Romanesque Style of Architecture (ca. 1000-1200)

Basic form:
- taken from the Roman basilica (hall, apse, colonnade/aisles)
- use of vaulting (barrel, groin, and cross vaults)
- use of arches

Additions and enhancements:
- enlargement of nave and semicircular apse
- addition of transept at right angles to nave (cruciform)
- addition of bay windows
- half-vaults over aisles (dark in nave)

Interior & exterior symbolic effect:
- return to the Church (altar in the east)
- protection & withdrawal from the secular world outside

Gothic Style of Architecture (ca. 1150-1300)

The Gothic style was found in cities, whereas the Romanesque style was most often found in monasteries secluded in the countryside.

The Gothic style reflected a changing spirit of the age (knighthood, crusades, individualism of new city dwellers, the burgher). Structures were lighter, not heavy and massive as with the Romanesque style. Gothic architecture revealed more interest in verticality and a heightened sense of interior space.

The term “Gothic” was used by Italian critics of the 16th century. They saw the medieval “Gothic” tradition as an interlude brought about by the northern “barbarians” in the “dark medieval winter” which separated the period between the splendor of the Roman Empire and the splendor of the Renaissance.

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<th>Origins in France</th>
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<td>St. Denis 1157</td>
<td>Worms 1230</td>
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<td>Notre Dame 1170</td>
<td>Strassbourg 1250 (first major Gothic cathedral in Germany)</td>
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<td>Chartres 1220</td>
<td><strong>Cologne 1248 (completed in 1880)</strong></td>
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<td>Freiburg im Breisgau 1200 (single spire, only Gothic cathedral completed during the Middle Ages)</td>
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I. Gothic Exterior

Technical innovations and additions to the Romanesque style such as **ribbed vaulting** and **pointed arches** allowed cathedrals to be built higher and higher without collapsing. **Flying buttresses** provide external support, but didn’t interfere with natural light. Since walls did not provide the main support, stained glass windows (crafted and donated by proud guilds) could be inserted in them, replacing the mosaics and murals of Romanesque churches.

II. Gothic Interior

The Gothic cathedral had both religious and secular functions. As a web of stone and light, the cathedral functioned as a museum and told the history of the city as well as the story of the life of Christ. **Stained glass windows** allowed a prism of colors to enter the church and allowed for the experiencing of transcendental concepts (thin wall separated nature and spirit; the church inside was separated both physically and symbolically from the world outside). The **Rose window** revealed the presence of mystical mathematics by combining religion with reason/logic; revelation with philosophy. That’s what **scholasticism** (the main philosophical system of the Middle Ages) was all about.

**Interior symbolic effect:**

The religious symbolism of the statues and stained glass windows made the Gothic cathedral a Bible in stone for the illiterate.