

Chapter 11 and 12 Vocab

Abbot Suger- often credited with inventing the Gothic style. Suger was born in 1084 and attended school with Louis VI, the future king of France. He later was a political and religious advisor to Louis VI and Louis VII and was regent of France at one point. In 1122, Suger became abbot at the French royal monastery Saint-Denis. Suger came up with the plan to rebuild and enlarge the Carolingian church at the monastery. Suger wanted a new style of architecture that would demonstrate and reinforce the king's divine right and show spirituality. The rebuilding started in 1137, and prior to that Suger studied the construction of Solomon's temple and what were thought to be St. Denis's writings. From the writings Suger gained knowledge about mathematical harmony and symbolism. Suger focused on light when designing the new church as it had a traditional association with Christ. Suger did not invent any new types of architectural elements, rather he used ideas from already present styles and combined them into something new. The addition to Saint-Denis was made up by a new narthex, a west facade with towers, and three portals. The exterior also contained thin buttresses in between where the chapels were located. The interior was similar to Romanesque style however, Suger rearranged the chapels, added ribbed vaults, and more slender columns. Twelve columns in the choir represented the twelve apostles and the columns in the enlarged ambulatory represented the twelve prophets. Suger also had a large gold cross adorn the choir that had the four evangelists at the base done in a naturalistic style. It is said that Suger had a taste for splendor and filled the church with golden vessels, stained glass, lustrous vestments, and tapestries. Gothic style architecture was extremely popular in France during the 11th century and drifted over to other parts of Europe as well.

Apocrypha- usually applied to the books that the Christian Church considered useful but not divinely inspired. As such, it is misleading to refer to the Gospel according to the Hebrews or Gnostic writings as apocryphal, because they would not be classified in the same category by orthodox believers. Non-canonical books are texts of uncertain authenticity, or writings where the work is seriously questioned. Given that different denominations have different beliefs about what constitutes canonical scripture, there are several versions of the apocrypha

Armature- a skeletal framework built as a support on which a clay, wax, or plaster figure is constructed. It provides structure and stability for a sculpture

Arriccio- very thin layer of plaster on which a fresco is painted, laid slightly coarsely to provide a key for the intonaco, and must be allowed to dry, usually for some days, before the final very thin layer is applied and painted on, traditionally a mixture of sand (with granular dimensions less than two millimeters) and a binding substance

Book of Hours- a devotional book that was very popular in the middle ages. The book first appeared in the 13th century and contained prayers to be said at the canonical hours (divisions of time, developed by the Christian Church, serving as increments between the prescribed prayers of the daily round.) to honor Virgin Mary. The growing demand for smaller books for family and individual use created a prayerbook style that was very

popular among the wealthy. The demand for the books was crucial to the development of Gothic illumination. These lavishly decorated texts, of small dimensions, varied in content according to their patrons' desires. The books became expensive heirlooms

Bubonic plague- a bacterial infection that can kill you in 3-7 days without treatment. It is received through a flea's bite, and the most well known symptom is the swelling of the lymph glands (buboes), found in the neck, armpit, and groin. In Europe, the plague swept through around 1340 and killed roughly 1/3 of the entire European population

Choir- the area of a church or cathedral, usually in the western part of the chancel between the nave and the sanctuary (which houses the altar). The choir is occasionally located in the eastern part of the nave. In some monastic churches the choir occupies the western end of the nave and thus counterbalances the chancel and sanctuary

Elevation- a vertical view of a face of a structure. Elevations detail the frontal details of a side of a building without the deceptive stretches of perspective

Fan vault- popular in the English Gothic style, is a type of rib vault in which all the "ribs" are curved out from the columns with equal distance. The half-cones created by the ribs are decorated, and meet in the middle of the vaulted ceiling. The largest fan vault is in the King's College Chapel in Cambridge

Fresco- comes from the Italian word, "affresco" meaning fresh. Fresco paintings can be done in two ways: "Buon fresco" paintings are done on wet plaster, while "a secco" paintings are completed on dried plaster. Fresco paintings are done on walls or ceilings. Frescos were popular during the Renaissance.

Gesso- made of plaster, chalk, and glue to create a plaster-like surface as a base for painting or other low-relief surfaces. During the Renaissance tempura painting, the surface was first covered with a rough gesso, or gesso grosso, and a series of finishing gesso, or gesso sottile, to create an opaque base surface that allows for an easier application of paint after. It can be used as a primer for surfaces like wood, plaster, stone, or canvas to prepare for materials like tempura or oil paint

Guild- an association of craftsmen in a particular trade. Guilds were in control of labor, production and trade. The guild was made up of experienced and confirmed experts in their field of handicraft. They were called master craftsmen. Before a new employee could rise to the level of mastery, he had to go through a schooling period during which he was first called an apprentice. Apprentices would typically not learn more than the most basic techniques until they were trusted by their peers to keep the guild's or company's secrets. After this period he could rise to the level of journeyman. Journeymen would typically travel to other master craftsmen, continuing to learn as much about their trade as possible. After this journey and several years of experience, a journeyman could be received as master craftsman. Each line of business had its own guild: butchers, bakers, dyers, shoemakers, masons, tanners, and many others. The purpose of the guild was to make sure its members produced high quality goods and were treated fairly. They began to pass many laws that controlled competition among merchants, fixed prices and

wages, and limited the hours during which merchandise could be sold. The appearance of the European guilds was tied to the emergent money economy, and to urbanization. The building of Chartres relied on guilds for different aspects of the church such as its stain glass windows.

International Gothic Style- called so because it was, well, international. The style originated in Burgundy, Bohemia, and France and spread throughout Europe. Its spread can be attributed to the travel of artists and the movement of illuminated manuscripts, all serving to bring the Gothic style to a common plane throughout Europe, instead of varying by region like it had before. The style was marked by a soft elegance in the figures, and the development of landscape painting.

Lancet- a window or arch coming to a narrow point that was much used in Gothic architecture. It has acquired its name from a lance, which is a pointed weapon used during the medieval times for jousting. The window or arch derives its name from the pointed shape of a lance

Pieta- a representation of the Virgin Mary holding the dead body of Jesus in her arms and mourning. One of Michelangelo's earliest well known works is called La Pieta, a marble sculpture, is housed in St. Peter's Basilica

Predella- the platform or step on which an altar stands. In painting, predella refers to the paintings or sculptures running along the frame at the bottom of an altarpiece. In later medieval and Renaissance altarpieces, where the main panel consisted of a scene with large static figures, it was normal to include a predella below with a number of small-scale narrative paintings depicting incidents from the life of the dedicatee, such as Christ, the Virgin Mary or a saint. Typically there would be three to five small scenes, in a horizontal format

Rayonnant Gothic – ca. 1240-1350; a period in the development of French Gothic architecture that developed out of the High Gothic style. Rayonnant is characterized by a shift in focus away from the great scale and spatial rationalism of buildings like Chartres Cathedral or the nave of Amiens Cathedral, towards a greater concern for two-dimensional surfaces and the repetition of decorative motifs at different scales. After the mid 14th century, Rayonnant gradually evolved into the Late Gothic, Flamboyant style, though as usual with such arbitrary stylistic labels, the point of transition is not clearly defined.

Renaissance- French for "rebirth", a cultural movement that spanned roughly the 14th to the 17th century, beginning in Florence in the Late Middle Ages and later spreading to the rest of Europe. The term is also used more loosely to refer to the historic era, but since the changes of the Renaissance were not uniform across Europe, this is a general use of the term. As a cultural movement, it encompassed a resurgence of learning based on classical sources, the development of linear perspective in painting, and gradual but widespread educational reform. Traditionally, this intellectual transformation has resulted in the Renaissance being viewed as a bridge between the Middle Ages and the Modern

era. Although the Renaissance saw revolutions in many intellectual pursuits, as well as social and political upheaval, it is perhaps best known for its artistic developments and the contributions of such polymaths as Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo, who inspired the term "Renaissance man"

Rose window- a circular window usually found in churches of Gothic architectural style. The window is divided into segments by stone mullions and tracery. The history of the rose window extends to the Roman oculus. The circular opening evolved into a window during the Romanesque period. It then increased in size and became a staple of Gothic architecture. Well known churches that have rose windows include the Chartres, the Mantes, the Laon, and the Notre Dame of Paris

Stigmata- bodily marks, sensations, or sores in the corresponding locations of Jesus' crucifixion wounds. Stigmata is the plural of the Greek word stigma meaning a mark or brand used for animals or slaves. In art, some saints were depicted as they were receiving stigmata, an honor which generally only affected the most faithful individuals.

Tracery- the intricate crisscrossing decoration on Gothic windows

Triforium- a shallow gallery of arches within the inner wall of a church or cathedral, located above the nave. It is part of the three main height divisions of nave wall, located above the arcade and below the clerestory. The arches themselves may be filled with either stone or glass. The placement of the triforium corresponds with the slanted outer roof which is above the aisles