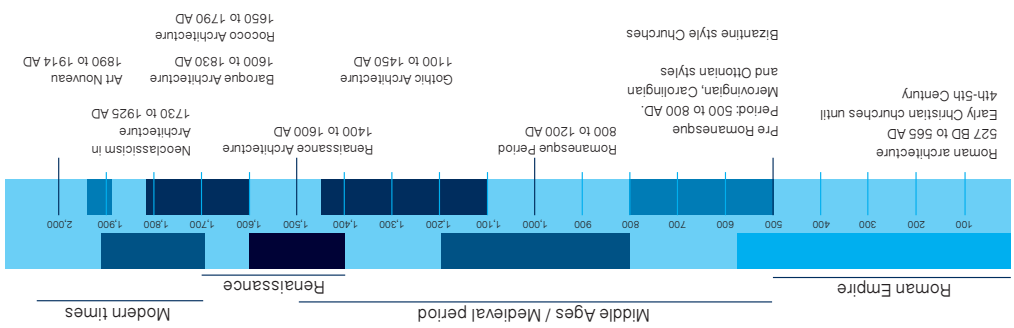
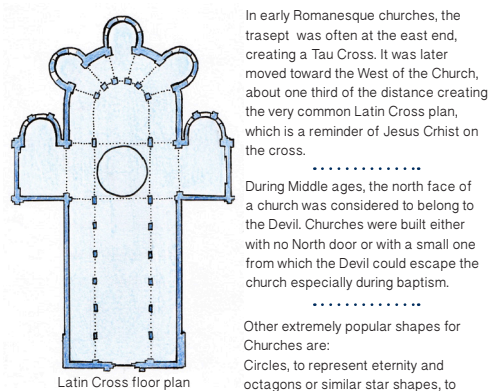


# MINI POCKET GUIDE CHURCH ARCHITECTURE VOCABULARY

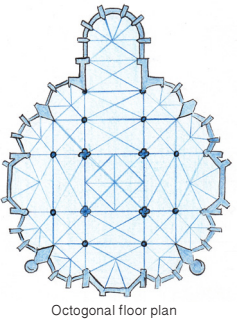
## ARCHITECTURAL STYLES TIMELINE



Churches are places of worship, often shaped in the form of a cross. During the 11th through 14th centuries, a wave of building of cathedrals and smaller parish churches occurred across Western Europe. The term Church is very generic and specific terms can be used to describe, often larger edifices. 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 "bishops' throne". 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. 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 the community. These are not exclusive, a church can be an Abbey, serve as a Cathedral, and also be a Basilica. 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.



Other extremely popular shapes for Churches are:  
 Circles, to represent eternity and octagons or similar star shapes, to represent the church's bringing light to the world.



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

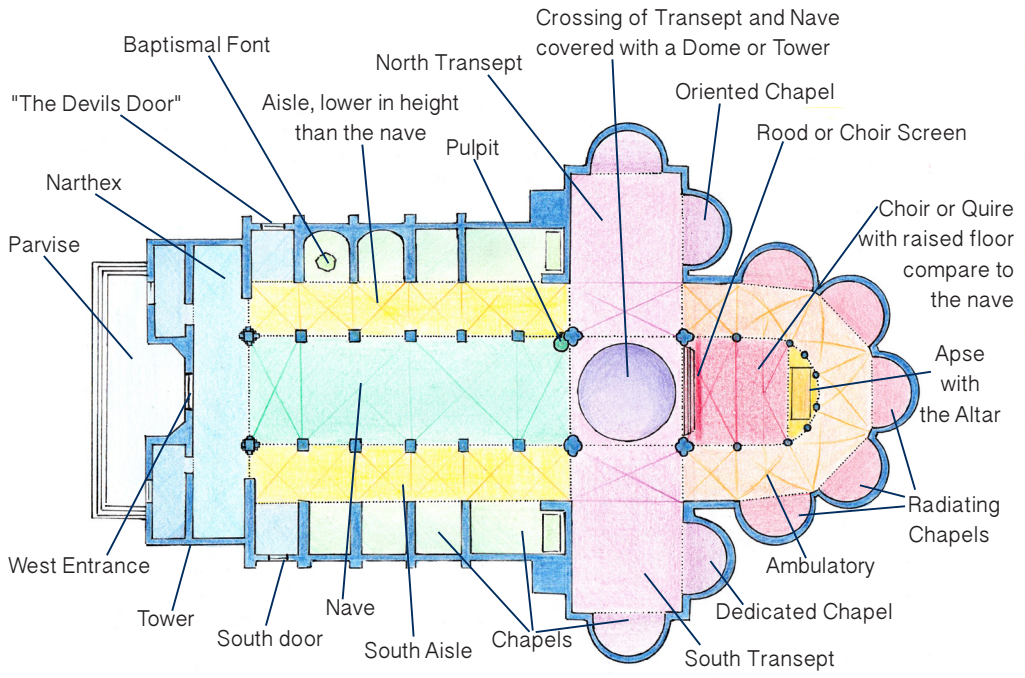
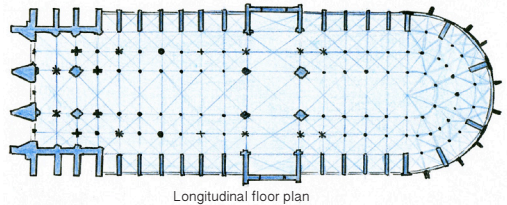
In the 4th century, the first Churches were built, not based on the Roman temples models, as those were not meant for public congregation, but following the floor plans of Roman basilica which were public spaces for meetings, markets and courts of law. Some of the Roman architectural features, like the Atrium, were kept.

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

With Romanesque and Gothic architecture, the transept was moved to the West to create the Latin Cross plan.

Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque styles and the various Revival styles of the late 18th to early 20th centuries had many different interpretations across European countries.

Many Gothic Cathedrals kept the longitudinal plan, like Notre Dame de Paris:



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