A Chapel is often small in size and is, just like churches, a religious place of worship. Chapels are usually attached to a larger, often non religious building like a castle.

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Basilicas and Abbeys of European Churches, Cathedrals, Visit my blog to see wonderful pictures

Love Churches?

for Road Trips Around The World Designed by Miss Coco (C)



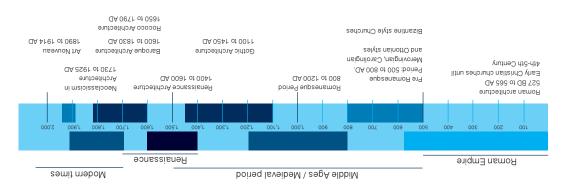
These are not exclusive, a church can be an Abbey, serve as a Cathedral, and also be a Basilica.

An Abbey is the church located in a monastery or convent. Abbeys are typically under the authority of an Abbot or an Abbess, who serve as the spiritual father or mother of A Basilica is a large and important church that has been given special ceremonial rights by the Pope. It usually holds reliquaries or is a place of dedicated pilgrim.

A Cathedral has a specific ecclesiastical role and administrative purpose as the seat of a bishop. The cathedral takes its name from the word cathedra, or "bishop's

I he lerm Church is very generic and specific terms can be used to describe, often larger editices:

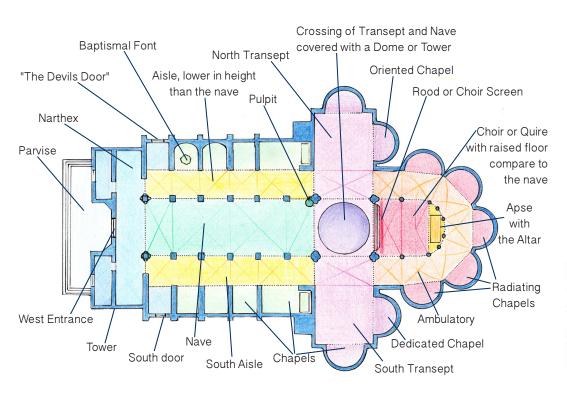
During the 11th through 14th centuries, a wave of building of cathedrals and smaller parish churches occurred across Western Europe. Churches are places of worship, often shaped in the form of a cross.

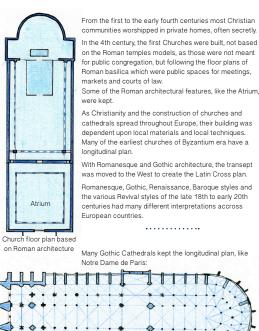


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From the first to the early fourth centuries most Christian communities worshipped in private homes, often secretly

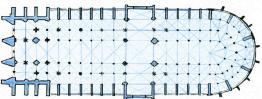
on the Roman temples models, as those were not meant for public congregation, but following the floor plans of Roman basilica which were public spaces for meetings,

cathedrals spread throughout Europe, their building was dependent upon local materials and local techniques. Many of the earliest churches of Byzantium era have a

was moved to the West to create the Latin Cross plan.

the various Revival styles of the late 18th to early 20th centuries had many different interpretations accross

Many Gothic Cathedrals kept the longitudinal plan, like



Longitudinal floor plan

The axis of a church is generally East/ West. The congregation enters from the West and the Altar is located to the East, the direction of the coming of the Christ. Since a lot of Churches have been built on remains of Roman temples, not all of them respect this alignment.

Latin Cross floor plan

The most famous church to be oriented in the opposite direction is St Peter's Basilica, in the Vatican,

In Abbev, the cloister is often located



Devil. Churches were built either with no North door or with a small one from which the Devil could escape the church especially during baptism.

Other extremely popular shapes for

Circles, to represent eternity and octagons or similar star shapes, to represent the church's bringing light to the world.

