

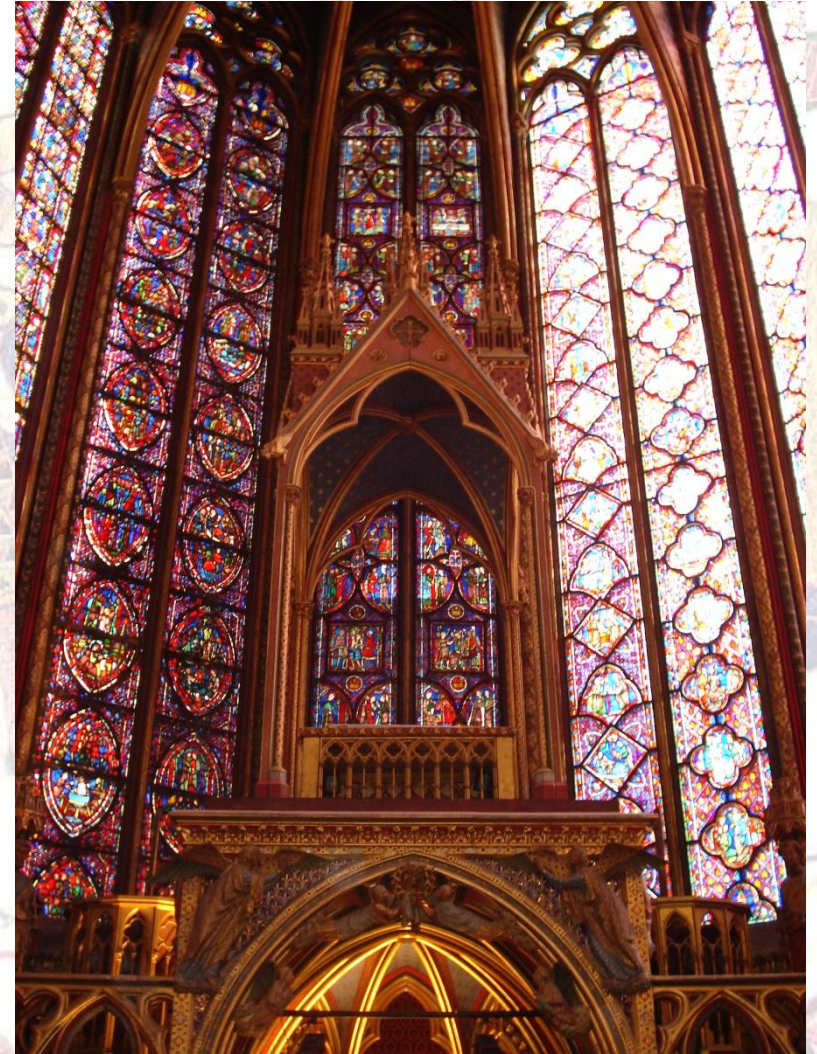
GOTHIC ART



GOTHIC ART:FEATURES

The Gothic style first appeared in the 12th century in the area around Paris. In architecture, **Gothic buildings** employed a variety of new techniques to pierce walls with larger windows, known as **stained glass windows**, and to build loftier spaces.

In **sculpture** and the other figurative arts, the style combined the detailed observation of nature with an expressive elegance. Gothic quickly spread throughout Europe, and versions of the style were still in use as late as the 1550s.



GOTHIC ART:FEATURES

- **Pointed arches**

Pointed arches were an important characteristic of Gothic architecture. They were used in arcades, vaults, doors, windows and niches. When used row on row in churches and cathedrals, pointed arches gave an impression of soaring height.

They could also bear heavier loads than the earlier round arches (Romanesque). Pointed arches and other architectural motifs are also found on Gothic objects. In sculpture and paintings they often served as frames for the figures or the narrative scenes.



GOTHIC ART:FEATURES

- **Curving figures**

Figures in Gothic art often curve or sway in an 'S' shape. The pose of the figures is enhanced by the hanging folds of their clothes. This gives them a sense of life and movement. Curving figures could be large or small, male or female.

- **Naturalism**

Artists who worked in the Gothic style paid close attention to natural forms and were able to reproduce them with remarkable accuracy. Leaf forms were especially popular and churches were often decorated with a variety of recognizable species. Animals, although rendered realistically, would rarely have been drawn from life. Instead, artists took them from pattern books.



GOTHIC ART:FEATURES

- **Emotion**

Gothic artists made figures full of tender feeling and strong emotion. Viewers were more likely to identify with the stories in a work of art when the figures expressed human emotion. With sacred images this helped to inspire religious devotion. Images of the Virgin and Child, for example, often emphasized the close relationship between mother and infant.



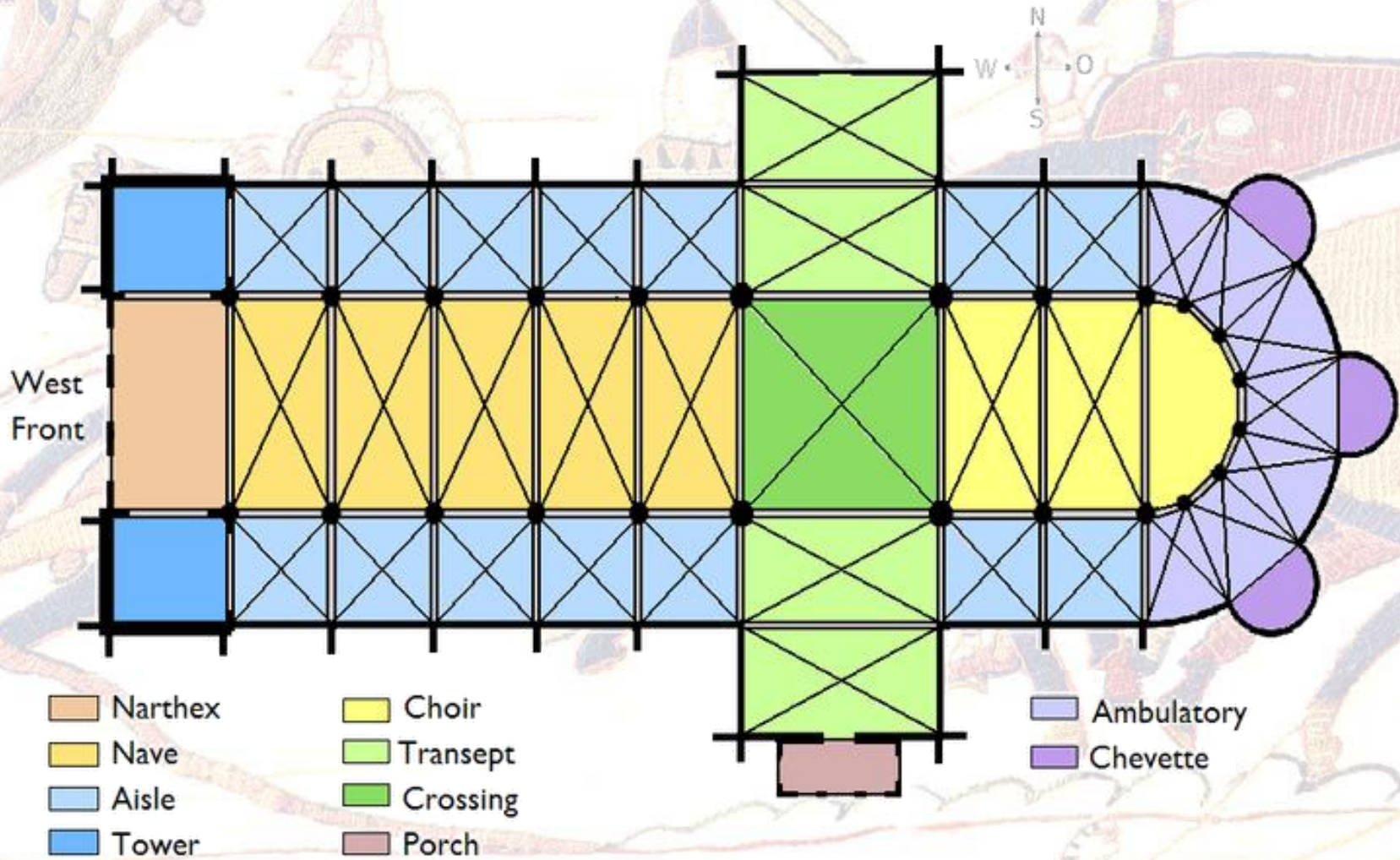
GOTHIC ART:FEATURES

Gothic painting followed two very different paths in Northern and Southern Europe. In the South, painting remained an important form of interior decoration. Great Italian Gothic masters, like Duccio, Giotto and siblings Lorenzetti, were commissioned to paint murals and altarpieces of exquisite quality.

In the North, stained glass windows were the main form of interior decoration. Painting was relegated to illuminations of books. Despite their different paths, both Northern and Southern Gothic painters eventually worked their way toward greater realism and a slow, but steady, mastery of perspective.

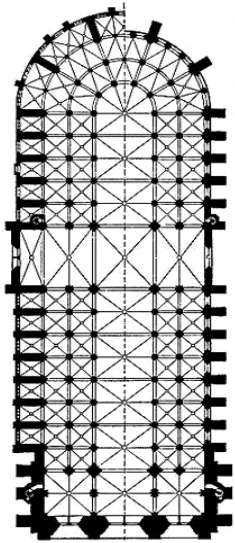


GOTHIC ART: ARCHITECTURE

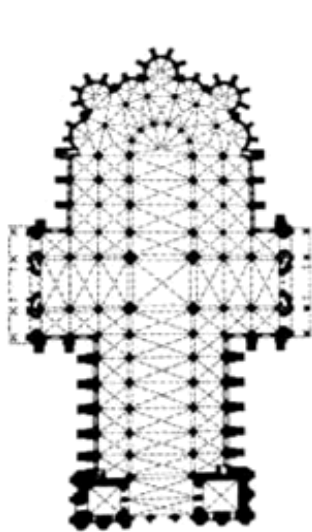


Floor plan: different parts

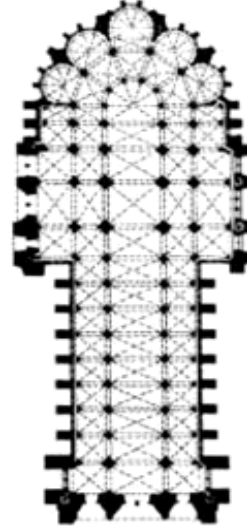
GOTHIC ART: ARCHITECTURE



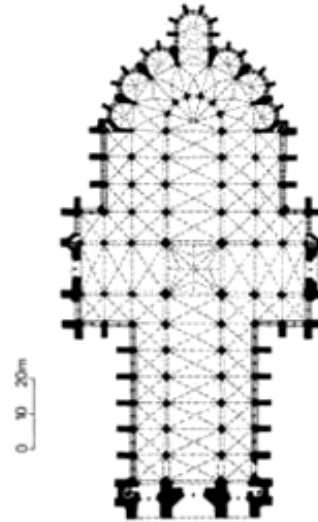
Notre Dame



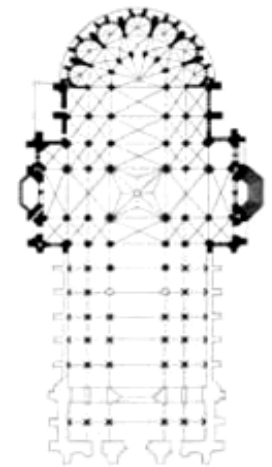
Chartres



Reims



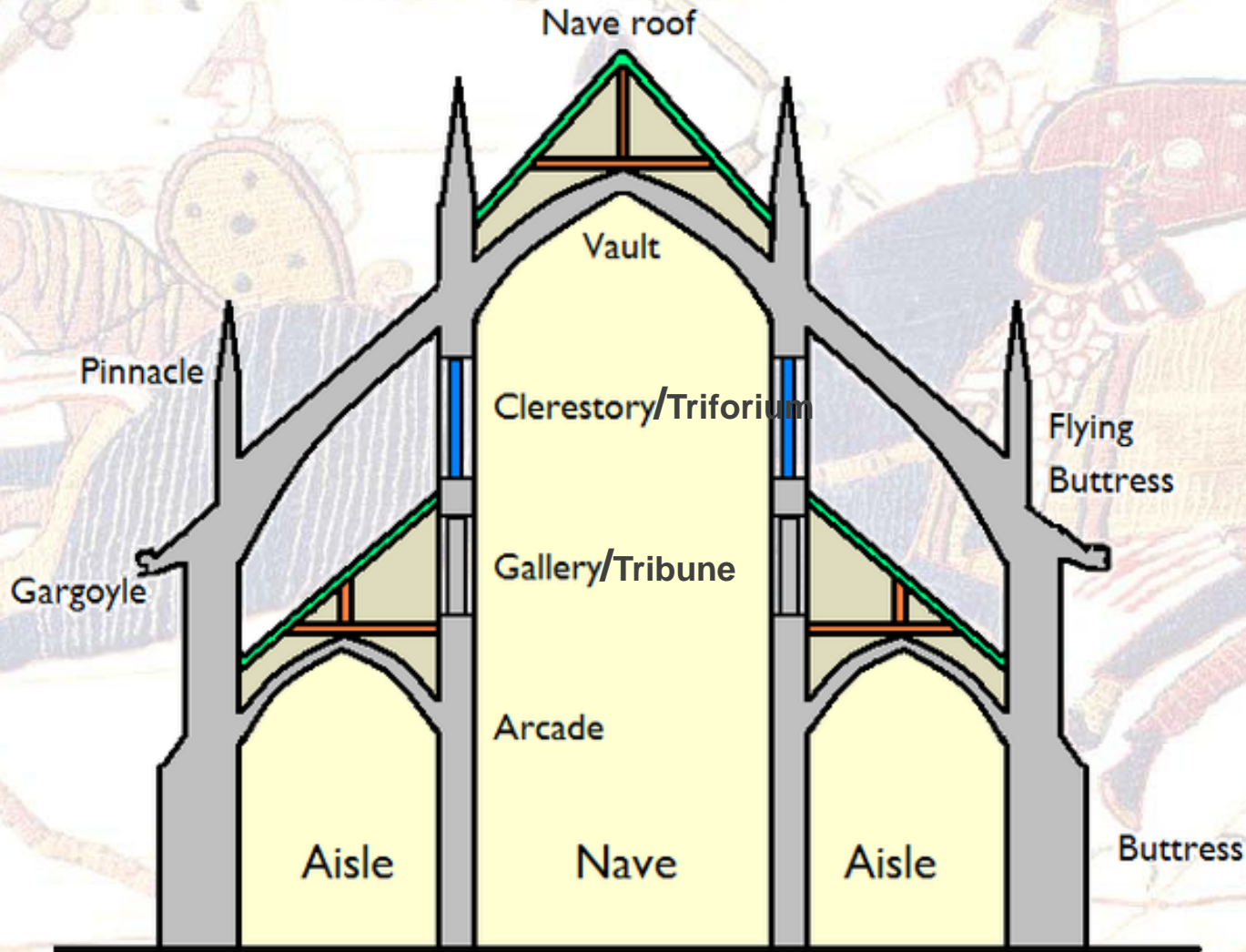
Amiens



Beauvais

Main French Gothic cathedrals: floor plans

GOTHIC ART: ARCHITECTURE



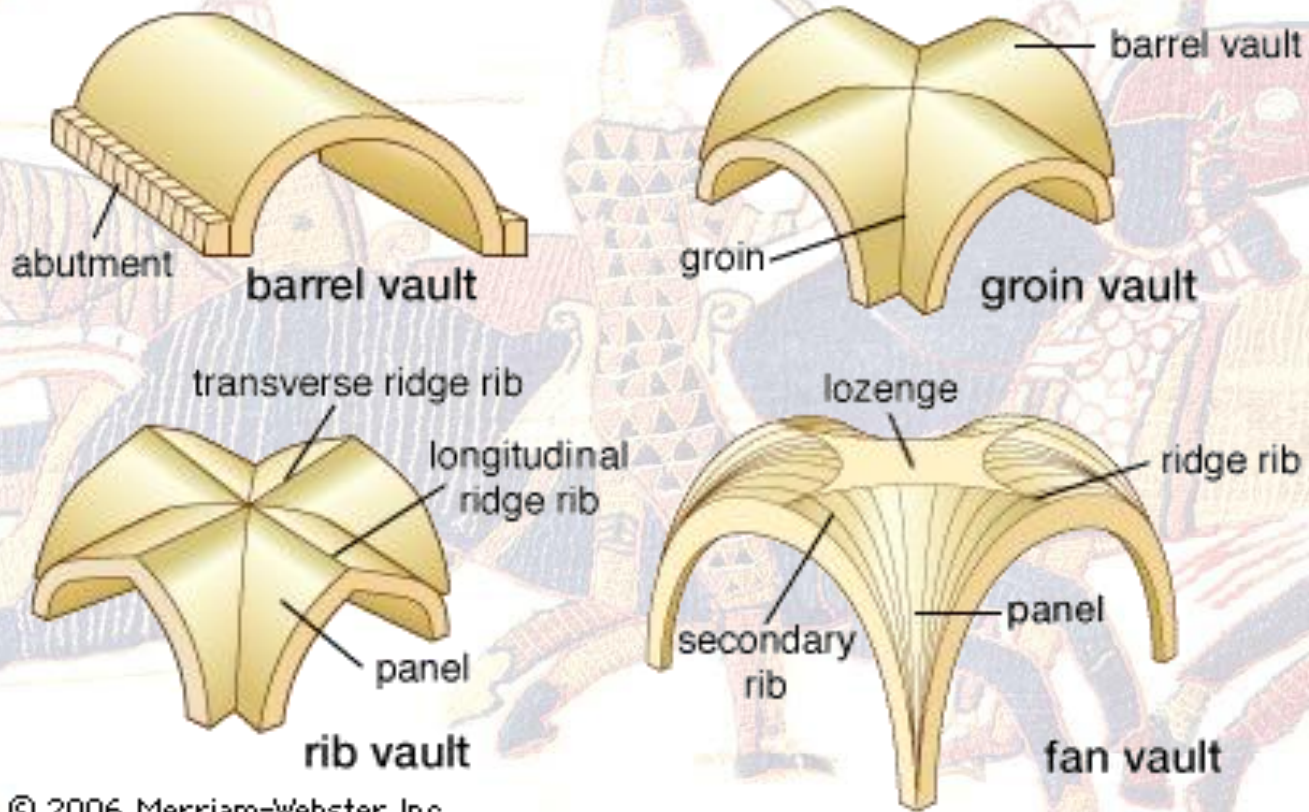
Cross section: different parts

GOTHIC ART: ARCHITECTURE



The apse of Notre Dame

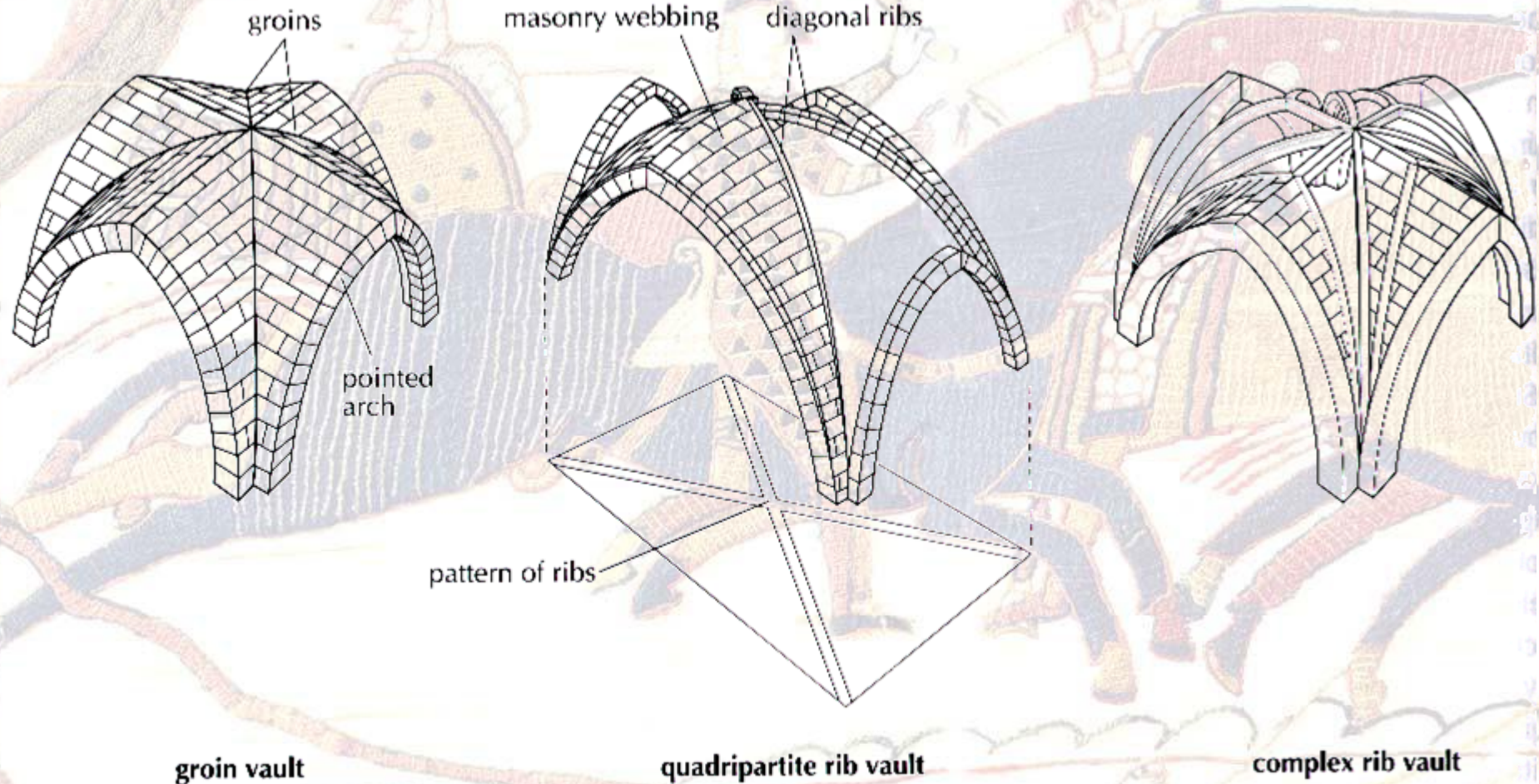
GOTHIC ART: ARCHITECTURE



Four common types of vault. A barrel vault (also called tunnel vault, or wagon vault) has a semicircular cross section. A groin (or cross) vault is formed by the perpendicular intersection of two barrel vaults. A rib (or ribbed) vault is supported by a series of arched diagonal ribs that divide the vault's surface into panels. A fan vault is composed of concave sections with ribs spreading out like a fan.

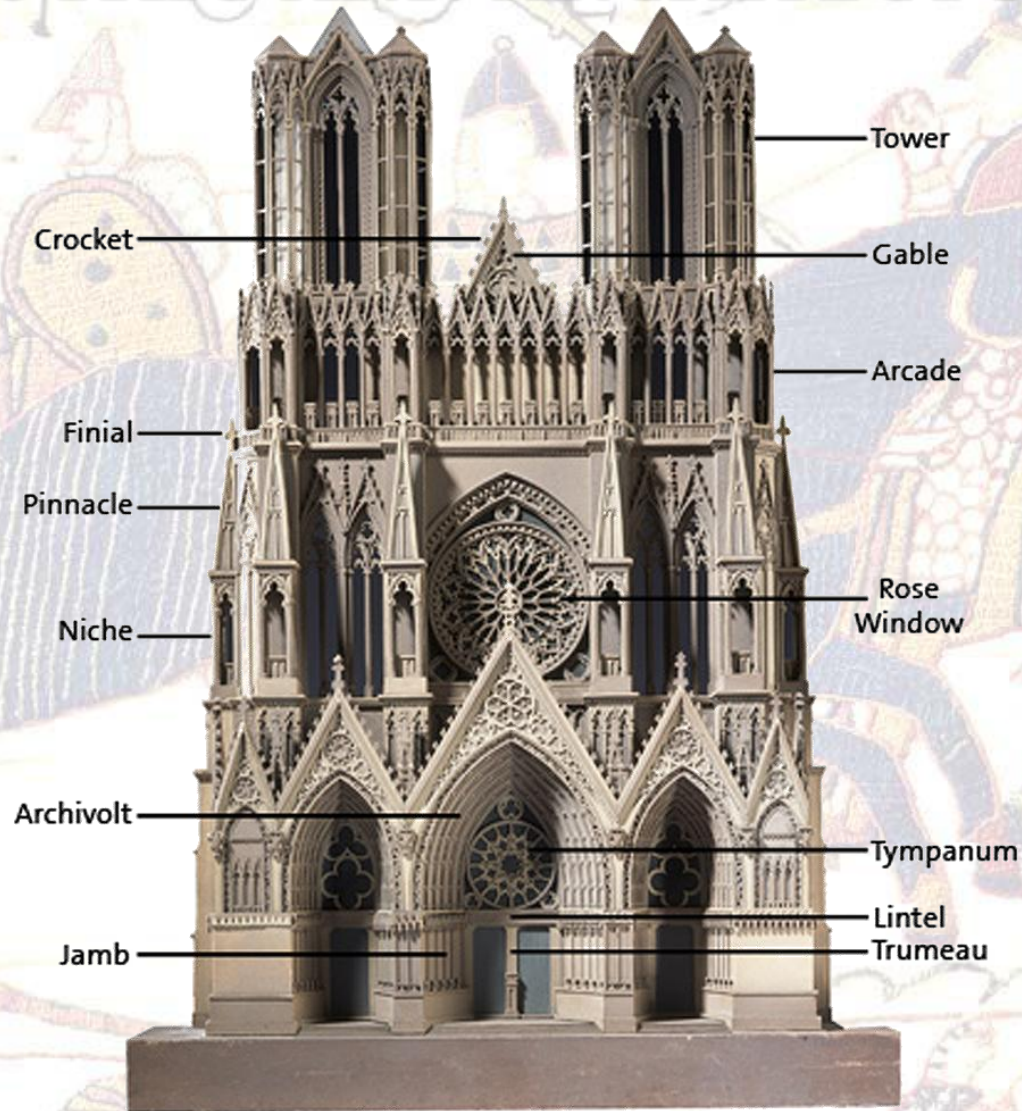
Types of vaults

GOTHIC ART: ARCHITECTURE



Differences between the Romanesque groin vaults and the Gothic ribbed vaults.

GOTHIC ART: ARCHITECTURE

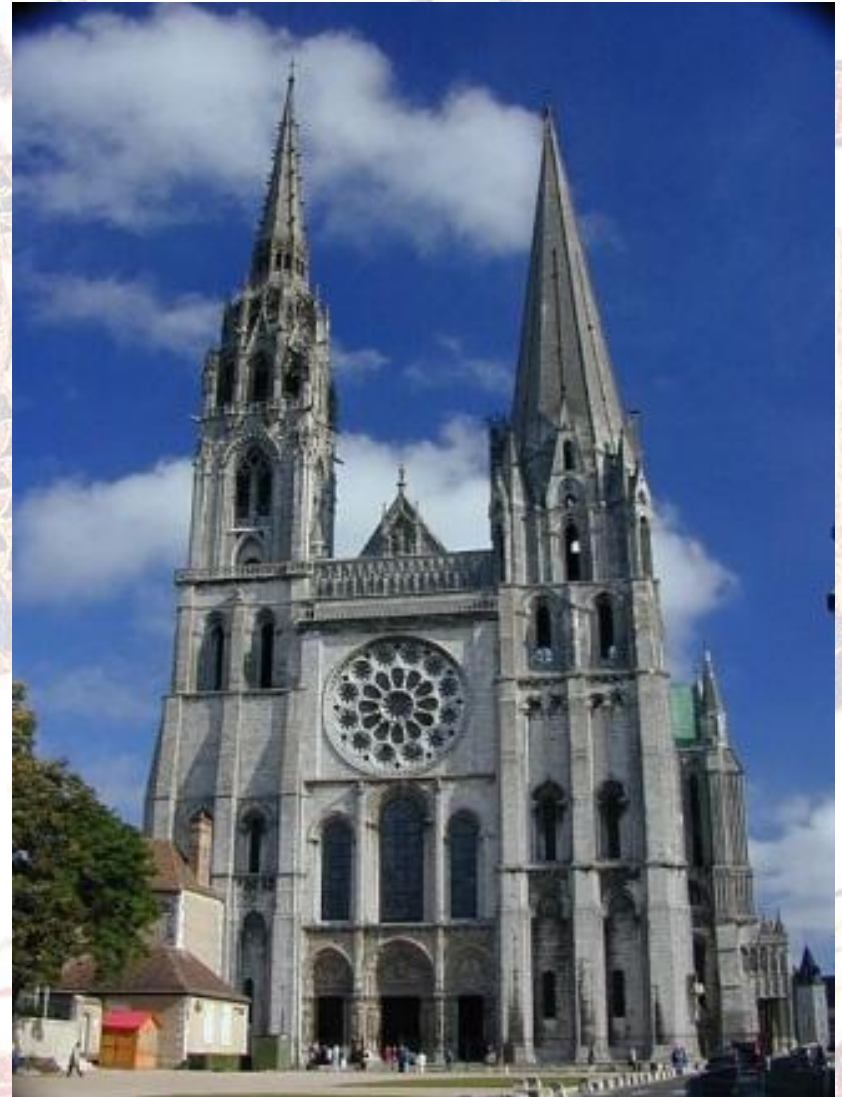


Façade: different elements

GOTHIC ART: ARCHITECTURE



Notre Dame façade



Chartres façade