

Gothic Art

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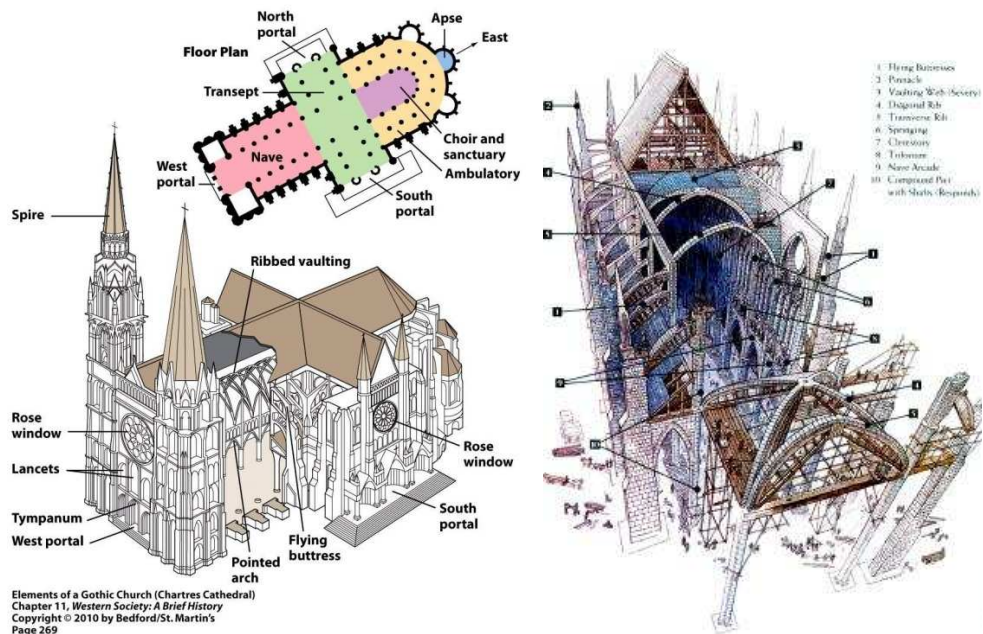
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It is well known that the gothic art had been experienced in the XII-XV centuries in Western Europe. Certainly cathedral was not just a place for praying. It personified all the ideas about the world, consciousness and beauty. In fact, it represented God, Nature and a Human. The interiors of gothic cathedrals really impress with their vastness and complexity. The main space consists of the high central nave and the lower appendix naves. The floor is extremely simple, although there are some places covered with mosaics with sacral meaning.

Historians and architects consider that everything achieved in gothic style is attained against the nature of stone. The gothic architecture is represented with denying of the texture and characteristics of stone. The gothic architects obtained this visual effect using the extreme vertical accents. That is why all we see is the stained movement into the sky.

Now let's pay attention to the fact that the most significant discovery of gothic architecture is a crusade rib vault. It interacted with interior system of columns and exterior system of mainstay – the counterforces. The gothic counterforce is in fact a technical development and improvement of the Roman one. The improvement is represented by making the counterforce wider in the bottom and narrower on the top. This form made the counterforce more effective.

The architects used a special arch made from wedge stone – so called buttresses to neutralize the middle nave. One end of the buttress was stuck into the vault and the other in the counterforce. The place where the buttress connected with the counterforce was fixed with a little tower – a pinnacle.



Two lines of buttresses were often constructed by the architects. The upper line of buttresses was a mainstay for the roof and the lower one was made to fight the force of wind. As a result this innovation transformed the walls from very thick and strong abutment into subtle and thin decorative cover.

Definitely the interiors of the earlier gothics were quite minimalistic and resembled Romanics. Nevertheless, since the XV century the interior decoration became richly filled with ornaments and looked like miniature cathedrals. The ornaments could be geometrical or floral. In both cases it was a tracery made with accurately interlaced spherical and straight lines. The result is a difficult drawing that resembles the ribs of gothic constructions. In the picture below you can see the ornamental imitation of the Gothic Rose – a round window above the central entrance of the cathedrals. It was widely used in furniture decorations. Besides, the furniture is richly decorated with wooden and ivory sculptures.



The architectural forms influenced on the jewelry art either. Big jewelry centers were based in France, Germany and Italy in the XII century. Rings with stones were very popular. Rich people wore 4-5 massive rings on one hand. The rings differed according to their functions, for instance there were wedding rings and stamp-rings of the politicians. The jewelers used rich floral ornaments. The vertical lines and sharp forms resemble traditional gothic architecture and colorful stones are miniature imitation of stained – glass. The crowns of Ludovico the XI and Queen Teodelinda are the typical examples of gothic jewelry art.



The influence of gothic architecture on arts and crafts

We are sure that gothic art – is the most impressive and magnificent manifestation of Middle Ages. Enormous architectural ensembles and other masterpieces of monumental arts were created. This is an outstanding union of different kinds of art.

References

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