

Romanesque Art

Byzantine Review

- What are the key elements of Byzantine architecture?
- What are the key elements of Byzantine art?

Romanesque Art

- Used to describe history and culture of western Europe between 1050 and 1200
- First since Archaic and Classical Greece to take its name from an artistic style rather than from politics or geography
- Art historians invented to describe art and architecture that appeared to be like Roman art

Romanesque cont.

- Construction of churches was widespread
- Significant increase in pilgrimages and relics
- Traveling pilgrims fostered the growth of towns as well as monasteries
- Regional differences existed throughout Europe



Saint-Sernin

Toulouse, France

ca. 1070-1120

Saint Sernin

- Construction began in honor of Toulouse's first bishop, Saint Saturninus
- 12th century exterior is still largely intact
- 2 towers of the west façade were never completed



Saint-Sernin

Toulouse, France

ca. 1070-1120

Larger Space

- “pilgrimage church” intended to provide additional space for curious pilgrims, worshipers, and liturgical processions (longer nave, doubled side aisles, and *radiating chapels* (chapels used for the display of *relics*))
- *tribunes* – upper galleries that opened into the nave which housed overflow crowds

***Barrel or tunnel
vault –
uninterrupted
series of
arches, one behind
another over an
oblong space***

Interior of Saint-Sernin

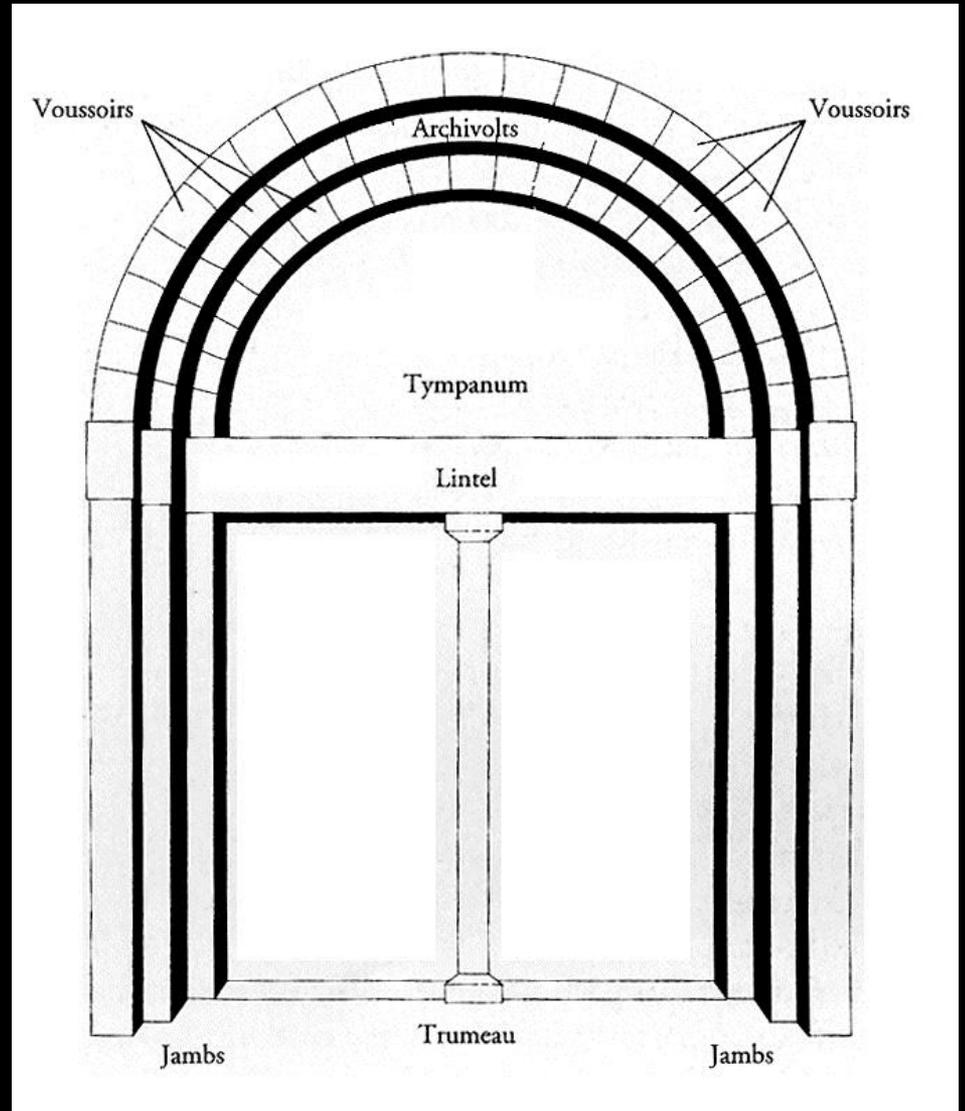
Toulouse, France

ca. 1070-1120



Romanesque Church Portal

- Sculpture employed on the exterior of Romanesque churches
- Most often found in the grand stone portals through which the faithful had to pass
- *Tympanum* – semicircle above the main entrance comparable to the Roman pediment



St. Lazare

- Last Judgment is announced by 4 angels blowing trumpets
- Christ is far larger than any figure
- On Christ's right are the saved and on his left are the damned
- On the left side of the lintel, people are pleading with angels, and there are pilgrims



St. Lazare cont.

- Scene with weighing of the souls
- Demons have claws and monstrous bodies
- Meant to inspire fear in those who passed
- Inscription reads: “May this terror terrify those whom earthly error binds, for the horror of these images here in this manner truly depicts what will be.”



Pilgrimage and Relics

- Cult of relics was not new in the Romanesque era
- Christians traveled to sacred shrines housing the body parts of, or objects associated with, the holy family or saints.
- People would embark upon pilgrimages to visit these shrines
- Pilgrimages as act of repentance or hope for a cure

Reliquary/Relic

- *Reliquary* – a container for keeping *relics* (body parts, clothing, or objects associated with a holy figure)
- Containers were elaborate and expensive
- Source of revenue for churches

**Head Reliquary of Saint Alexander
from Stavelot Abbey, Belgium**

**1145
silver repoussé, gilt bronze, gems, enamel
17 1/2 in. high**





cathedral begun 1063
baptistery begun 1153
campanile begun 1174

Pisa complex

- Shows diversity of Romanesque architecture
- 3 separate buildings
 - Cathedral
 - Campanile (bell tower)
 - Baptistry – infants and converts initiated here

Pisa cont.

- Famous leaning tower
- Result of a settling foundation
- Began to “lean” while under construction

Pisa Cathedral campanile

Pisa, Italy

begun 1174



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Interior of Saint-Sernin

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Exterior of Durham Cathedral

Durham, England

begun ca. 1093



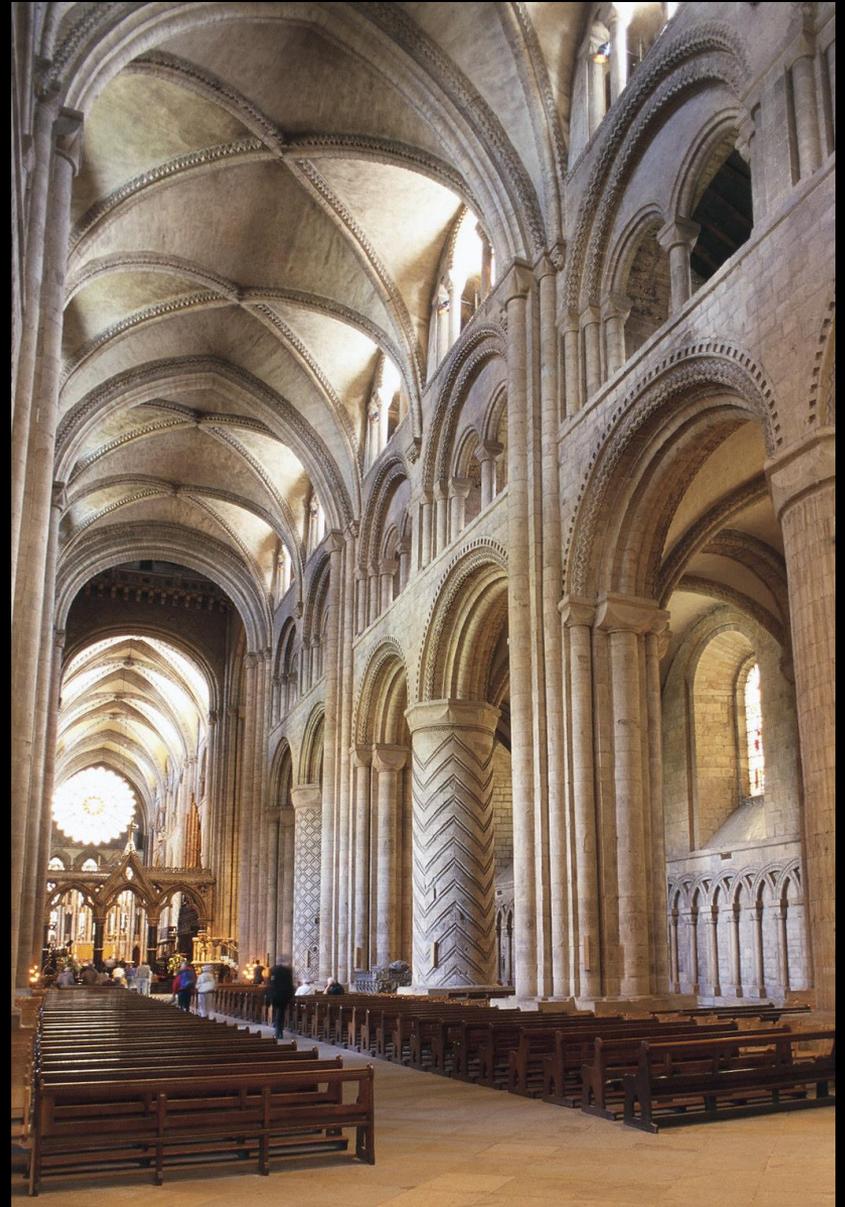
Durham Cathedral

- William of Normandy's conquest of Anglo-Saxon England in 1066 brought French Romanesque building and design methods
- We see beginnings of Gothic architecture here

Interior of Durham Cathedral

Durham, England

begun ca. 1093



Vaults

- *Groin or cross vault* – two barrel vaults intersect at right angles
- *Rib* – forms the framework of the vaulting (forms the “x” in a groin/cross vault)
- Durham Cathedral – earliest example of ribbed groin vault placed over a three-story nave

Interior of Durham Cathedral

Durham, England

begun ca. 1093

