

# **Romanesque Art and Architecture**

- RISE OF TOWNS
- MONASTERIES AND CHURCHES
- PILGRIMAGES
- ARCHITECTURE

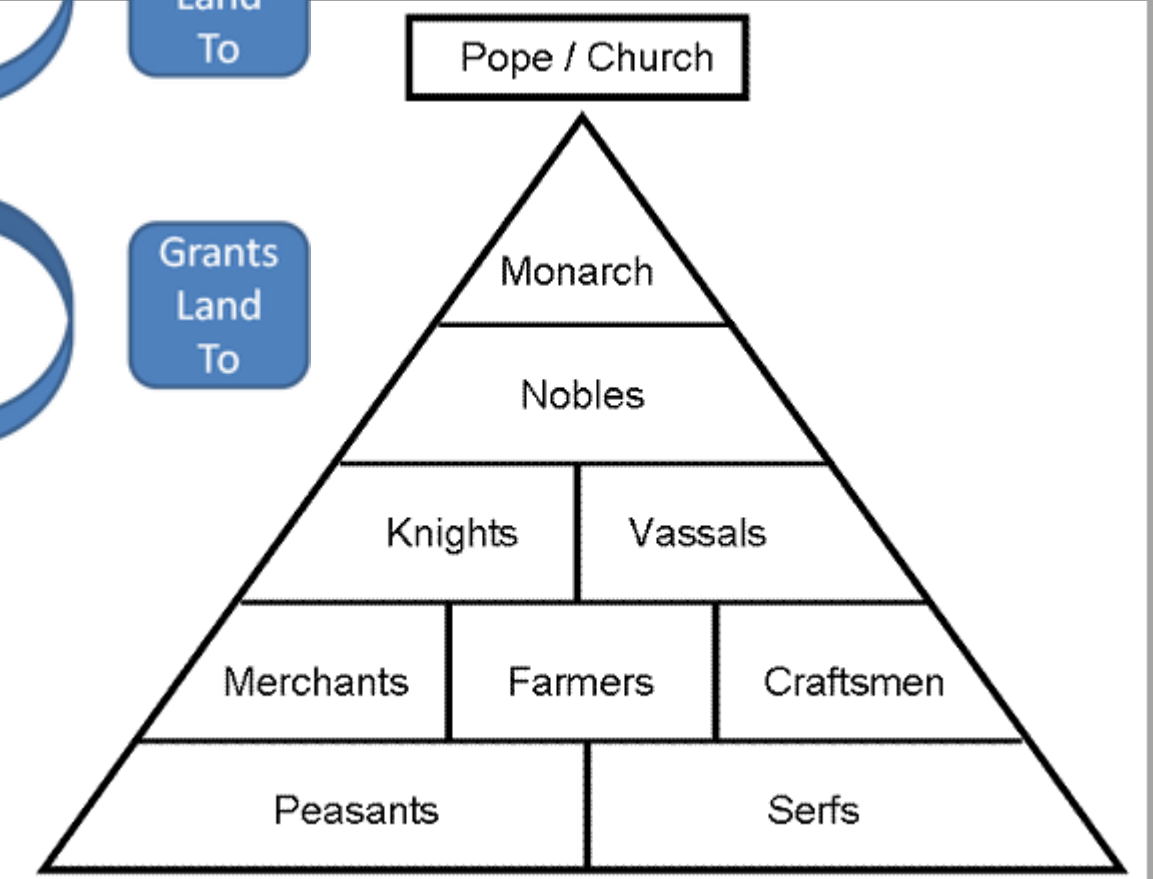
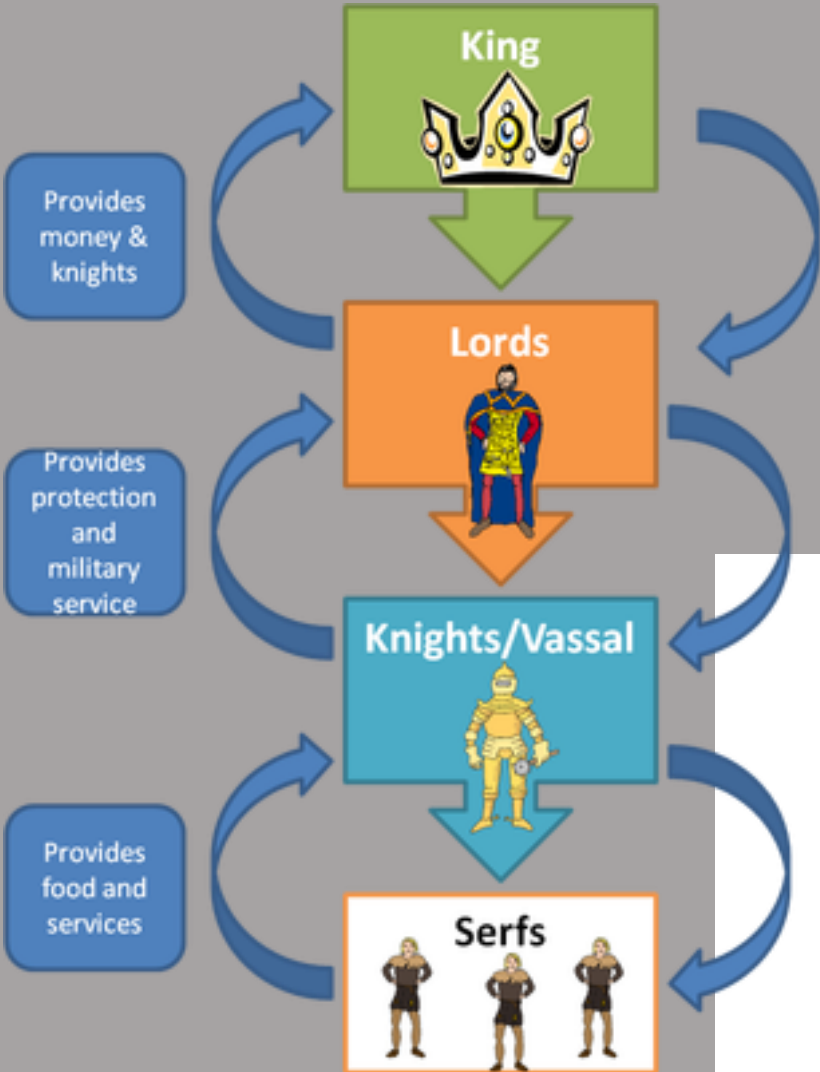
- After the disintegration of Carolingian Empire, individual principalities were the norm
- The economic system was feudalism  
Feudalism: land for services, Lord gave property & protection to vassal, who worked for the lord & gave military service. Peasants worked the land.
- Due to the rise of feudalism there began to be some stability in the European governments and economies during the 11th Century.

The term **Romanesque** ("Roman-like") was first used to designate a style of architecture that used **Roman arches and vaults** and had **thick, heavy walls**, based upon the basilica plan type.

Romanesque = history and culture of western Europe between about 1050 – 1200

**Church buildings, art, and sculpture**, were all used for the purpose to spread the **Christian Gospel**.

# Feudal System



# Europe About 1100

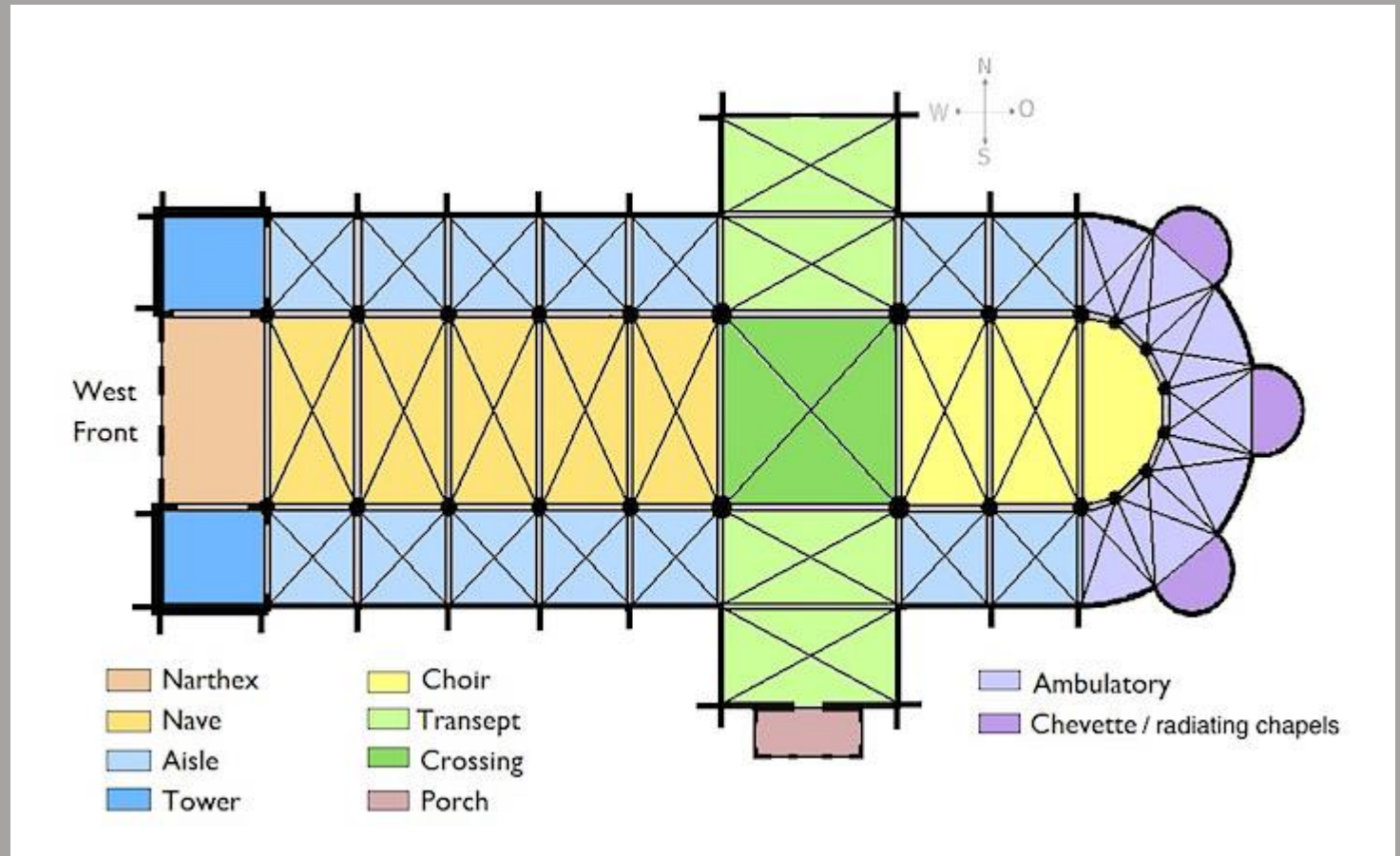


- End of the great migration
- Economic Growth
- Political stability
- Increase of the population
- Vikings Christianized (10th century): Normandy / Britain / Sicily
- Beginning of the reconquest of Spain by Christians

## MAJOR ELEMENTS

- Latin cross plan
- Use of local stone
- Use of round arches, buttressed barrel vaulting and groin vaulting
- Towers engaged to façade and large transept towers
- Dome often over apse
- Recessed doorways ornamented with sculpture
- Harmonious proportions
- Thick and heavy walls and pillars
- Small windows
- Sculptured decoration on portals, capitals and other surfaces
- Painted decoration throughout the interior

## TYPICAL PLAN



- Nave with side aisles
- Galleries above the side aisles
- A transept (section crossing the nave at a right angle, giving the church a cross shape)
- An apse (semicircular niche, usually in the east end)
- An ambulatory (often with radiating chapels) around the apse



## The Romanesque church portal.

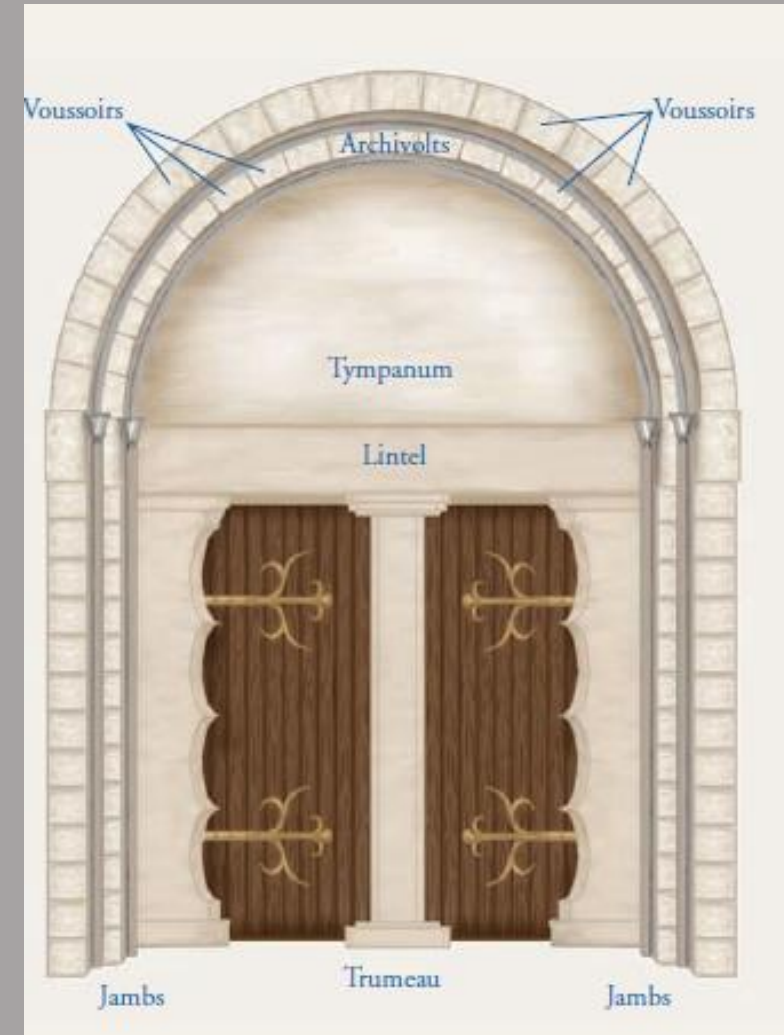
**Tympanum** the prominent semicircular lunette above the doorway proper, comparable in importance to the triangular pediment of a Greco-Roman temple.

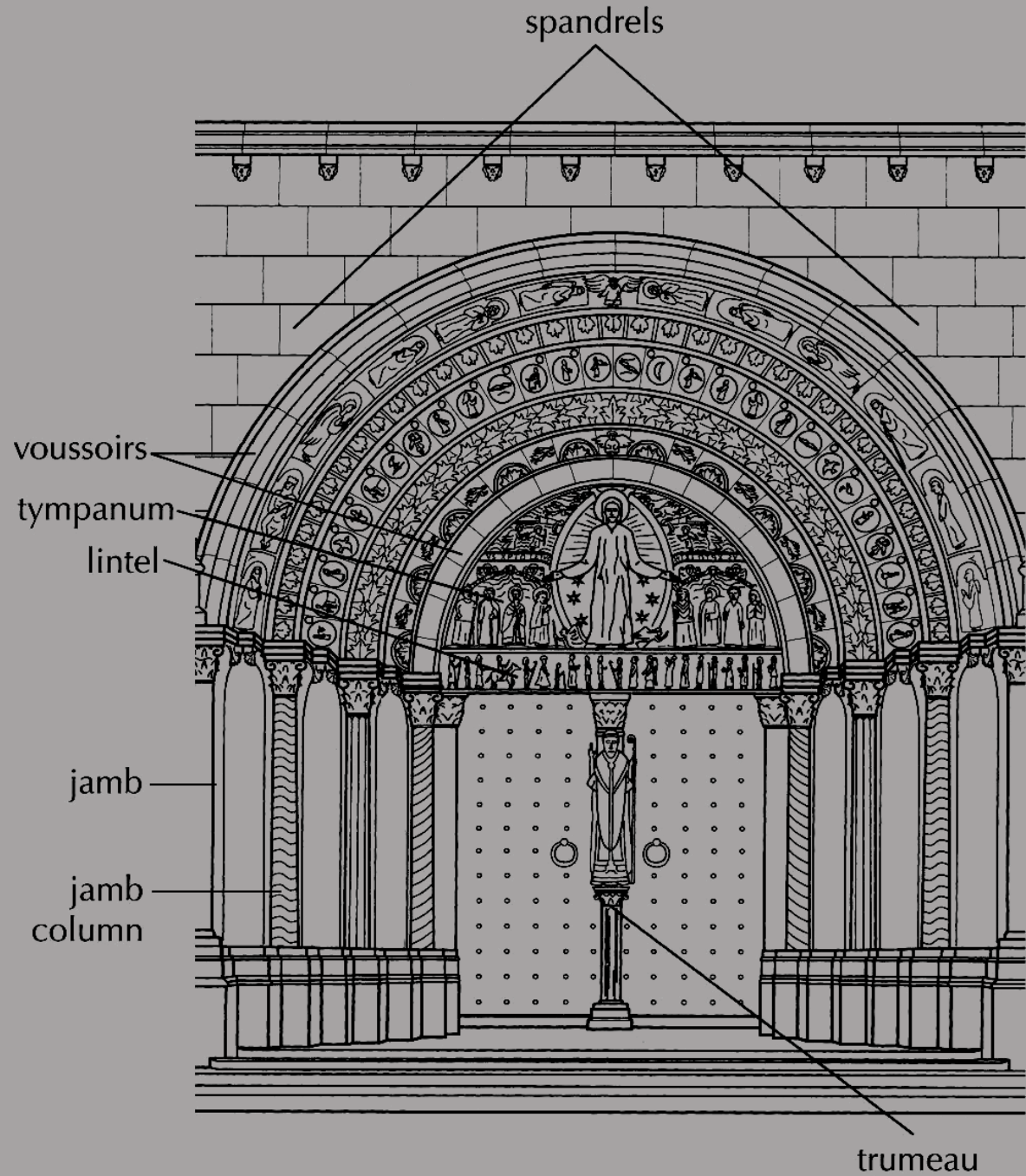
**Voussoirs** the wedge-shaped blocks that together form the archivolts of the arch framing the tympanum.

**Lintel** the horizontal beam above the doorway.

**Trumeau** the center post supporting the lintel in the middle of the doorway.

**Jambs** the side posts of the doorway.





Last Judgment Tympanum,  
c. 1130-46,  
Central Portal, West Façade,  
Cathedral of St. Lazare, Autun, France





South portal of Saint-Pierre,  
Moissac, France, ca. 1115–1135.

## The Pilgrim's Journey

- Tomb of St. Peter & Constantian churches in Rome
- Cathedral of St. James in Santiago de Compostela Spain
- Monasteries provided food & lodging
- Visit relics on way
- TOURISM for towns and churches  
Ex: Chartres had piece of tunic of St. Mary
- Injured/sick looking for miracles with holy relics



## Reliquaries

Reliquaries are the containers that store and display relics.



## Triptychs

Is a work of art (usually a panel painting) which is divided into three sections, or three carved panels which are hinged together and folded





Last Judgement,  
tympanum of the west portal,  
Sainte Foy, Conques,c.1130

Second Coming of Christ as King and  
Judge of the world in its last days







**Charlemagne**

**S. Peter**

**Mary**







Second Coming of Christ as King and  
Judge of the world in its last days

South portal of Saint-Pierre,  
Moissac, France, ca. 1115–1135.  
Marble, approx. 16' 6" wide at base.







# The elders







Lions and Old Testament prophet (Jeremiah or Isaiah?), from the trumeau of the south portal of Saint-Pierre, Moissac, France, ca. 1115–1130. Marble, approx. life-size.



Jeremiah



Saint Paul

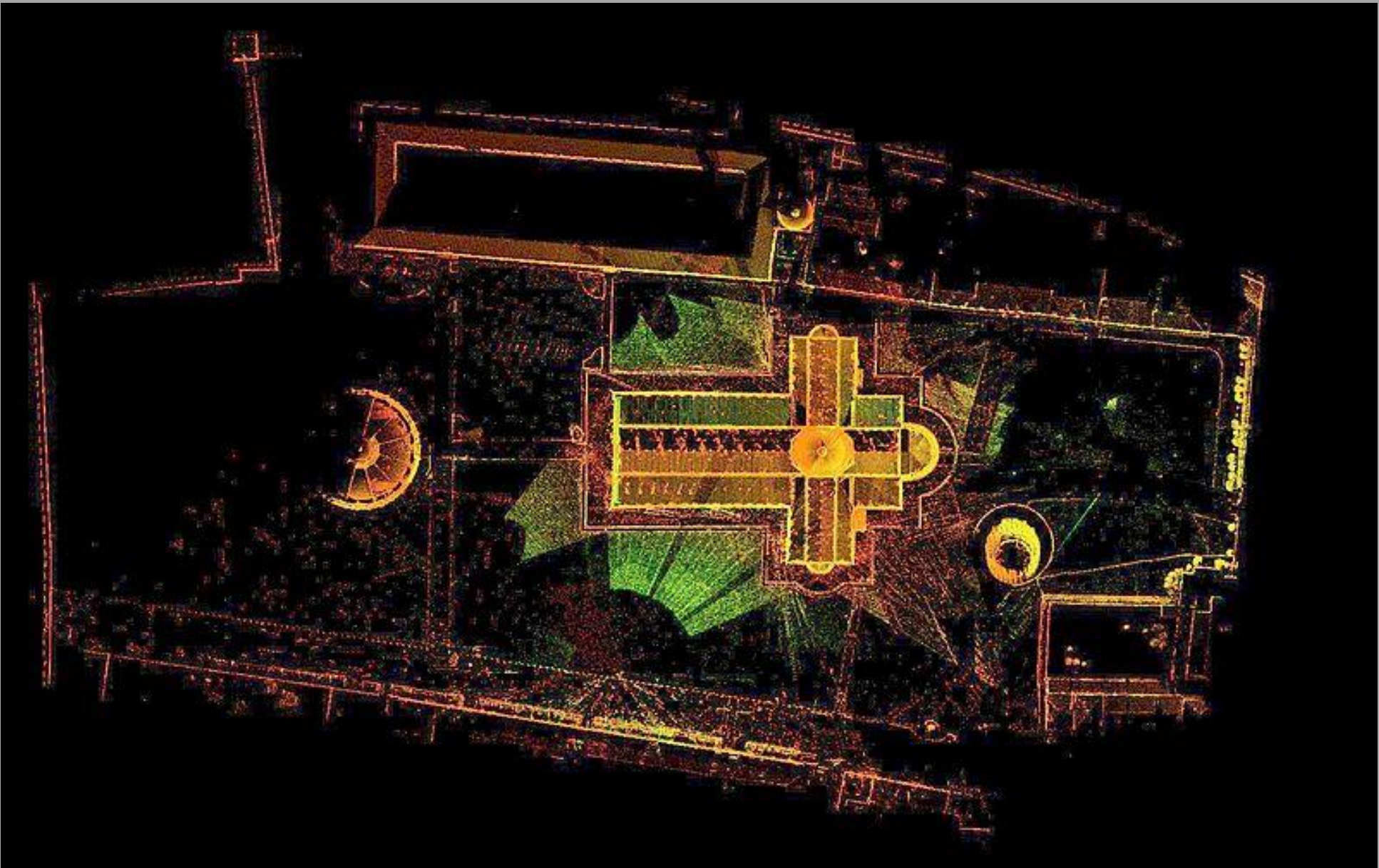


## Tuscany – Pisa Cathedral Complex, Italy (Southern Tradition)



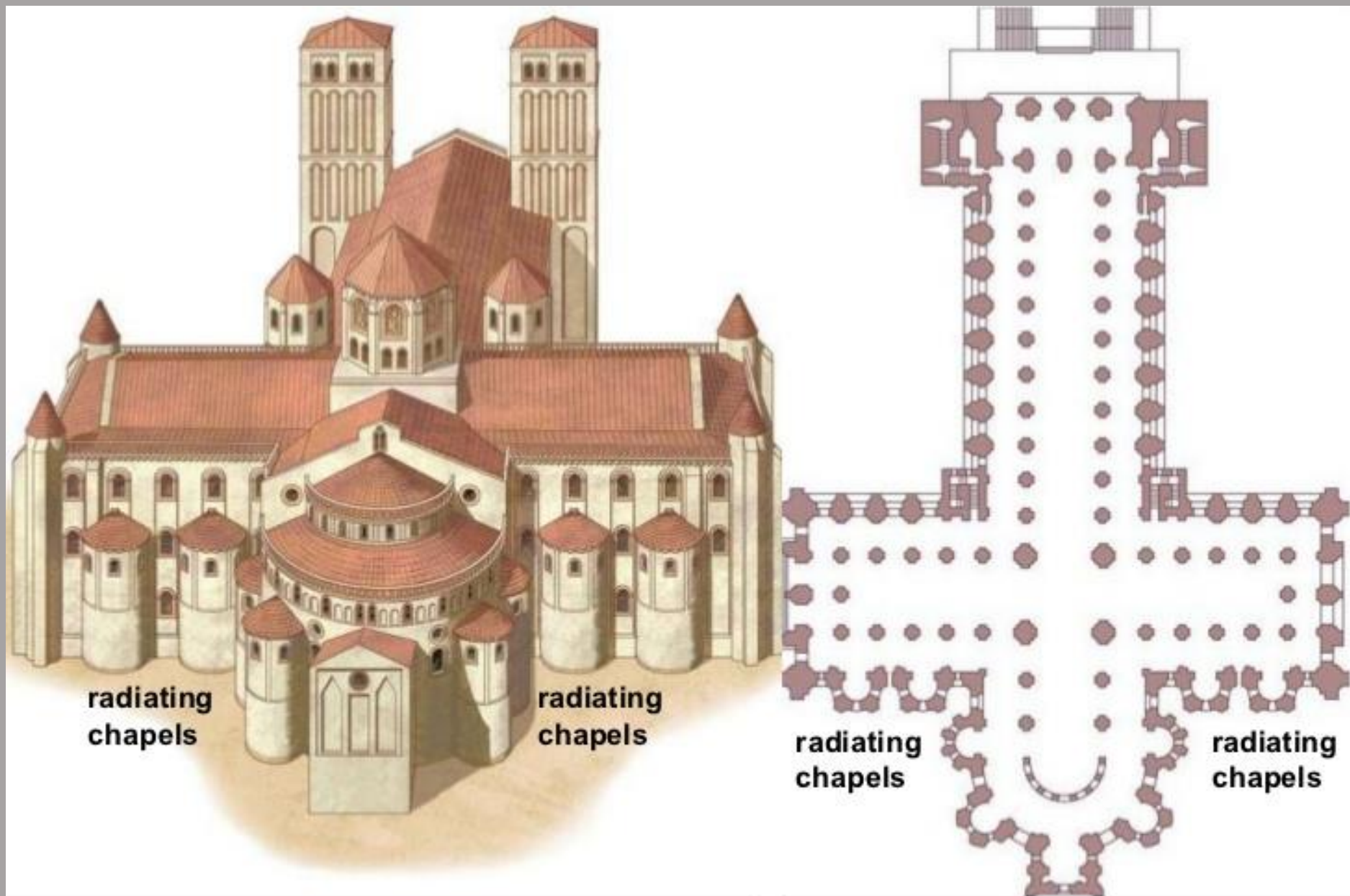
Cathedral complex, Pisa, Italy; cathedral begun 1063; baptistery begun 1153; campanile begun 1174.





Benedetto Antelami, King David, statue in a niche on the west facade of Fidenza Cathedral, Fidenza, Italy, ca.1180–1190. Marble, approx. life-size.



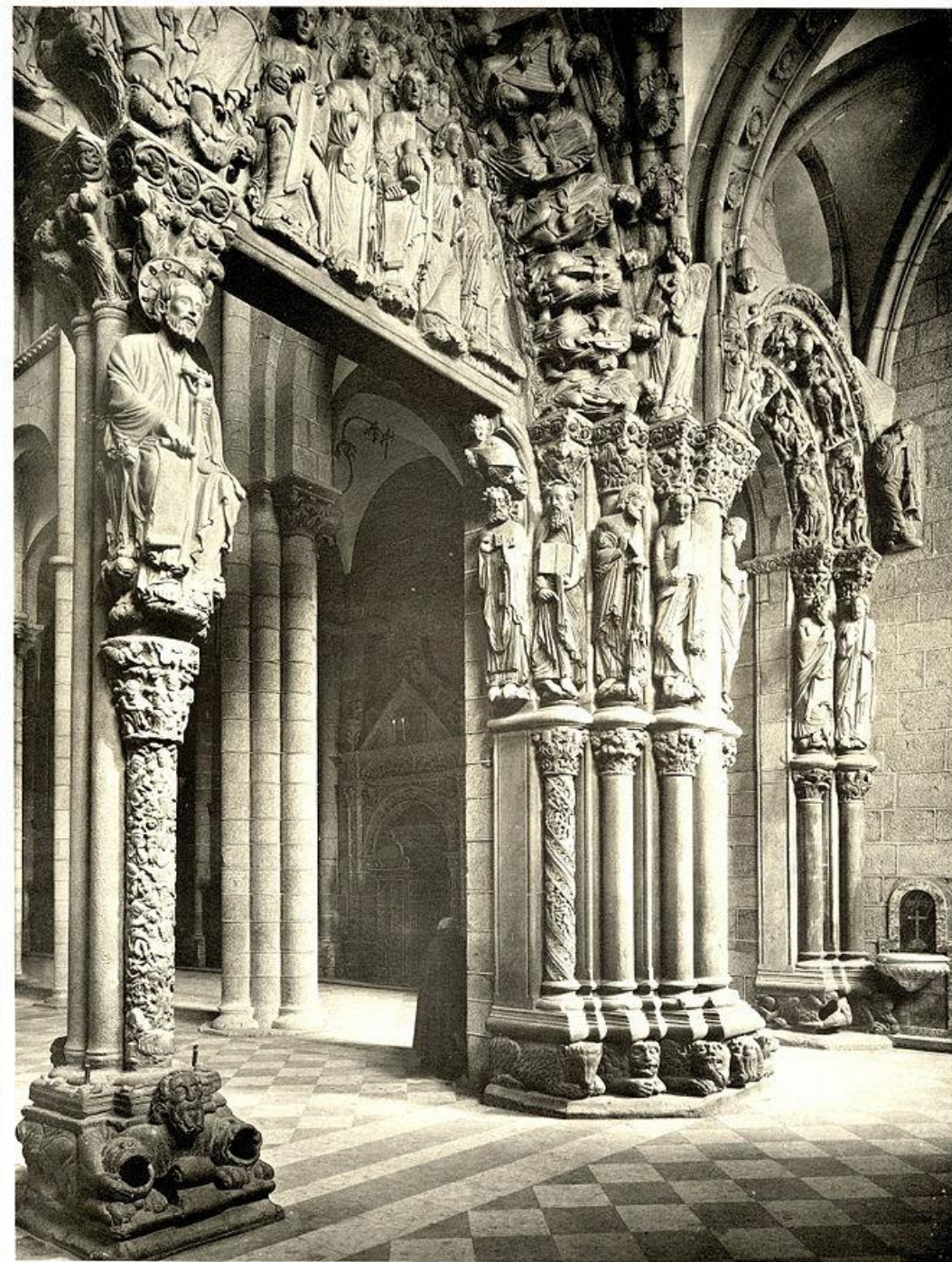


Reconstruction drawing of Cathedral,  
Santiago de Compostela, 1078-1122.

Plan of Cathedral, Santiago  
de Compostela, 1078-1122.







Man in vine foliage, c. 1240,  
Stone, Protestant parish church,  
Gelnhausen - Is he wearing  
ankle height socks





*The Magi Asleep*, capital from interior of Cathedral of Saint-Lazare, 1125 CE

## Relics – Demand for Small-Scale Images



Virgin and Child, from the Auvergne, France, second half of twelfth century. Painted wood, 2' 7" high.

## Silver Reliquary - Repousse

Head reliquary of Saint Alexander, from Stavelot Abbey, Belgium, 1145. Silver repoussé (partly gilt), gilt bronze, gems, pearls, and enamel, approx. 1' 5 1/2" high. Musées Royaux, Brussels.



## Painting - Murals

**Christ in Majesty**, apse fresco from Santa María de Mur, near Lérida, Spain, mid-twelfth century. 22' X 24'. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.



***Christ in Majesty***, detail of apse wall painting from Church of San Climent (Barcelona, Spain), 1123 CE





Entombment of Christ,  
fresco above the nave arcade,  
Sant'Angelo, near Capua, Italy,  
ca. 1085.



## Manuscript Illumination

Hildegard – German nun and abbess/  
Hildegard's vision came to her as  
fiery light that poured into her brain  
from heaven

The vision of Hildegard of Bingen, detail of a  
facsimile of a lost folio in the Scivias by  
Hildegard of Bingen, from Trier or Bingen,  
Germany, ca. 1050–1079..



Eadwine the Scribe(?), Eadwine the scribe at work, folio 283 verso of the Eadwine Psalter, ca. 1160–1170. Ink and tempera on vellum. Trinity College, Cambridge.





Bayeux  
Embroidery  
France





Battle of Hastings, detail of the Bayeux Tapestry, from Bayeux Cathedral, Bayeux, France, ca. 1070–1080. Embroidered wool on linen, 1' 8" high (entire length of fabric 229' 8"). Centre Guillaume le Conquérant, Bayeux.

The Battle of Hastings was fought on 14 October 1066 between the Norman-French army of William, the Duke of Normandy, and an English army under the Anglo-Saxon King Harold Godwinson, beginning the Norman conquest of England.



*Bishop Odo Blessing the Feast,*  
detail from Bayeux Embroidery,  
Linen with Wool Thread, 1066 - 1082 CE



Detail from the Bayeux Embroidery

# Gothic Art and Architecture





The quest for height  
and light!



## Gothic Age: TURMOIL and CHANGE

- 1337 – Hundred Year's War began (between England and France over succession to the French throne)
- 14<sup>th</sup> c. - Black Death (kills ¼ population coz of Plague)
- 1378 -1417 – Great Schism (political/religious crisis)
- Shift in society: monasteries and pilgrims → rapidly expanding secular cities
- Independent nations begin to take shape (starting with France)

- Early Gothic – ca. 1140 to 1194

- High Gothic – ca. 1194 to 1300

- Late Gothic – ca. 1300 to 1500

- Gothic period/style began and ended at different dates in different places

- Mid-16<sup>th</sup> century – *Giorgio Vasari* (father of art history) used Gothic as term of ridicule to describe late medieval art and architecture/ *Vasari*, along with Ghiberti, thought Gothic art was invented by the Goths who were uncouth and responsible for the downfall of Rome and the destruction of the classical style in art and architecture

- 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries- Gothic style was the rage in most of Europe (especially north of Alps)/ considered *opus modernum* (modern work) or *opus francigenum* (French work)/ Clergy and lay public regarded new cathedrals as images of the City of God which they were privileged to build on earth

- Gothic style first appeared in northern France around 1140/ In southern France and elsewhere in Europe, Romanesque style still flourished

- By 13<sup>th</sup> century Gothic style had spread throughout western Europe/ The Gothic style was regional - to east and south of Europe Islamic and Byzantine styles still prominent

# French Gothic

- EARLY GOTHIC
- Carolingian basilica “unfit” for royalty converted into marvelous Gothic church
- Rib vaults on pointed arches
- *Lux nova*

**Ambulatory and radiating chapels**

**Abbey Church of Saint-Denis**

Saint Denis, France

1140-1144

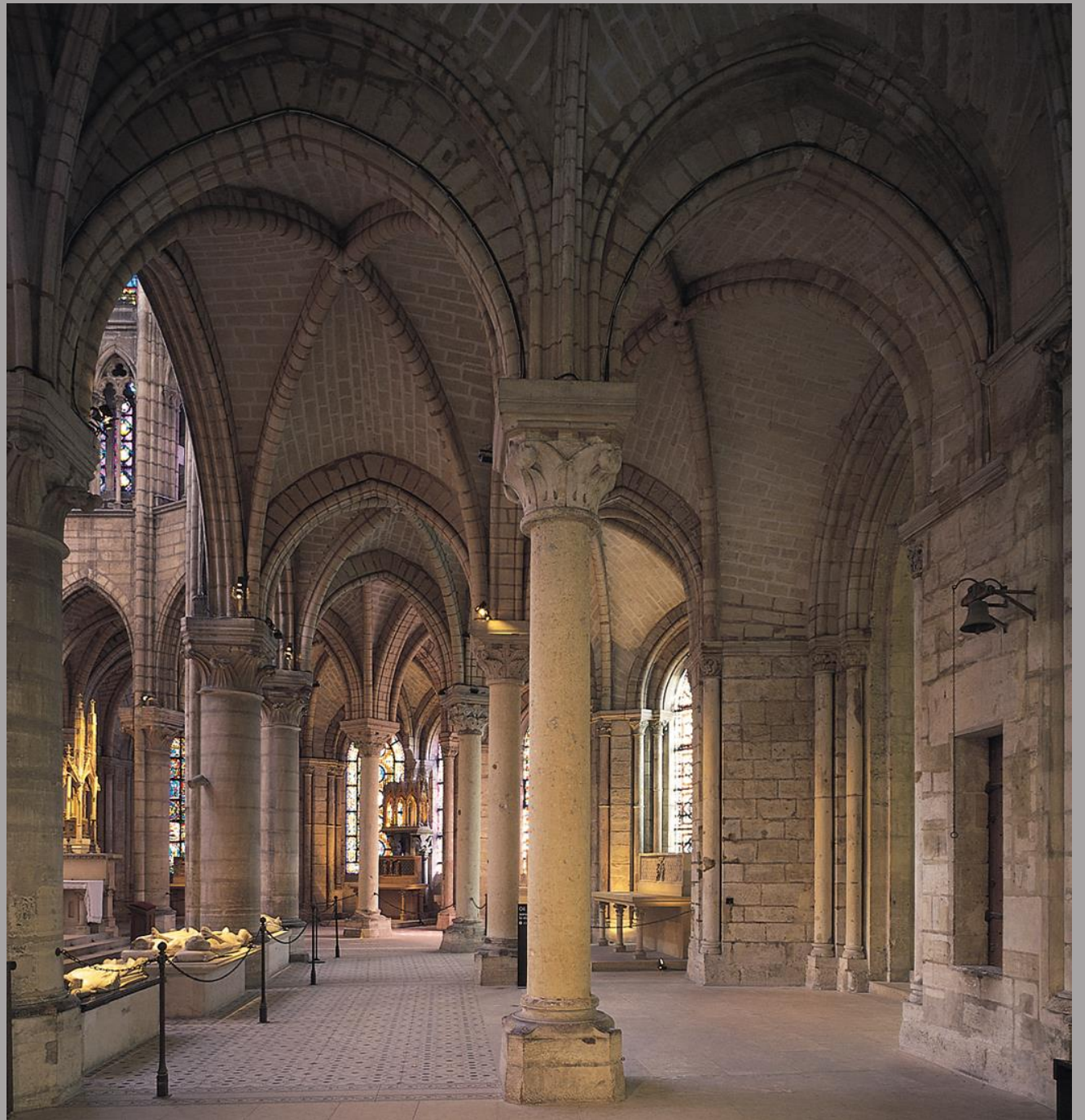


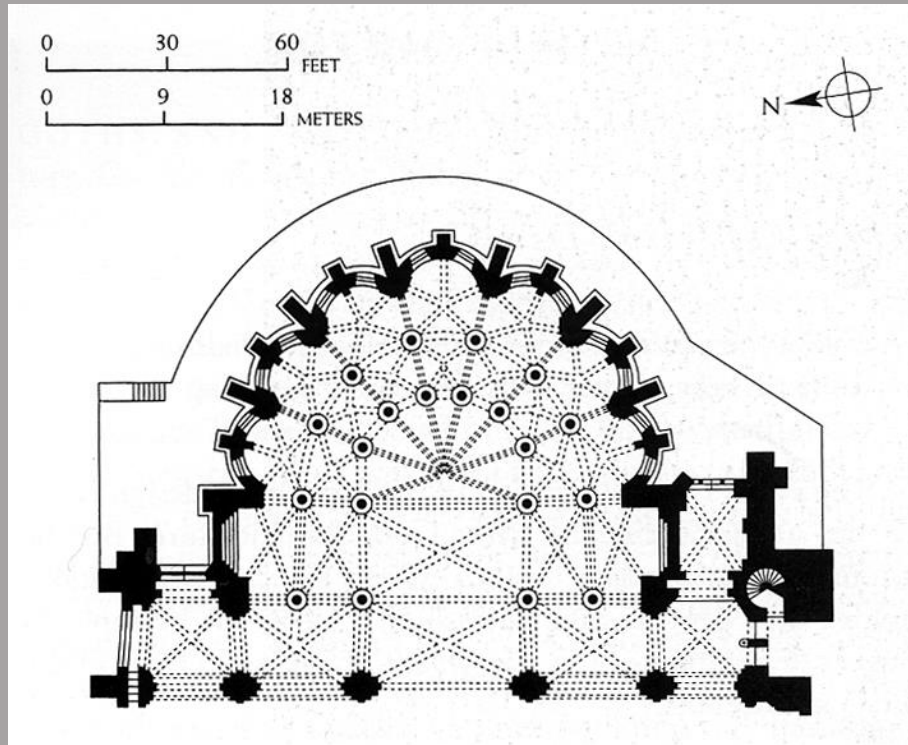
**Ambulatory and radiating chapels**

**Abbey Church of Saint-Denis**

Saint Denis, France

1140-1144



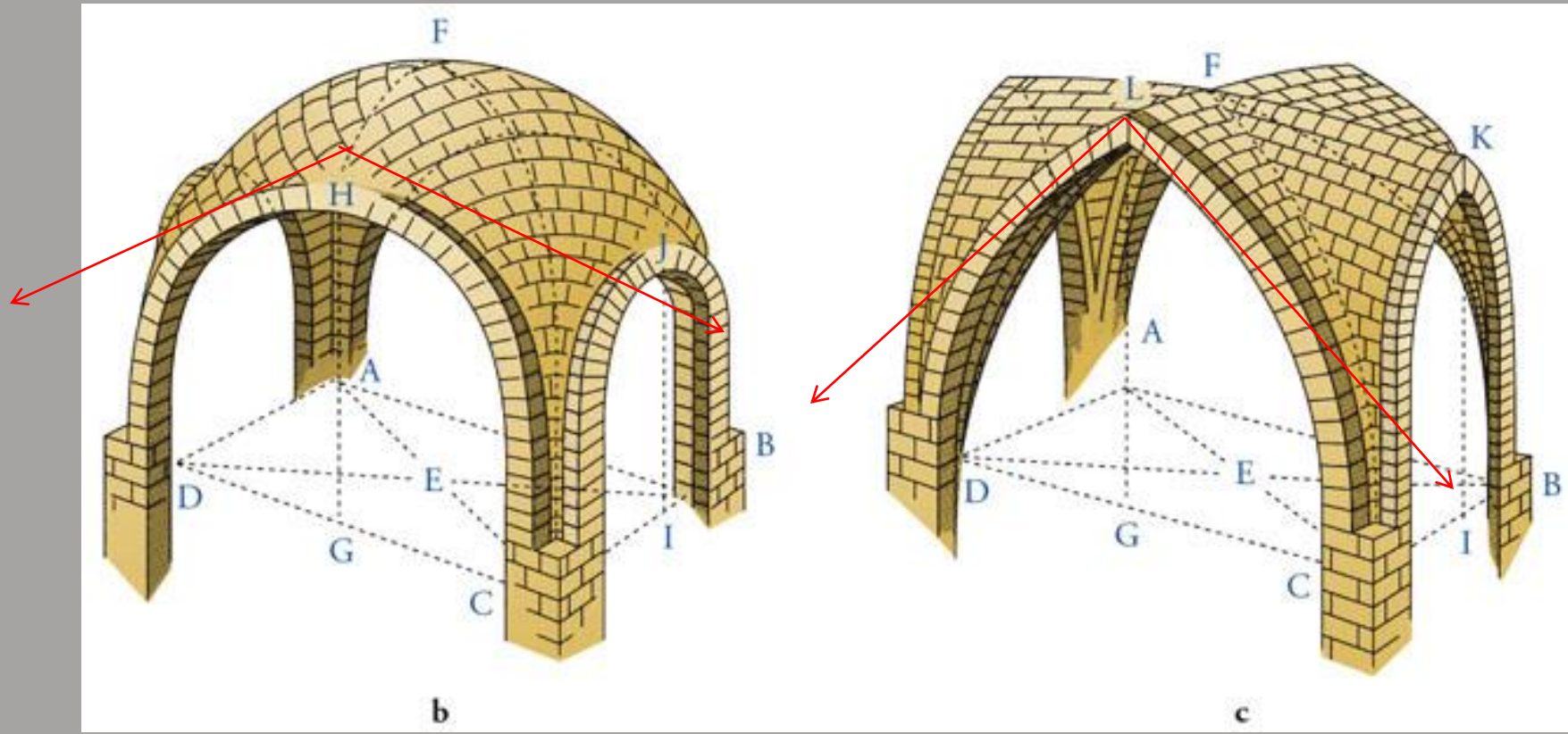


**Plan of the choir  
Vaults of the ambulatory and  
radiating chapels of the choir  
Abbey Church of Saint-Denis**

Saint Denis, France

1140-1144





Round vs. pointed arches

**West facade of  
Chartres Cathedral**

Chartres, France

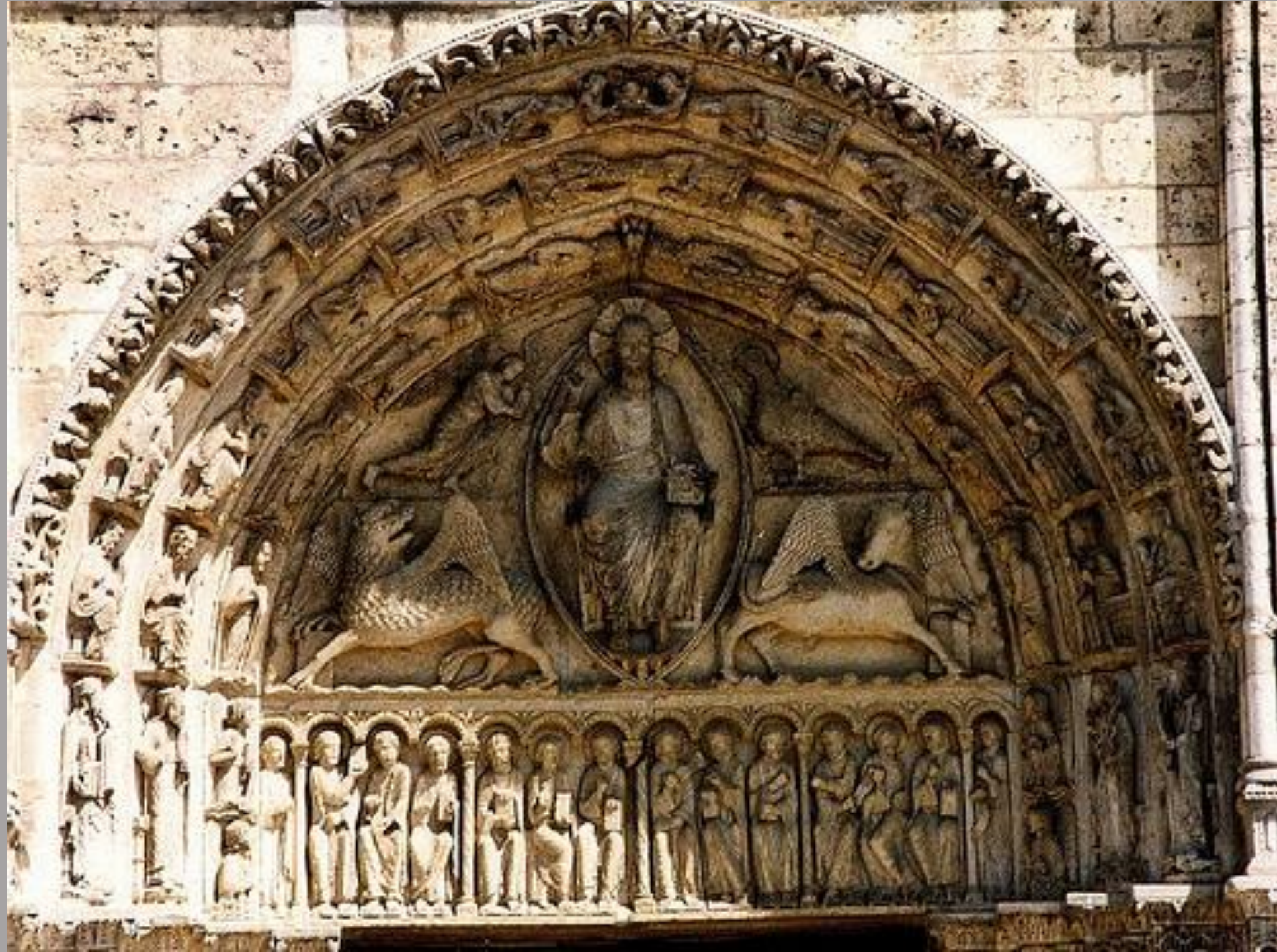
begun 1134, rebuilt beginning 1194







**Royal Portal, west façade, Chartres Cathedral, Chartres, France**  
ca. 1145-1155



**Old Testament queen and two kings  
jamb statues, doorway of Royal Portal**

**Chartres Cathedral**

Chartres, France

ca. 1145-1155



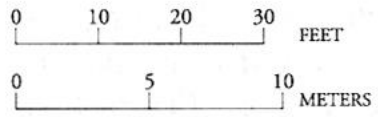


**West façade of Laon Cathedral**

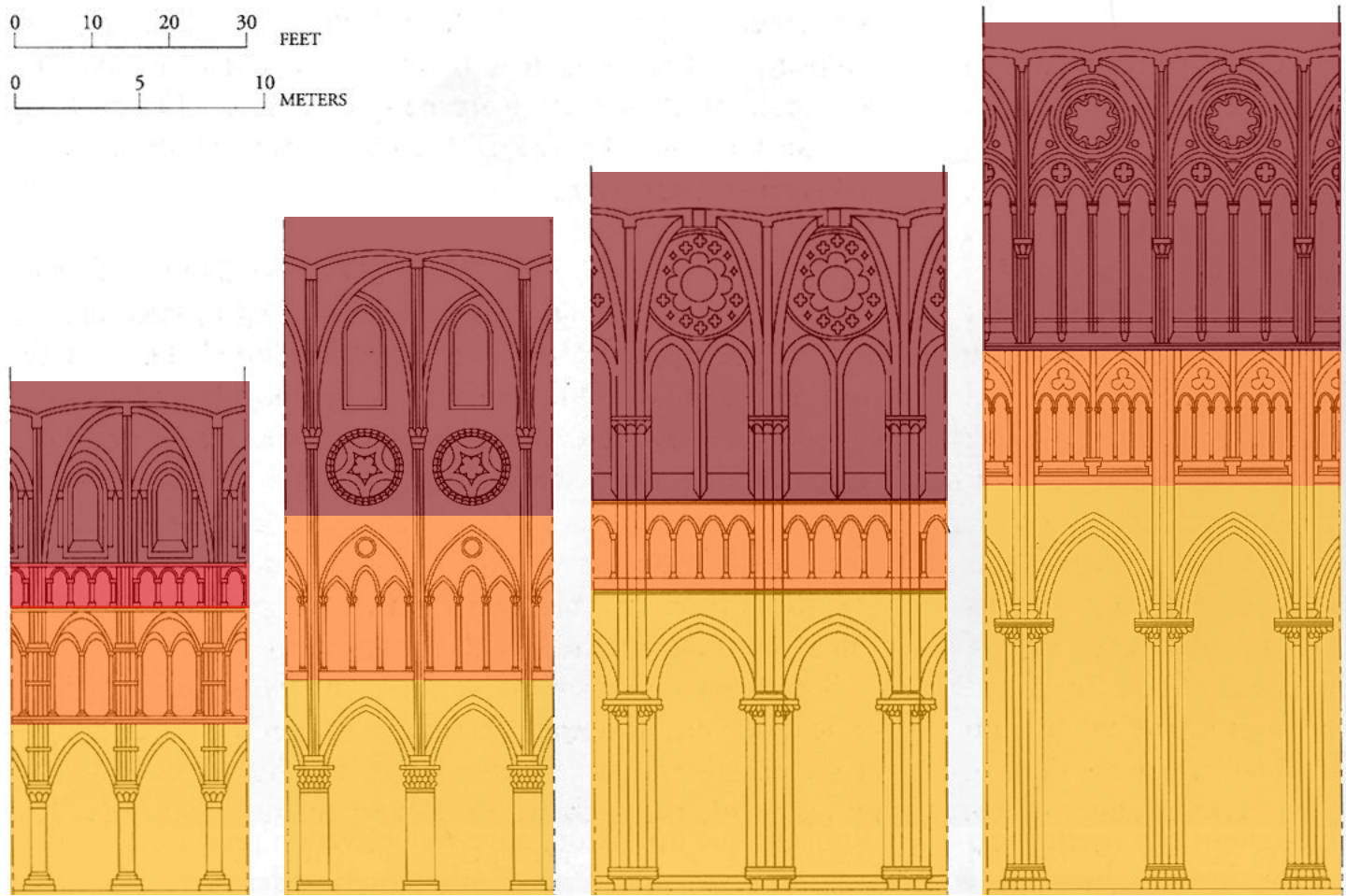
Laon, France

begun ca. 1190





**Clerestory**  
**Triforium**  
**Gallery**  
**Arcade**



**Laon**

**Paris**

**Chartres**

**Amiens**

**Gothic nave elevations**



## **FLYING BUTTRESSES**

Important support function

Holds up nave walls at stress points

Gives Gothic architecture it's distinctive "look"



**gargoyles**





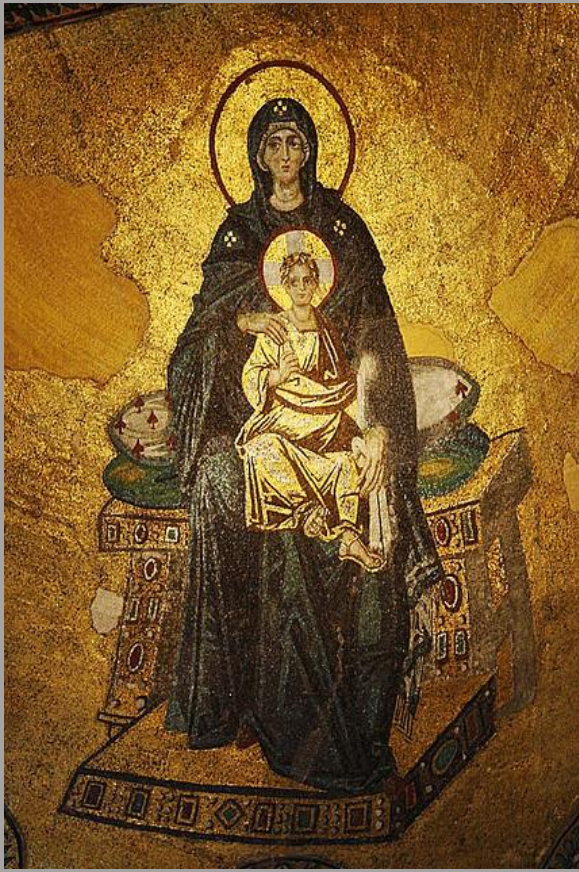


## **Nave of Chartres Cathedral**

Chartres, France

as rebuilt after 1194





**Virgin and Child and Angels  
(Notre Dame de la Belle Verrière)**

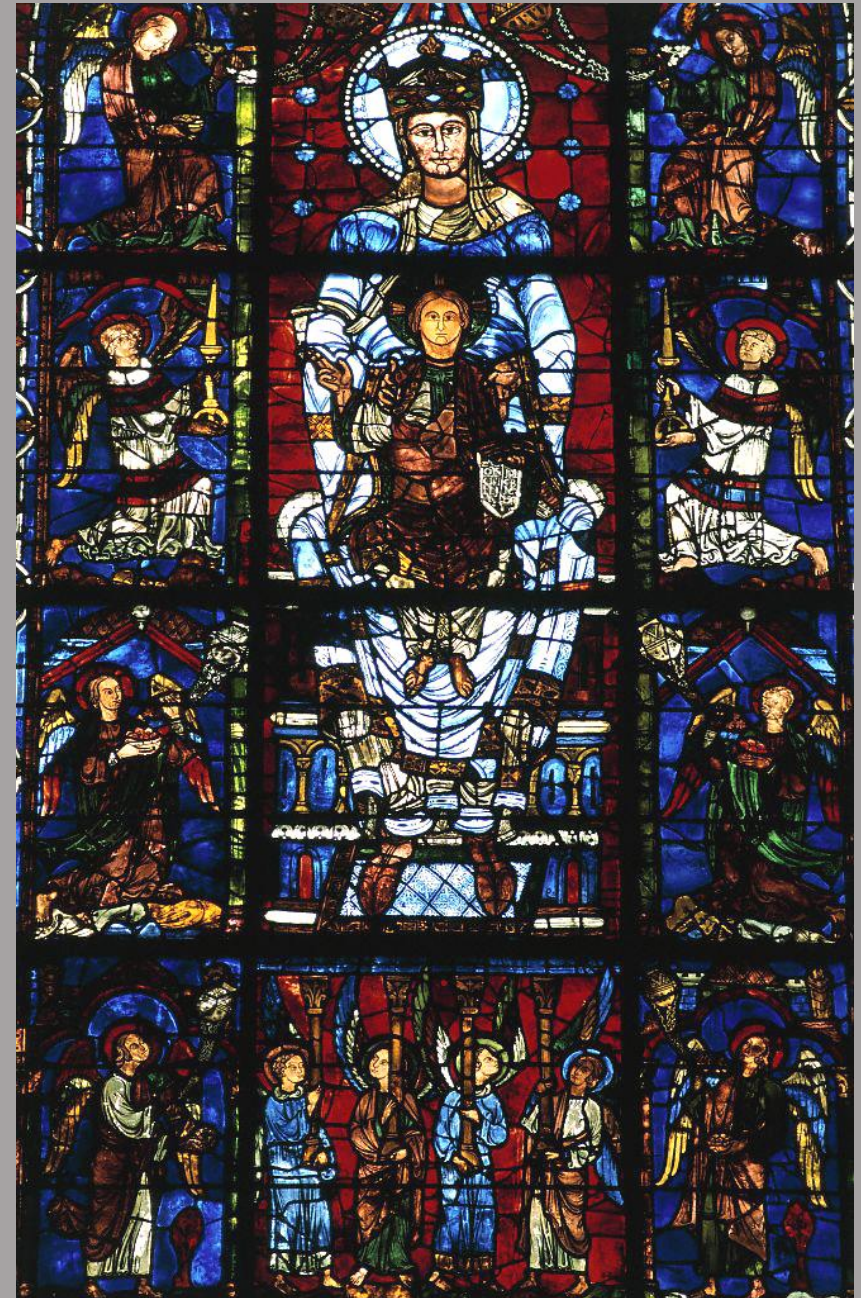
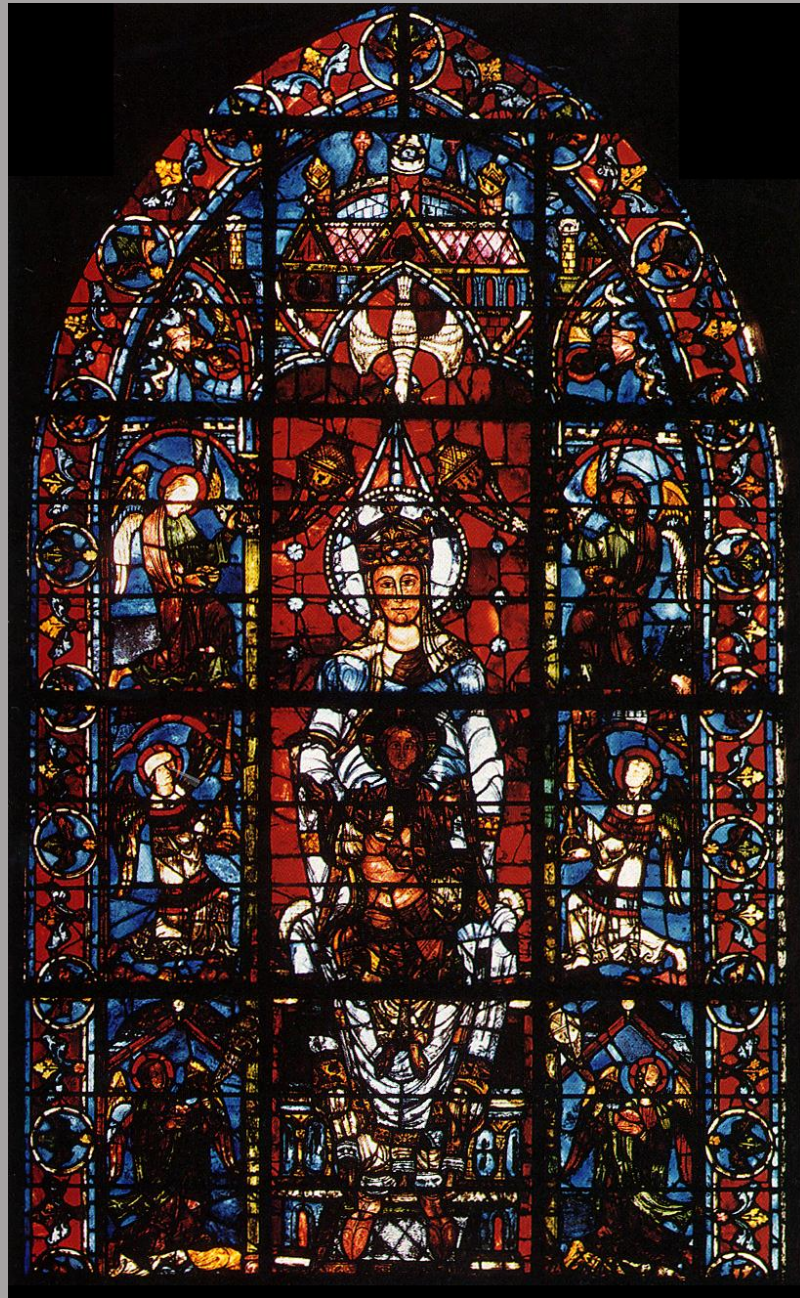
**choir of Chartres Cathedral**

**Chartres, France**

ca. 1170

stained glass

16 ft. x 7 ft. 8 in.



**Triforium wall of the nave  
Chartres Cathedral**

Chartres, France

ca. 1200-1260



## **Rose Window and lancets**

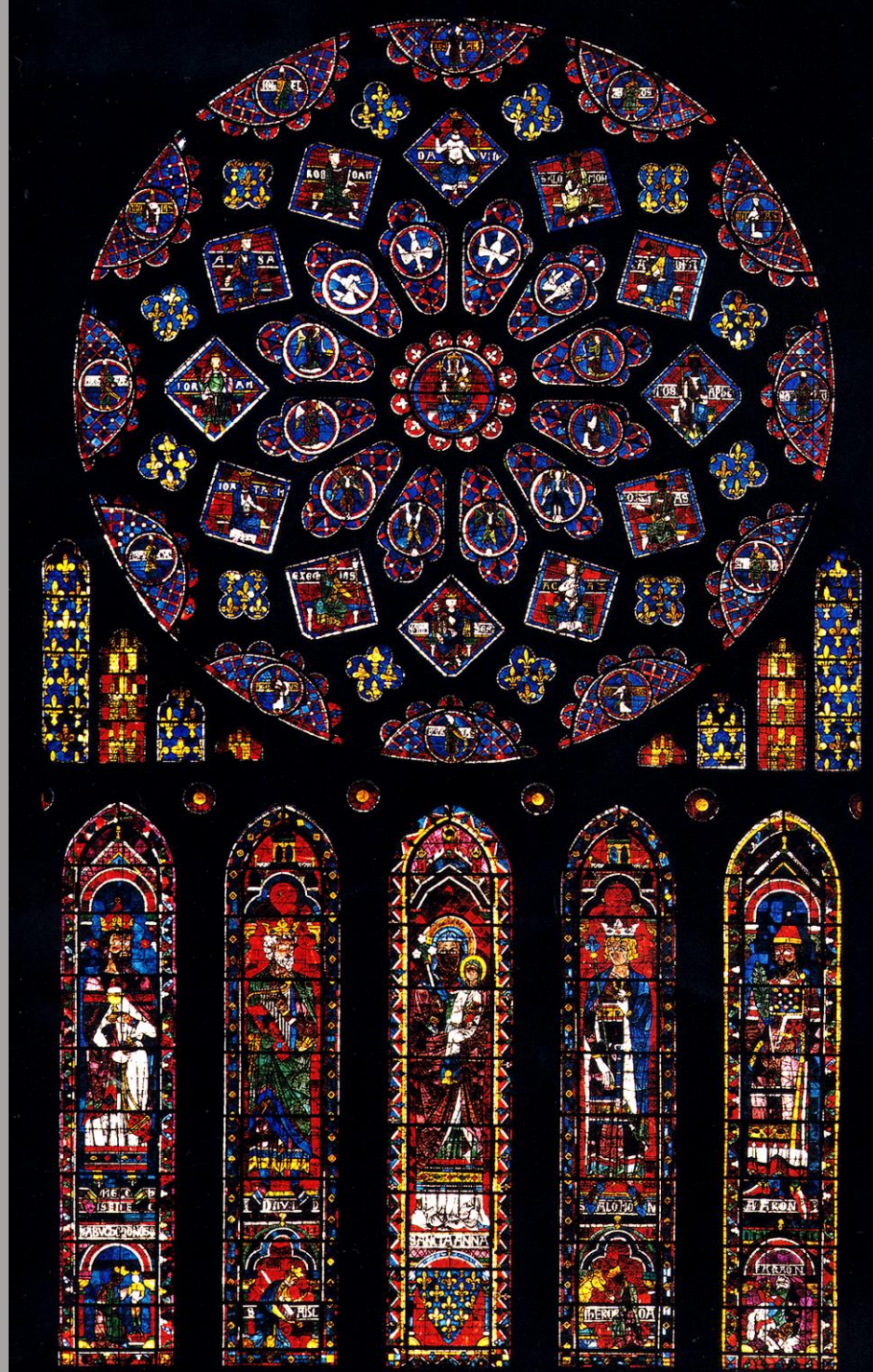
**north transept of Chartres Cathedral**

Chartres, France

ca. 1220

stained glass

rose approximately 43 ft. in diameter





Royal Portal, west facade,

**Saints Martin, Jerome, and Gregory  
jamb statues, Porch of the Confessors**

**South transept of Chartres Cathedral**

Chartres, France

ca. 1220-1230



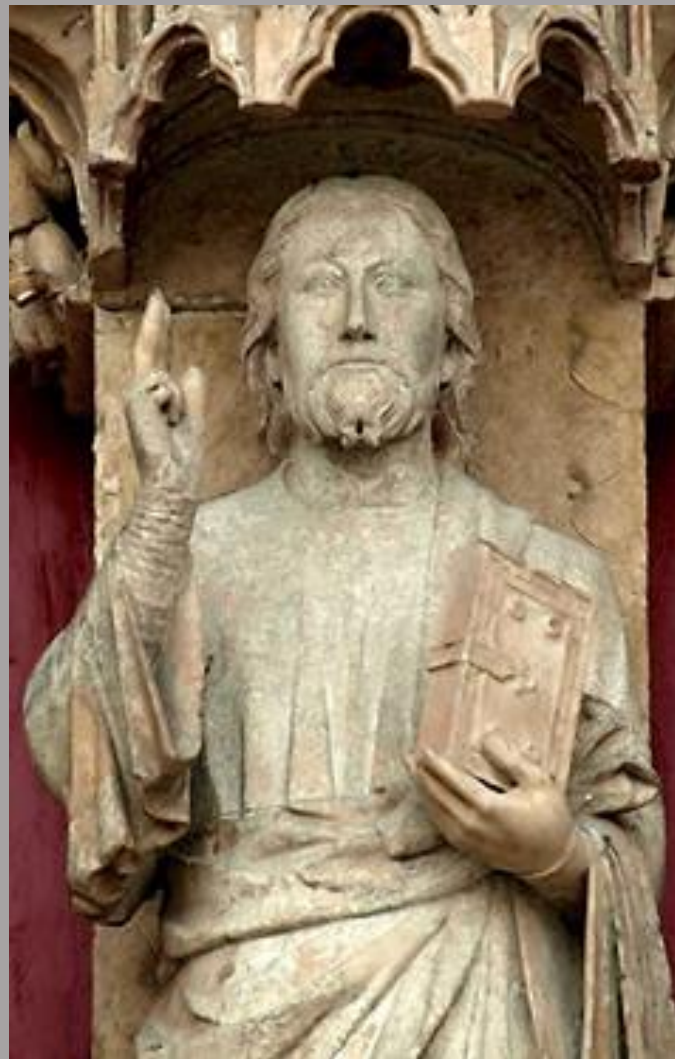
2<sup>nd</sup> “Classical Revolution”



**Saint Theodore**  
**jamb statue, Porch of the Martyrs**  
**South transept of Chartres Cathedral**  
Chartres, France

ca. 1230





**Christ (Beau Dieu)**  
**trumeau statue of central doorway**

**west facade of Amiens Cathedral**

Amiens, France

ca. 1220-1235





## West façade of Reims Cathedral

Reims, France

begun ca. 1225-1290







**Visitation  
jamb statues of central doorway  
west facade of Reims Cathedral**

Reims, France

ca. 1230



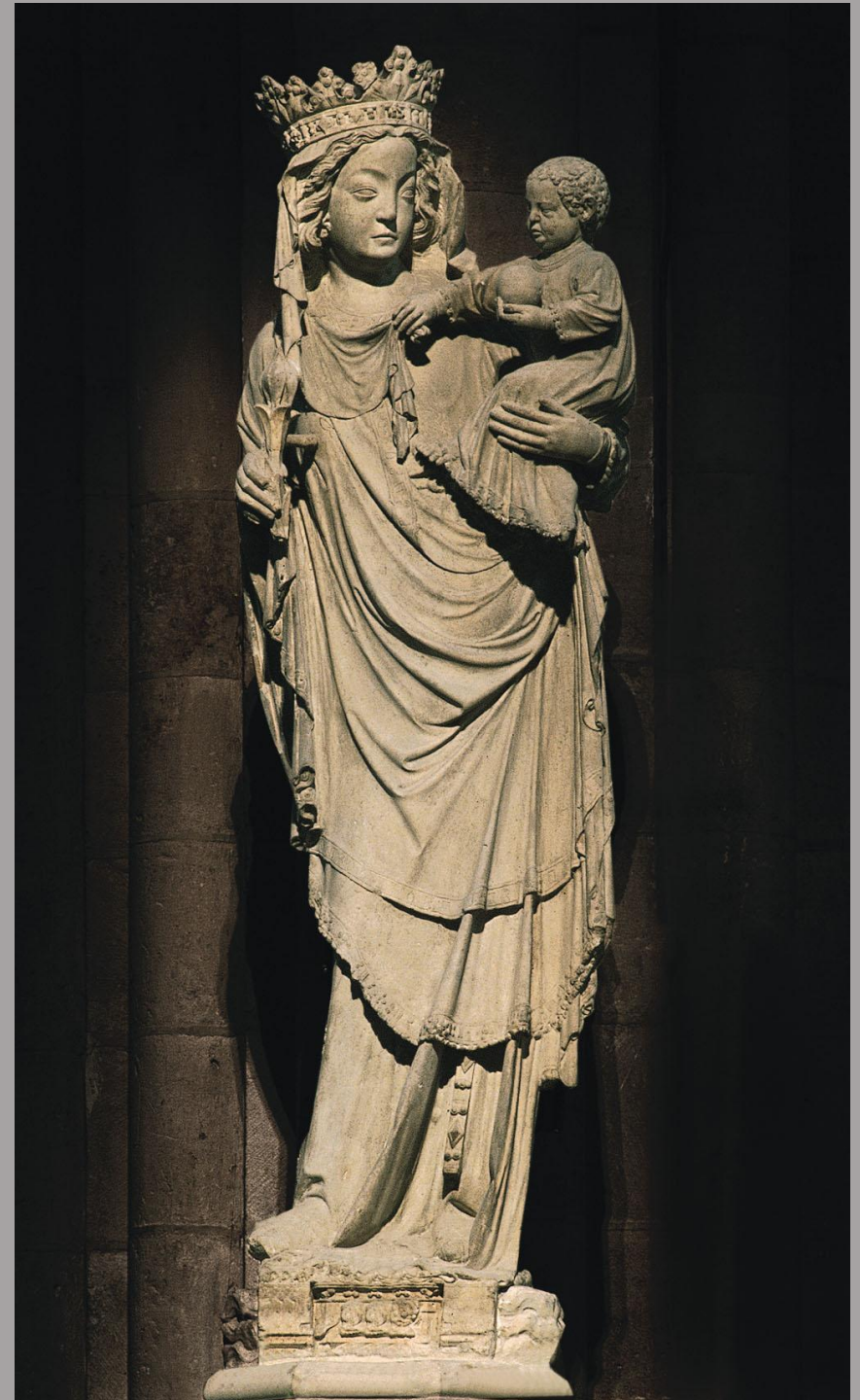


**Virgin and Child (*Virgin of Paris*)**

**Notre-Dame**

Paris, France

early 14th century



The  
elegant  
S-curve



**God as architect of the world  
folio 1 verso of a moralized Bible**

from Paris, France

ca. 1220-1230

ink, tempera and gold leaf on vellum

13 1/2 x 8 1/4 in.



**Abraham and the Three Angels**  
**folio 7 verso**  
**of the *Psalter of Saint Louis***

from Paris, France

1253-1270

ink, tempera and gold leaf on vellum

5 x 3 1/2 in.





**Jean Pucelle**

**David before Saul**  
**folio 24 verso**  
**of the *Belleville Breviary***

from Paris, France

1325  
ink and tempera on vellum  
9 1/2 x 6 3/4 in.



***Virgin Mary***

**from the abbey church of Saint-Denis**

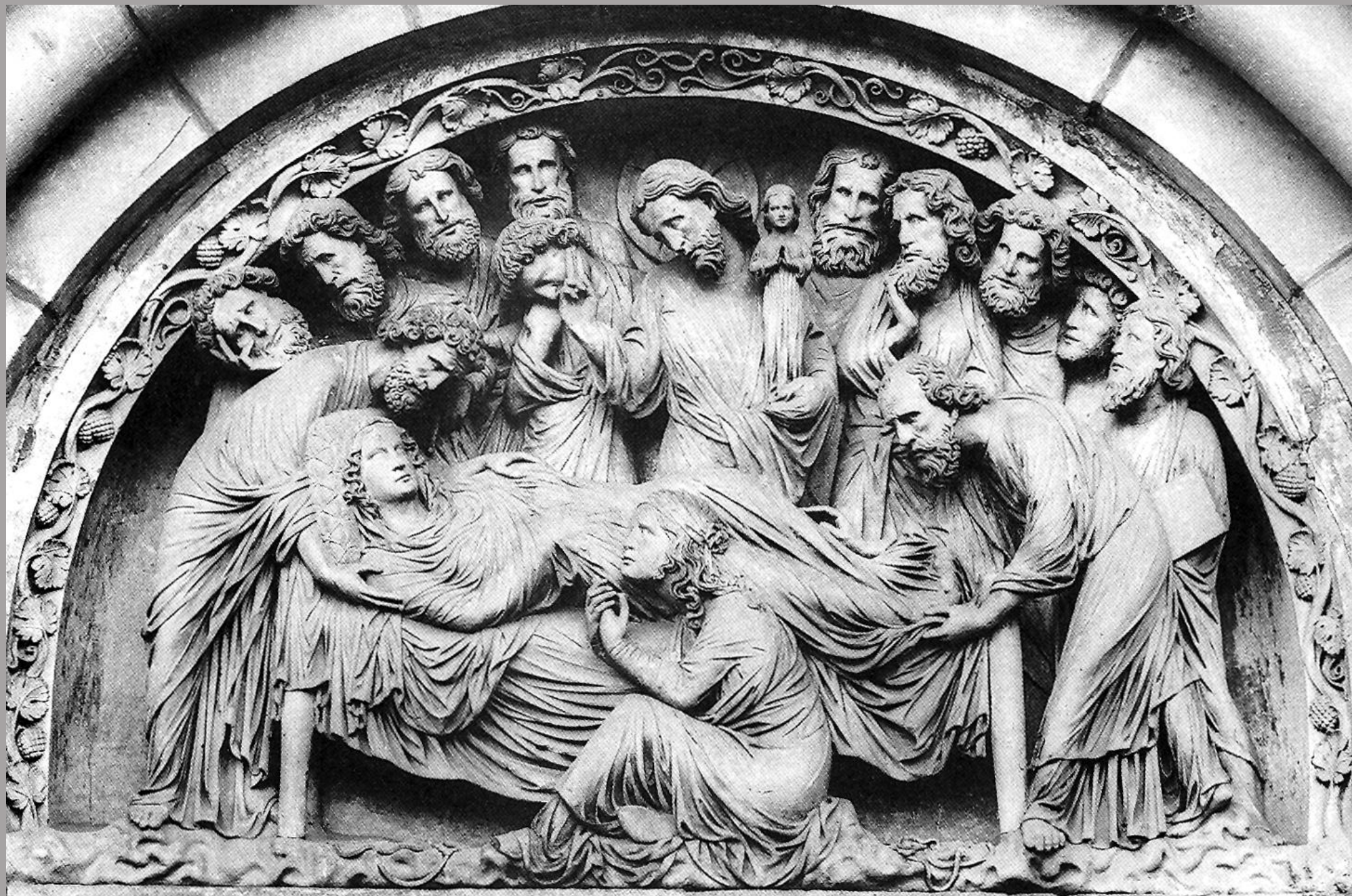
Saint-Denis, France

1339

silver gilt and enamel

27 1/2 in. high





**Death of the Virgin**  
tympanum of left doorway, south transept, Strasbourg Cathedral, Strasbourg, France, ca. 1230





**Ekehard and Uta  
statues in the west choir  
Naumburg Cathedral**

Naumburg, Germany

ca. 1249-1255

painted limestone

6 ft. 2 in. high



**Bamberg Rider  
statue in the east choir  
Bamberg Cathedral**

Bamberg, Germany

ca. 1235-1240

sandstone

7 ft. 9 in. high



**Virgin with the Dead Christ**  
***Röttgen Pietà***

from the Rhineland, Germany

ca. 1300-1325

painted wood

2 ft. 10 1/2 in. high

