

## MEDIEVAL ART VOCABULARY

### Buttress

Stone support attached to exterior wall

### Chapels

Donated/owned by wealthy families – burial spaces or private chapels.

### Chevet

French name for area of choir, ambulatory, radiating chapels.

### Pier

A heavy, thickened column designed to support a heavy load.

### Pilaster

Column attached to wall – generally square or rectangular

### Pointed Arch

An arch that comes to a point

### Tracery

Delicate lacelike motif carved in stone in windows of Gothic church/cathedral

### Transverse Arch

Projecting, reinforcing arch used to stiffen barrel vault from column to column

### Tympanum

Semicircular area over portals

### Ambulatory

Walkway or aisle around the apse. Helped direct pilgrim traffic

### Apse

Semicircular niche at east end of the nave of the church

### Bay

Square or rectangular building module

### Flying Buttress

Exterior arched, stone support placed at spring line of arched vault and joined to large piers that stand separate from the main structure and which resist lateral forces and carry loads to ground below

### Linen Fold Carving

Interior carving of wood or stone along walls, under altars, in panels, in doors. Looks like scrolls of linen

### Nave

Worshippers stood here for services

### Rose Window

Large, round window with radiating tracery above west façade and arms of transept

### Side Aisles

Along nave; sometimes one aisle but often two. Route for pilgrims

### Transept

At right angles to the nave. Creates a cross from sky view

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## Choir

Square or rectangular area between the apse and the transept.

## Clerestory Windows

Row of windows in the upper part of nave wall below the roof

## Colonettes

Piers rise into segmented colonnettes to create ribs of transverse, longitudinal or diagonal arches over the nave.

## Portal

Door assembly

## Quatrefoil

Type of ornamentation. Like a four leaf clover

## Ribbed Vault

Thin ribs of stone that run diagonally and transversely, help support and stiffen the vault

## vault

Masonry ceiling or roof

## Westwork

West façade, central portal bracketed by two towers