

9.2 The Great Gothic Cathedrals and the urban settings for them, c. 1150-1350

- 1) **Rayonnant** and **Sainte-Chapelle** completed **1248** and **Notre Dame** completed **1260**
  - **Louis IX** builds Sainte Chapelle to house a special collection of holy relics he has bought from a third-party and that were hand-delivered from the holy land
  - **rayonnant** - a shift away from the giant scale and spatial rationalism of Gothic
  - Literally **rayonnant** means **radiating**
  - it means more **vertical**
  - It also means a move toward a **two-dimensional bar (stone) tracery** in windows (and rose windows) to make it more manageable - this led to use of repeated patterning such as in **Sainte-Chapelle or the rose window of Notre Dame of Paris**
  - construction is getting lighter and more ethereal - light more holy and ethereal
  - **Sainte-Chapelle** on the island in the Seine - famous for its **rayonnant** light. Also developed by Jean and Pierre - this done for **Saint Louis (Louis IX)**
  - Jean and Pierre also worked on transept **Notre Dame of Paris**.
  - **Notre Dame of Paris** has a very harmonious tripartite facade as both vertical and horizontal ranges. A niche for twenty-eight Kings of France. A screen of stone tracery to hide the roof. Notre Dame has many of the classic features of Gothic architecture and is an excellent example: deep articulate carvings, deep fenestration.
  - **Saint-Urbain de Troyes** has noteworthy **tracery** and refinement of stonework
- 2) Becoming an **International Style**
  - **Chartres Cathedral** (France) use ribbed vaults (**1200**) mismatched westwork towers
  - **Cologne Cathedral** in Germany
  - **Wells Cathedral** (England) inventive use of scissor piers (**1330**)
  - **Lincoln Cathedral** (England) - (**1185-1311**)
    - use of Y-shaped or tierceron ribbed vaulted which may distribute forces more broadly
    - **Tallest building in the world from 1311-1548** when central spire collapsed
    - John Ruskin wrote: "I have always held... that the cathedral of Lincoln is out and out the most precious piece of architecture in the British Isles and roughly speaking worth any two other cathedrals we have."
  - **Siena Cathedral (1196-1348)** - Italian - not a French Cathedral. Does not have **westworks** towers but instead has a **campanile**. This is the contrast between the northern European and the Southern European.
- 3) Vocabulary
  - **rayonnant** - the very flat vertical Gothic design
  - **clerestory** - the very high windows letting light into the nave
  - **triforium** - high gallery that opens on to nave
  - **tribune** - elevated gallery above side aisle
  - **tracery** - thinly carved stonework sometimes holding the stained glass
  - **flyers** - arch element that flies out to meet the buttress
  - **ribbed groin vault** - a groin vault of ribbed arches
  - **flying buttresses** - giant support masonry elements holding up walls high up
  - **crockets** - decoratively carved hook-shaped finials along the slopes of the spires
  - **gargoyle** - decoratively carved downspout often grotesque
  - **chimera** - a scary spirited carving often grotesque but is not a downspout
- 4) **Gothic Master Builders**
  - **Master Builders** were combination =
    - + **Architects**
    - + **Master Masons**
    - + **Structural Engineers**
    - + **Building Contractors**
  - They were seen as *bringing order and substance* to the chaos and mystery of the Christian faith and worship - they were seen as *heroes* of great mysteries
  - Gothic Style outside France known as: **opus francigenum**
  - **William of Sens** - Lured to England in (**1175**) to rebuild **Canterbury Cathedral** - died from a fall
  - **Villard de Honnecourt** - builder's notebooks (**1220**) possibly his notebooks were design

ideas or used as resource material

- **Heinrich Parler of Cologne** - head of a family of masons and master builders who spread Gothic to:
  - Holy Cross in Schwabisch Gmund, Germany
  - Frauenkirche in Nuremburg, Germany
  - St. Vitus in Prague
  - Strasbourg Cathedral