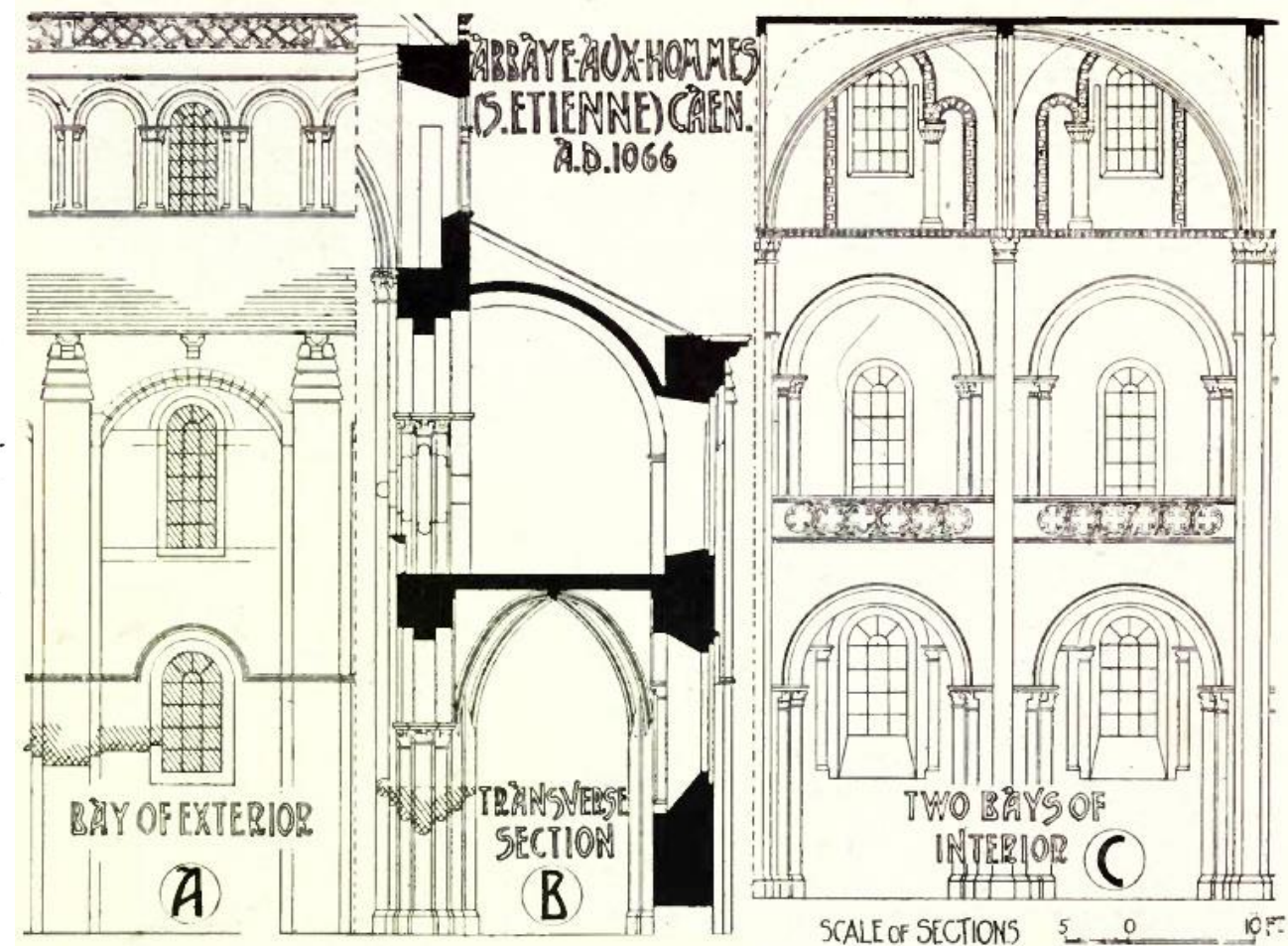
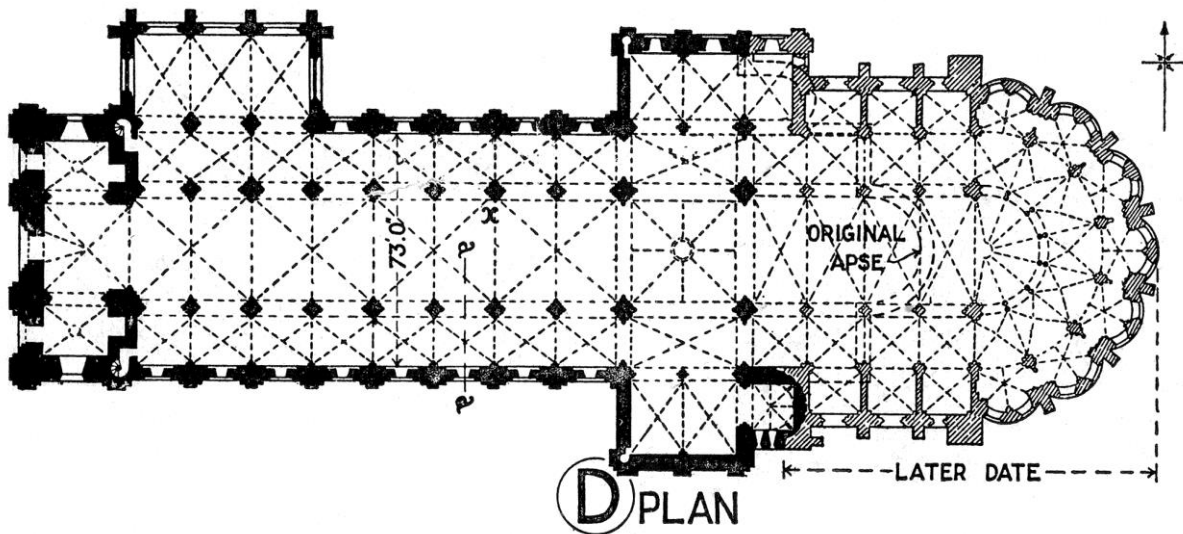


French Romanesque

- In France buttresses were used internally and externally.
- Cloisters were richly decorated, and they used multiple columns.
- They tried to introduce the pointed arch and the ribbed vaults.
- Towers were square in plan with pyramidal roofs.
- Early vaulted churches did not have clerestories.
- Columns were of different sections.
- They used vaults to roof the interior.

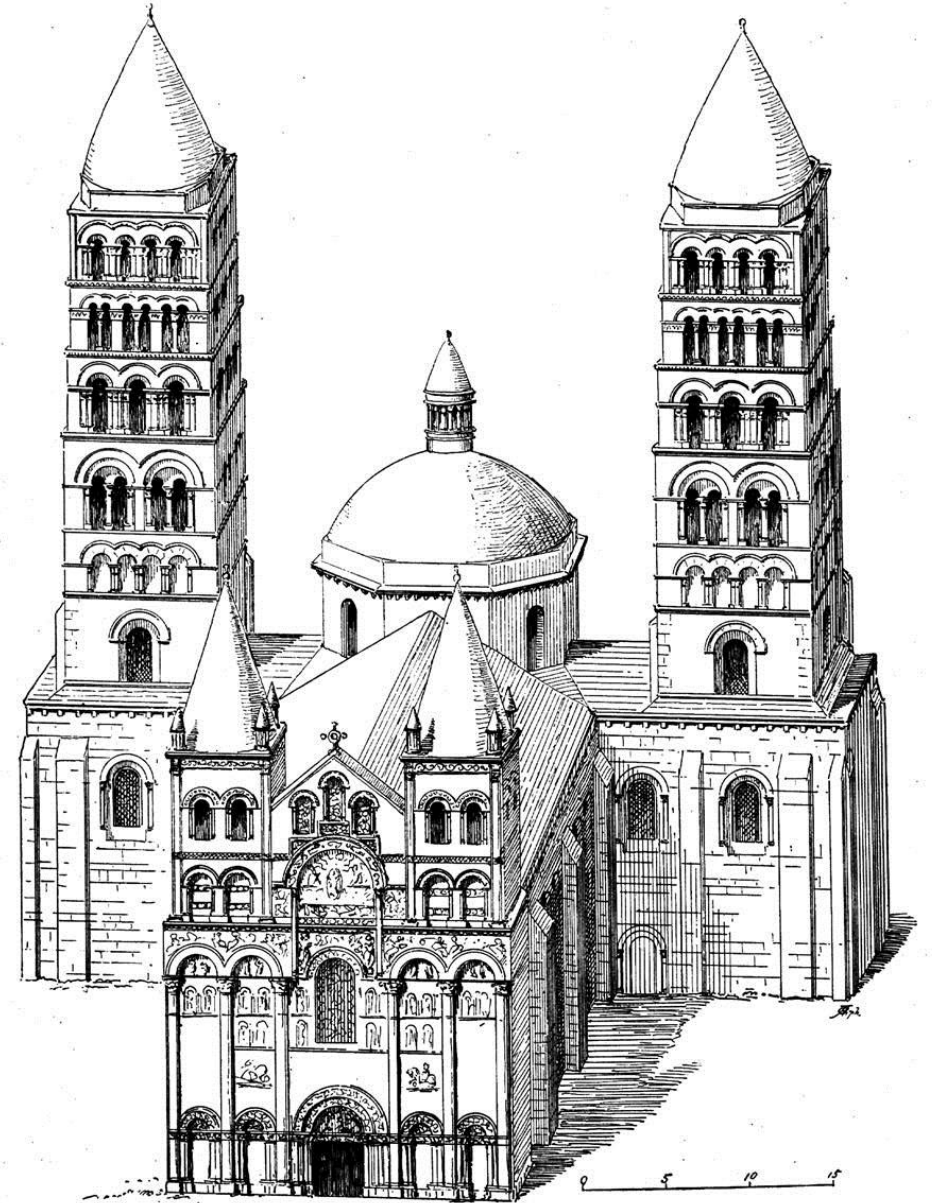
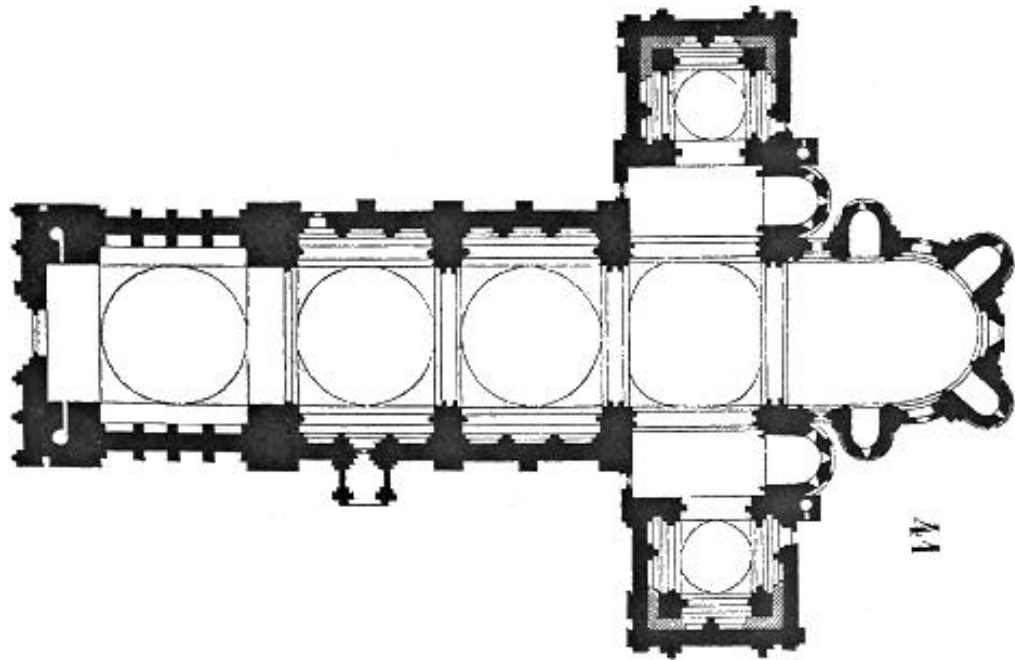
French Romanesque

- Abbey Aux-Hommes, Caen:



French Romanesque

- Angoulême Cathedral, Charente:



6. ANGOULESME (W).

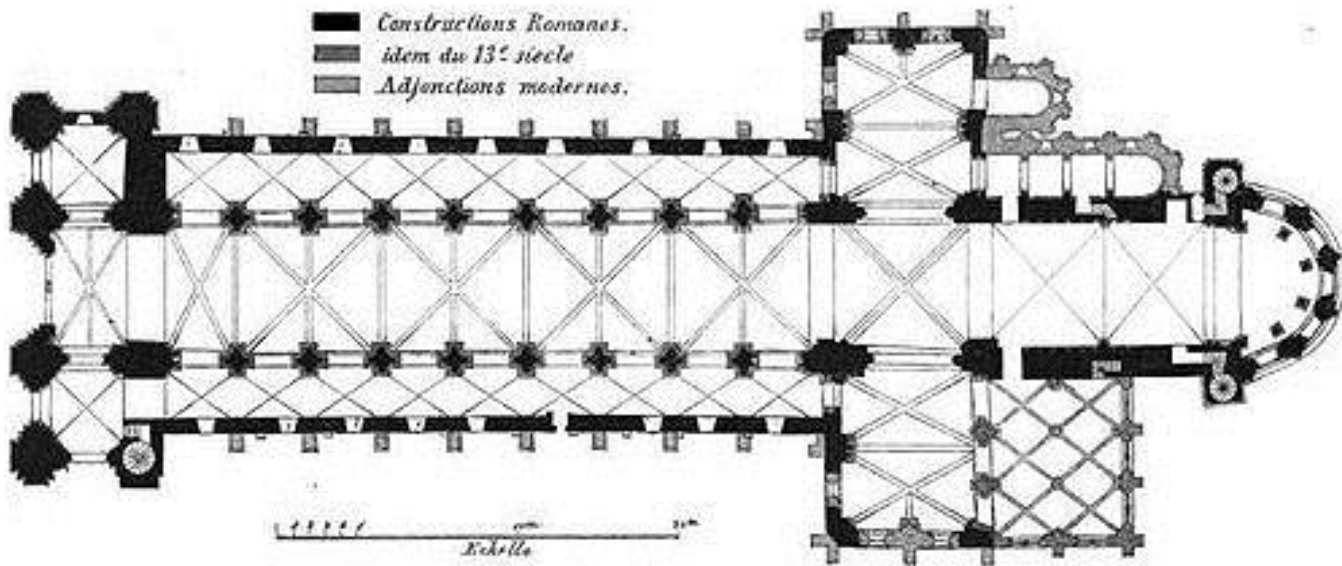
French Romanesque

- St. Trophime, Arles:



French Romanesque

- Abbey Aux-Dames, Caen:



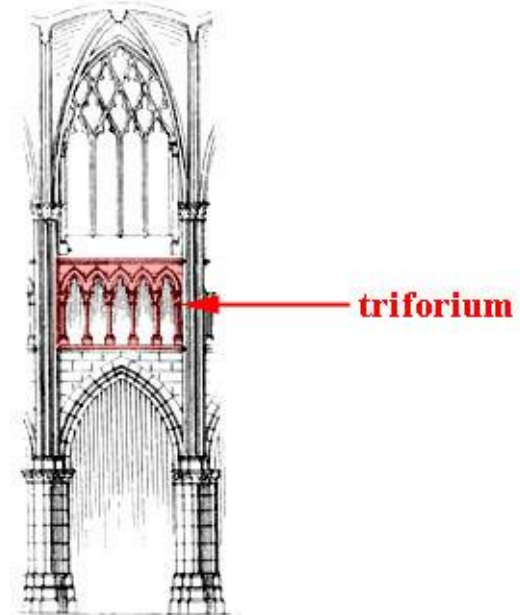
French Romanesque

- Abbey Aux-Dames, Caen:



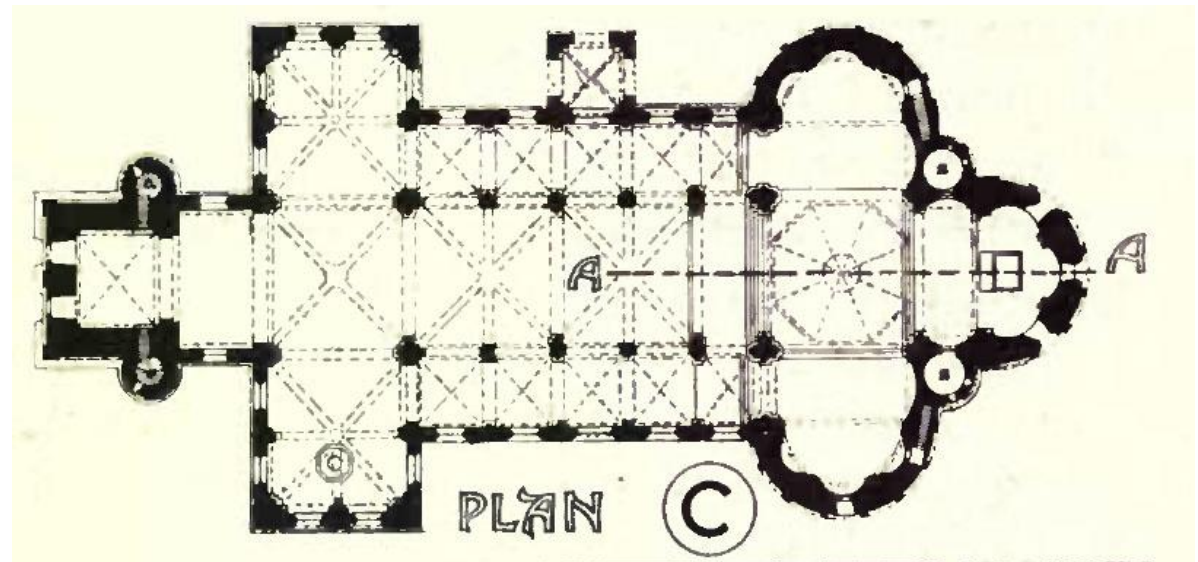
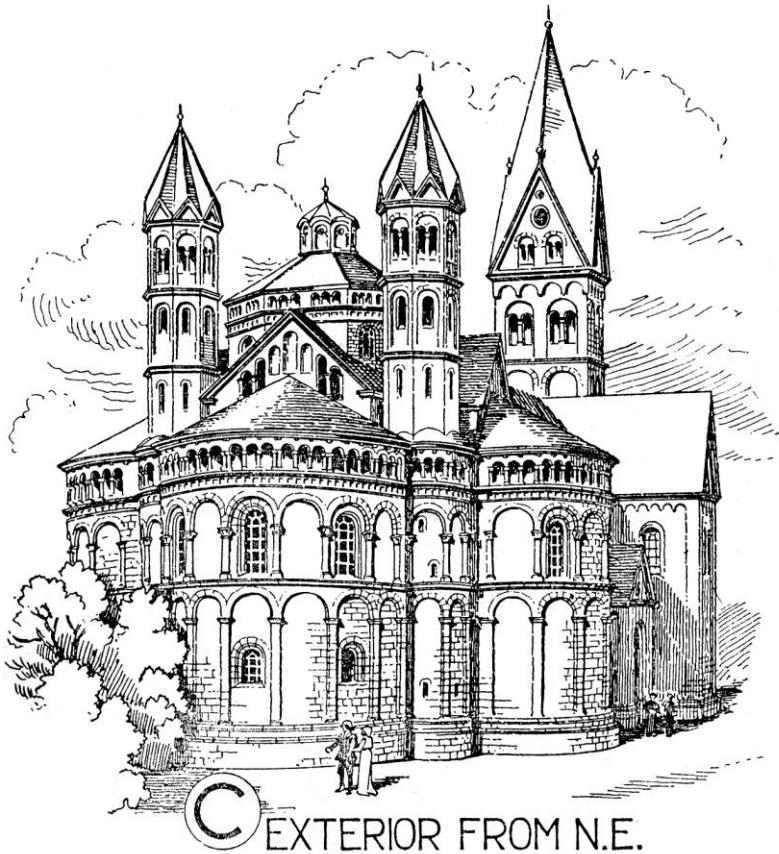
German Romanesque

- The German churches had apses on the east and the west side.
- The western entrance was not as important-looking as in the other styles.
- They used many towers, with different sections and polygonal domes.
- Churches sometimes had a triforium, and always a clerestory.
- Towers usually ended with a gabled roof.
- Alternation of columns was a favorite German feature.
- The use of vaults in the nave.
- In many cases they have more than one transept.



German Romanesque

- Church of the Apostles, Cologne:



German Romanesque

- Worms Cathedral, Worm:

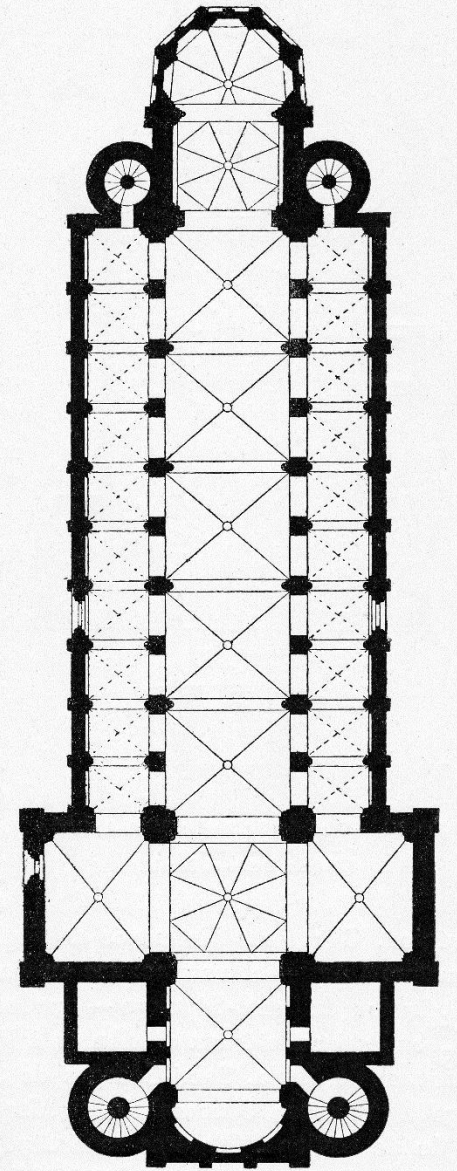


FIG. 240. — Plan de la cathédrale de Worms.
(D'après Dehio et Bezold.)

German Romanesque

- Laach Abbey Church, Andernach:



English Romanesque

- The English Romanesque was called “Norman Architecture”.
- The English churches were quite long and narrow.
- Usually the tower would be in the center of the transept.
- The towers were massive and mostly squares.
- They utilized the “open timber roof” a lot.
- The columns were short and huge.
- Almost all of the English Norman cathedrals were altered later.

English Romanesque

Tower of London, London

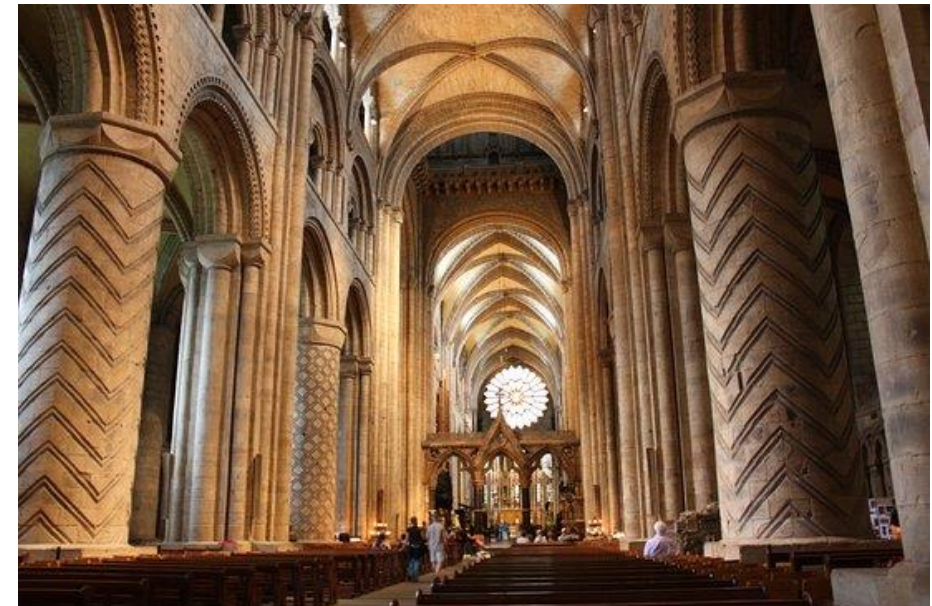
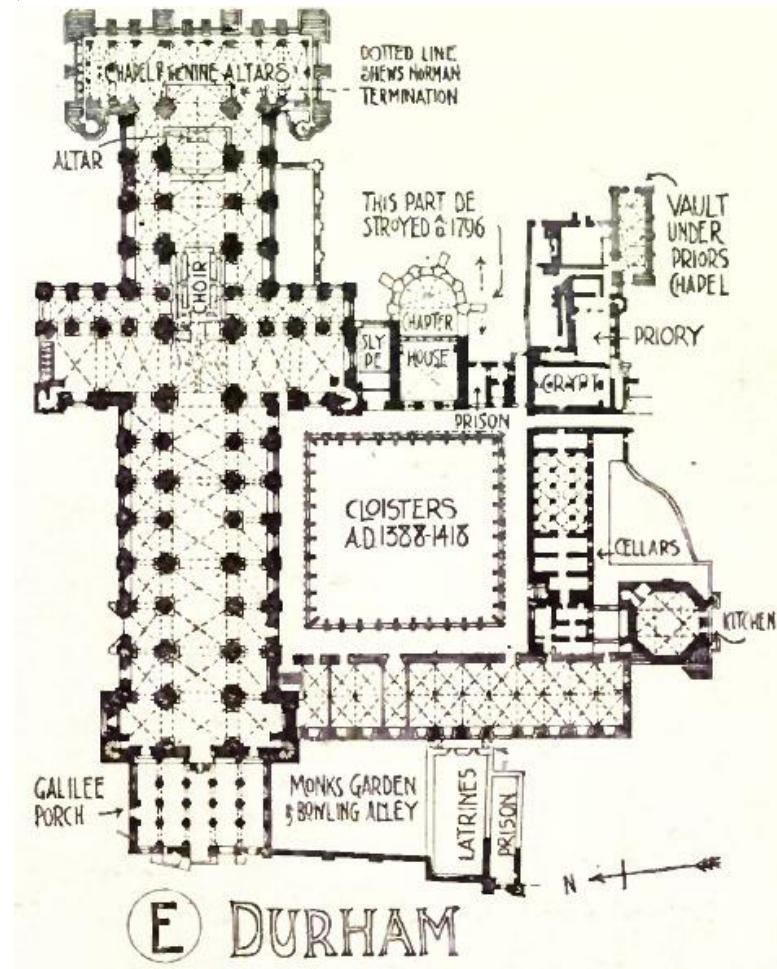


Middle Temple Hall, London



English Romanesque

- Durham Cathedral, Durham:



English Romanesque

- Iffley Church, Oxford:



Romanesque Architecture

- Romanesque architecture was a step towards the more mature style.
- The style evolved slowly, and dominated all of Europe.
- Romanesque architecture also has a strong influence on castles' architecture.