

ROMANESQUE ART



Duomo of Modena
Modena, Italy

1099-1184



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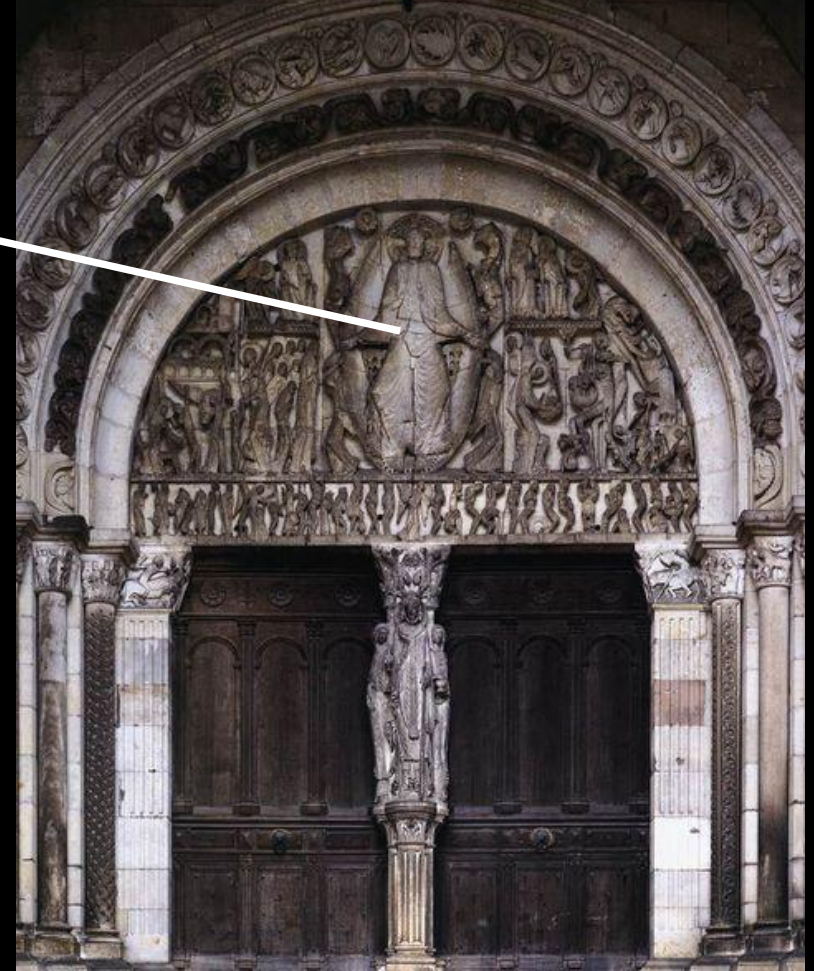
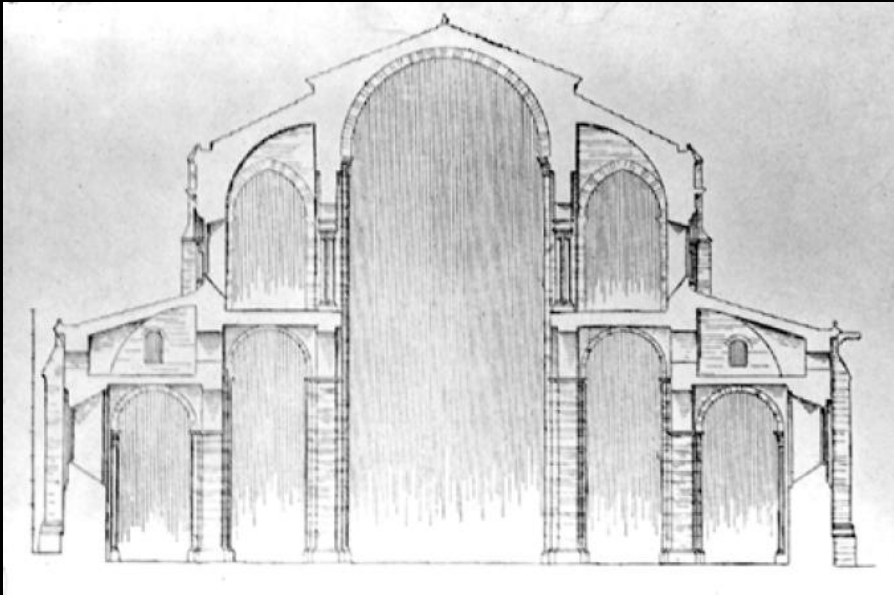
Important aspects of Romanesque architecture

1. “Romanesque” is the first international style since the Roman Empire. Also known as the “Norman” style in England
2. Competition among cities for the largest churches, which continues in the Gothic period via a “quest for height.”
3. Masonry (stone) the preferred medium. Craft of concrete essentially lost in this period. Rejection of wooden structures or structural elements.
4. East end of church the focus for liturgical services, west end for the entrance to church.



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5. Church portals as “billboards” for scripture or elements of faith.
6. Cruciform plans. Nave and transept at right angles to one another. Church as a metaphor for heaven.
7. Elevation of churches based on basilica forms, but with the nave higher than the side aisles.

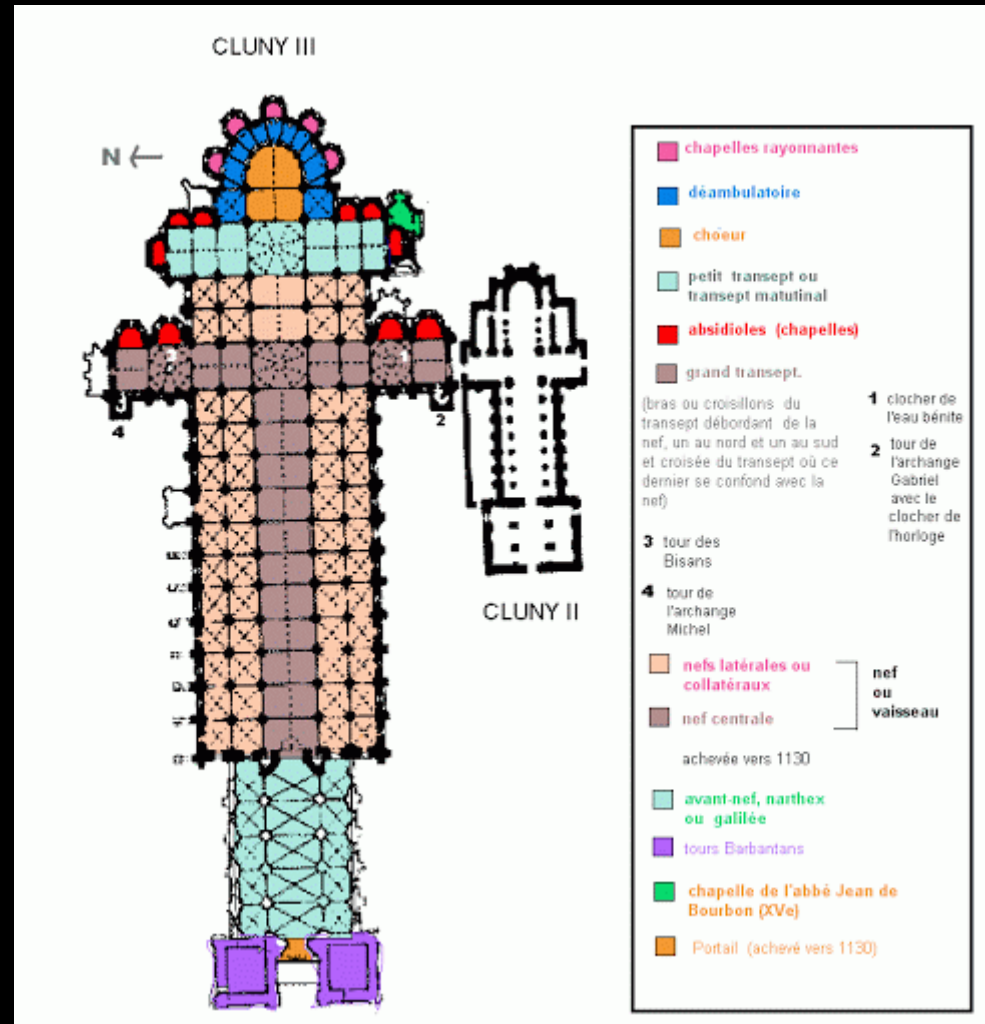


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- 8. Interiors articulated by repetitive series of moldings. Heavy masonry forms seem lighter with applied decoration.
- 9. Bays divide the nave into compartments
- 10. Round-headed arches the norm.
- 11. Small windows in comparison to buildings to withstand weight



Romanesque & Cluny

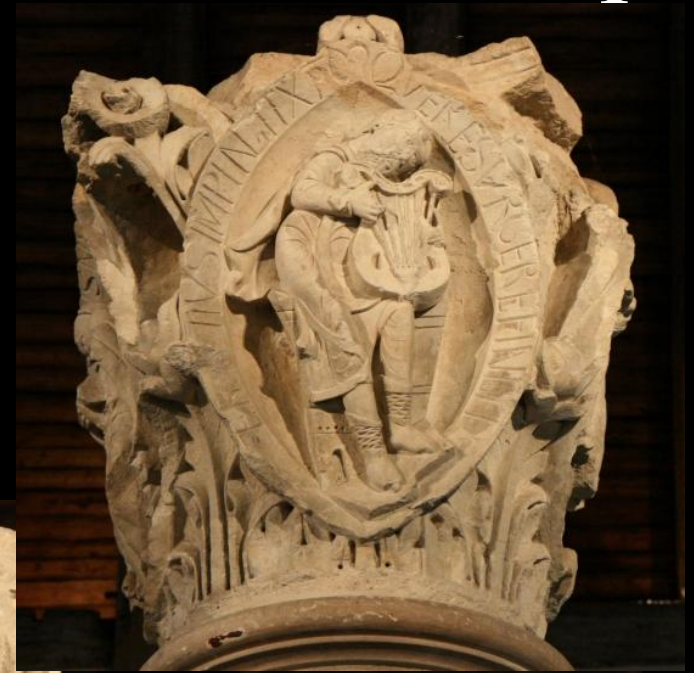


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- Churches emphasized contrast of light and dark
- Designed for pilgrims to circulate and find multiple places for private prayer (personal connection to God)
- Eventually developed the 'choir' for monks and the screen that separated the laity from the clergy

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Monastic Romanesque



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**Durham Cathedral
Durham, England**

1093-c. 1133

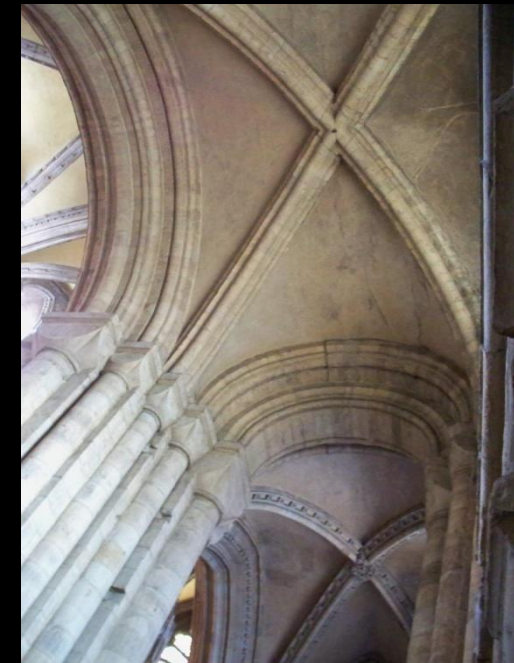
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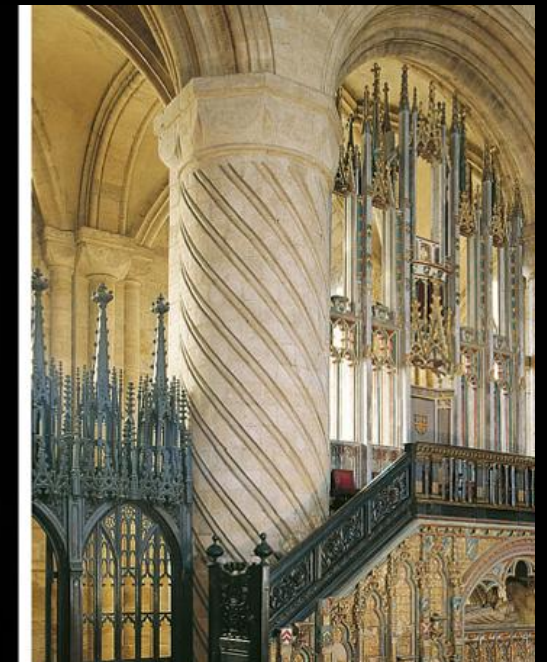
Durham Cathedral, East aisle
intersection of 2 kinds of vaulting

In Durham you can see the transition from Romanesque (rounded arches with heavy piers for support) to Gothic (pointed arches, lighter piers). In some instances they abut each other, showing how architecture evolved in just 40 years of construction. And the variety of carving on the piers—some of which may be modeled on the original St. Peter's in Rome—shows the sophisticated variety of carving styles available to Romanesque artisans. Sorry that some of the pictures are sketchy but photography is not currently allowed in Durham, so these were, um, sort of taken accidentally. Yeah, accidentally. That's the ticket.



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Durham Cathedral, nave and traces of medieval colors;
the “Solomon” column & Cuthbert shrine column



It amazes me to think what this would have looked like in the day, with all of these details painted in bright colors.

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**Church of St. Etienne
Caen, France**

1115-1120

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Vaulted Ceilings

Ribs

Tribune / Gallery

Clustered Piers

Ambulatory

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Aerial view (southeast) of Saint-Sernin,
Toulouse, France ca 1070-1120

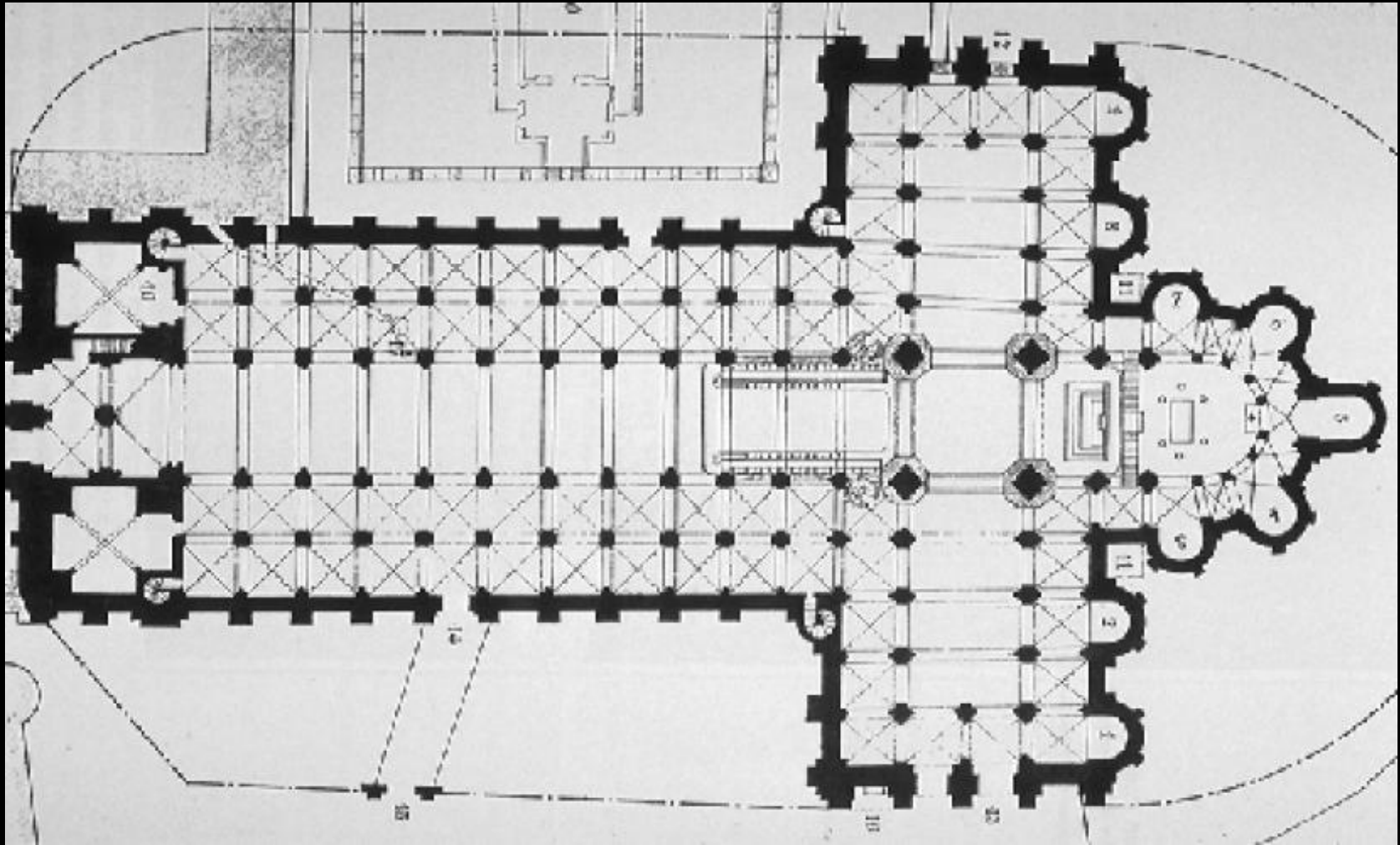
radiating
chapels

ambulatory

transept

upper
galleries
(tribunes)

large nave



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This church was first constructed in the honor of the city's first bishop, Saint Saturninus (Saint Sernin in French), who was martyred in the middle of the third century.

This church served as an important stop for pilgrims traveling to Santiago de Compostela in northwestern Spain.

Church especially designed to accommodate pilgrims.

The plan of this church closely resembles that of Santiago de Compostela's and Saint Martin at Tours and exemplifies what has come to be called the "**pilgrimage type**".

Aerial view (southeast) of Saint-Sernin,
Toulouse, France ca 1070-1120



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Cathedral Complex, Pisa, Italy

cathedral begun 1063, baptistry begun 1153, campanile begun 1174

Save for the upper portion of the baptistry, with its remodeled Gothic exterior, the three structures are stylistically Romanesque.

The construction of this cathedral in Pisa began in the same year as that of Saint Mark's in Venice.

The goal of the project was not only to create a monument to God, but also to bring credit to the city government.

This represents the emergence of city states as factors in the building of churches and the civil engineering of emerging cities.



The “Leaning Tower” is highly complex in its rounded form, as its stages are marked by graceful arcaded galleries that repeat the cathedral’s facade motif and effectively relate the tower to its mother building.

ITALIAN ROMANESQUE

Italian provinces developed a great diversity of Romanesque architectural styles.

Tuscan and Roman churches featured classical Corinthian capitals and acanthus borders, as well as colored marble in geometric patterns; open arcades, colonnades, and galleries; and facades with sculptures in relief.

In southern Italy, a rich style combining Byzantine, Roman, Arabic, Lombard, and Norman elements was created, with lavish use of mosaic decorations and interlaced pointed-arch arcades.



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Christ in Majesty, Saint- Pierre
Moissac, France, ca 1115-1135

This frieze, in southwestern France, announces the end of the human race (the Last Judgment)

This church was an important stop along the pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela.

The monks, enriched by the gifts of pilgrims and noble benefactors, adorned their church and its **cloister**, with one of the most extensive series of sculptures of the Romanesque age.

cloister: a special place for religious seclusion- used by monks

Christ occupies the center of the composition and is again flanked by the symbols of the Four Evangelists.

(Left) eagle, ox

(Right) angel, lion



Heavily decorated churches like these were criticized by Bernard (p 257) as inappropriate to monastic austerity, but he conceded the need for them for city churches where bishops had to “rouse devotion in a carnal people incapable of spiritual things.

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Wiligelmo, *Creation and Temptation of Adam and Eve*, Modena Cathedral, Italy, 1110. **ROMANESQUE**