

MEDIEVAL EUROPEAN ARCHITECTURE

Major Eras & Stylistic Evolution

500 - 1000 AD **Pre-Romanesque**

Early Christian and Byzantine influences merging with Germanic styles. Characterized by simple rectangular plans and basic stone masonry.

Key Features: Small windows, heavy walls, round arches, timber roofs.

1000 - 1150 AD **Romanesque**

Massive quality, thick walls, and sturdy piers reflecting a period of increased monasticism and pilgrimage.

Key Features: Barrel vaults, groin vaults, decorative arcades, symmetrical plans.

1150 - 1300 AD **Early & High Gothic**

A shift toward verticality and light, enabled by structural innovations that reduced the need for massive walls.

Key Features: Pointed arches, flying buttresses, ribbed vaults, stained glass rose windows.

1300 - 1500 AD **Late Gothic (Flamboyant / Perpendicular)**

Focus on highly decorative elements and intricate stone tracery, varying significantly by region (UK vs France).

Key Features: Fan vaulting, flame-like tracery patterns, increased window size.