

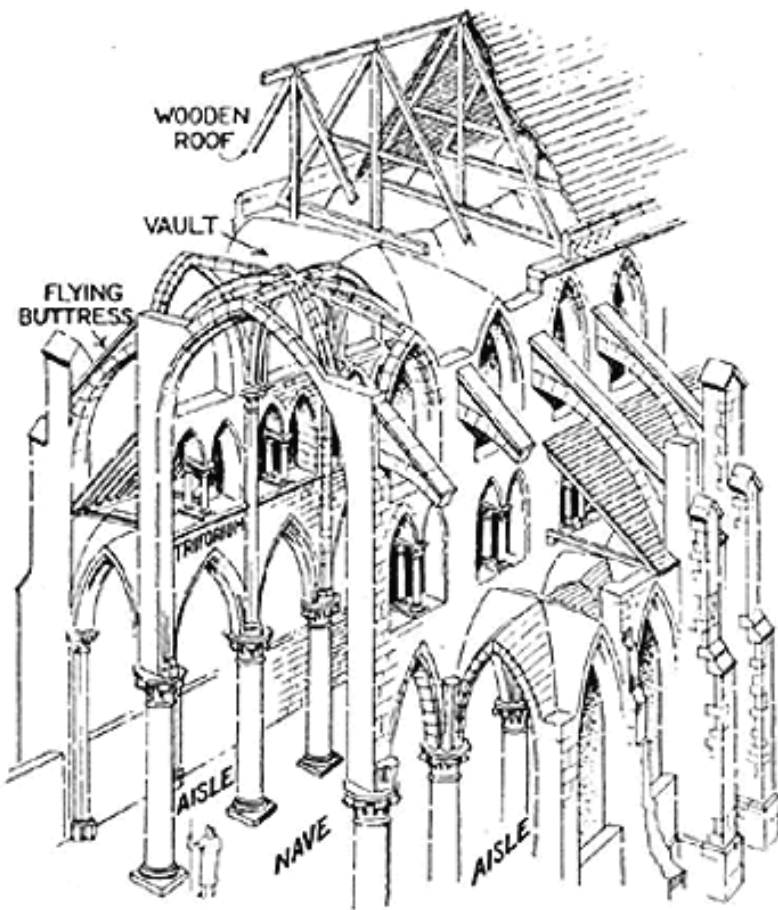
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French Cathedrals

The Beginning Stage

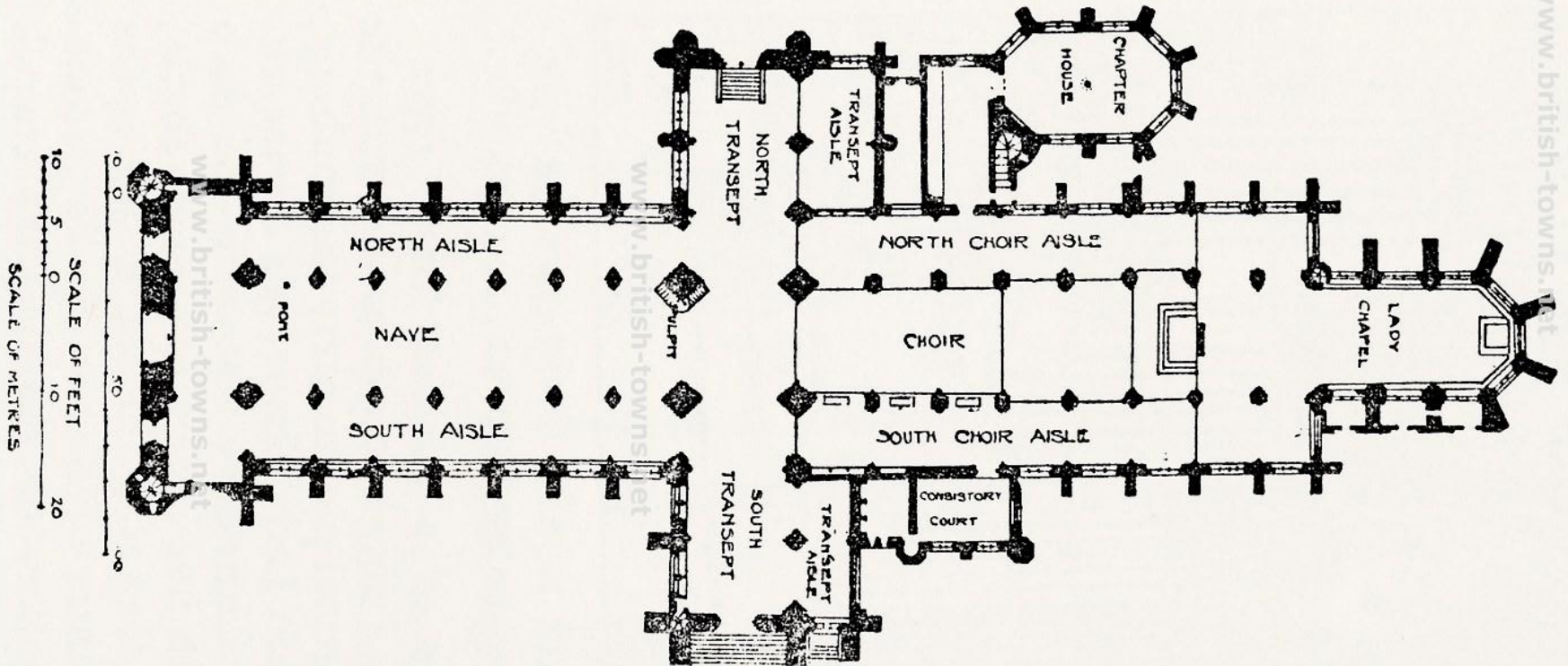
- In the Middle Ages, cathedrals were constructed for:
 - Religious purposes
 - Coronation ceremonies
 - Christenings
 - Weddings
 - Funerals
- A bishop received one diocese, a divided segment of land, to establish a center for religious practice
- Funding for construction was provided mainly by people in the city – their sins would be forgiven if they donated money

Construction Techniques

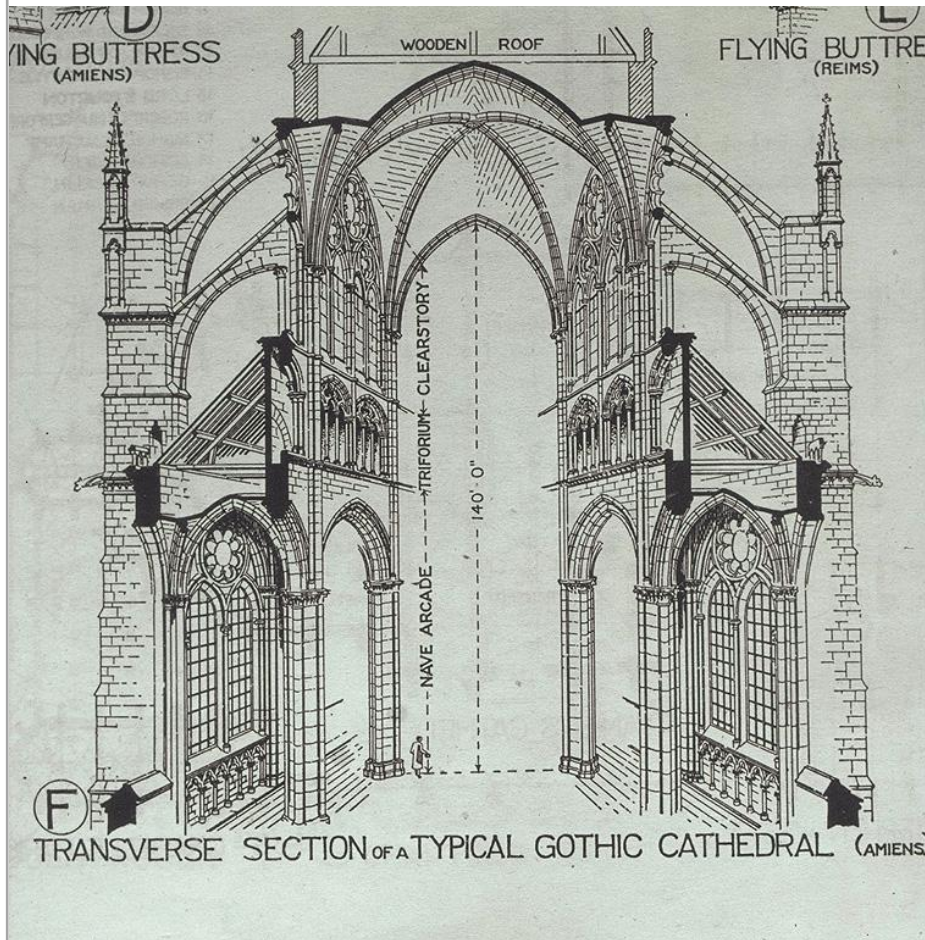


- ❑ Shapes: Latin Cross, Double Transept, and Double Ender
- ❑ Nave – the central area of the church
- ❑ Flying buttress – bridge-like connectors that support the cathedral wall from collapsing outward
- ❑ Vault – an arched roof that supports lateral weight
- ❑ Pointed Arch

Cathedral Layout



Gothic Influence



- Cathedrals were expected to be no less than 300 feet long and over 100 feet high
- The pointed arch was designed not only for structural purposes but also to give direction toward Heaven
- Towers and spires
- Religious sculptural designs
- Verticality
- Emphasis on light through the use of stained glass windows

Religious Decoration

- ▣ Biblical stories are illustrated in the stained glass windows – Old Testament and New Testament prophecies
 - ▣ Rose windows
- ▣ Architects implemented narratives, figures of saints, and other religious individuals into the walls, panels, and columns of the cathedral (both inside and outside)
- ▣ Romanesque architecture was incorporated in the elongation of the religious figures





Albi Cathedral



- ❑ Constructed between 1282 and 1492
- ❑ Made completely of brick
- ❑ Known for “The Last Judgment” mural on the west wall of the nave

Amiens Cathedral

- + After several fires, it was officially reconstructed in 1220
- + It is the biggest cathedral in France and the tallest Gothic cathedral
- + Contained several relics including the head of St. John the Baptist

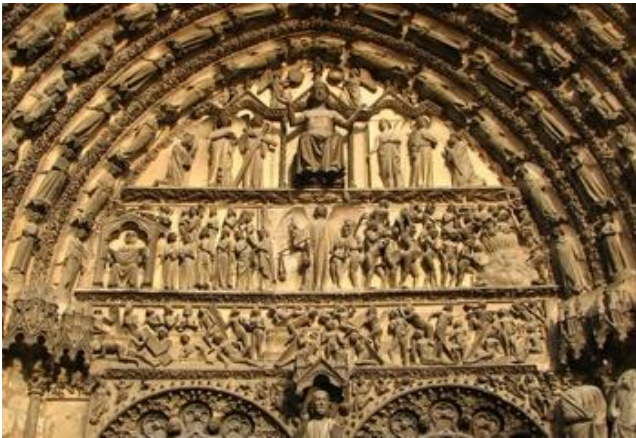


Autun Cathedral

- ▣ Built in the mid 12th century
- ▣ Known for the Romanesque inspired sculptures designed by Giselbertus
- ▣ Initially constructed to host the remains of Lazarus



- ❑ Built between 1195 and 1324
- ❑ Designed to imitate Notre Dame but with improvements
- ❑ Structurally cannot hold bells and is therefore called “deaf tower”



Bourges Cathedral

Chartes Cathedral



- ❑ Original church was destroyed in a lightning induced fire, so a second cathedral was built in 1194
- ❑ Location of Virgin Mary's tunic
- ❑ Famous for its North, South, West, and Blue Virgin Rose windows



Laon Cathedral



- ▣ Built between 1160 and 1230
- ▣ Known for its striking towers
 - ▣ It has six total towers, however, two of them are not complete

Notre Dame Cathedral



- ▣ Built between 1163 and 1250
- ▣ Also known as “Our Lady of Paris”
- ▣ Catholic icon in France
- ▣ Most popular French memorial
 - ▣ Over 13 million visitors each year

- ❑ This “Classical” French cathedral was built in the 13th century
- ❑ 267 feet tall
- ❑ Location of Clovis’ baptism
- ❑ The south tower contains two bells
 - ❑ “Charlotte” – over 11 tons



Reims Cathedral

Rouen Cathedral



- ❑ Home of France's highest spire
- ❑ Location where Claude Monet created some of his most famous paintings
- ❑ Inside lies the famed "Escalier de la Librairie" (Bookseller's Stairway)

Tours Cathedral



- ❑ Built between 1170 and 1547
- ❑ Constructed with three naves
- ❑ Charles' VIII sons' tombs lie in the south transept

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