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

1) Great cities begin to develop: Paris, Bruges, Cologne, e.g.
   - Population booms - better farming means and methods - higher life expectancies
   - Commerce develops in cities
   - Cities offered more freedom. People shifted from being serfs of feudal lords to being taxing citizens of cities
   - Resurgence of civic architecture: cathedrals, hospitals, markets
   - Faubourg - French word meaning settlement area
   - City walls expanded

2) Bruges examples of architectural urban fabric
   - Belfry (tall tower used as a civic building and watchtower), Cloth Hall (covered market), Waterhalle (covered port-like area of the canal where goods could be unloaded directly into merchants' stalls) About 1280.

3) St. Urbain in Troyes (1262)
   - Cleric from here was elected Pope Urban IV
   - Cathedral built in Gothic style - increasing height, reducing wall-to-window ratio, switching round-arched windows and barrel vaults to pointed arch windows and ribbed vaults. Switch from buttresses to flying-buttresses, and other changes.

4) Carcassonne in southern France (1240)
   - Walled city captured by King Louis IX (Saint Louis) in 1240 from the Cathars, who were renegade Christians.
   - Louis IX rebuilt Carcassonne as a fortified bastion, extending French rule into the south
   - Planned town
   - Drawbridge to the donjon (known as a castle keep in English castles). The donjon was the last refuge and the fortified domicile within the castle.

5) bastides - the word for new towns built all over Gascony in the south of France (1250-1300)
   - French and English competed to gain control of Gascony by building new towns
   - Towns based on a grid survey and urban lots of 16' x 32' based on the length of timber.
   - Called Gothic Lots and selected by lottery
   - Market near the center of town, and a space nearby for a church.
   - New towns increased freedom of movement of people, accessibility to markets, and a greater social order. Freer towns decreased intimidating control of feudal lords over people.

6) The Gothic Cathedral is the crown of the city
   - The building boom across Europe nurtured church building in the new Gothic Style
   - Gothic marked by increasingly taller, thinner structure to emphasize heavenly light in the interior. The heavenly light called lux nova.
   - Key features: ribbed vaulting, bigger clerestories, flying buttresses, pointed arches
   - Structure a direct response to the purpose of the building - a sense of greater spirituality

7) Abbot Suger (su-GAY) 1081-1151 and St. Denis of Paris (san-DAY-knee)
   - Rebuilt portions of St. Denis (SAN-de-knee) to achieve lux nova (the new light)
   - Suger added round window (1130) between towers of the westworks symbolizing either the wheel of fortune, or, later thought to be the rose of the Virgin Mary (Rose Window)
   - Call it a wheel window or rose window
   - Suger added a chevet of seven chapels at St Denis
   - Suger’s works influenced later French cathedrals to a great degree

   - Because of Abbot Suger’s close connection with crusaders Louis VI (1108-1137) and Louis VII (1137-1180), Suger rules as regent while Louis VII is away in Palestine on Second Crusade. Henceforth, St. Denis becomes the burial church of most of the subsequent Kings of France.
8) Gothic becomes a **French national style** - other Cathedrals following St. Denis
   - Spiritual effect increases with height, verticality, lightness
   - **Amiens - Rouen - Troyes - Reims - Chartres - Laon - Notre Dame of Paris**
   - Kings of France crowned at Reims
   - **Notre Dame at Laon** - example of early Gothic finished 1215
   - Chartres - clear progression from heavier to lighter
   - More work on St Denis by Jean de Chelles and Pierre de Montreuil

9) **Notre Dame of Paris** complete about 1260
   - a very clear **tripartite construction** of three horizontal and three vertical ranges
   - towers disintegrated with deep carvings and fenestration
   - tall spire at **crossing**
   - gargoyles, crockets, flying buttresses
   - a near-perfect textbook example of a **Gothic Cathedral**
   - When Victor Hugo wrote about the church in *Notre Dame of Paris (1830)*, it created interest in the building and its poor state of repair - *it led to a national preservation movement in France* - the first national scale preservation movement