ARCHITECTURAL STYLES TIMELINE

Pre Romanesque Period: 500 to 800 AD.

Romanesque Architecture: 1000 to 1200 AD

Gothic Architecture: 1100 to 1500 AD

Renaissance Architecture: 1400 to 1600 AD

Baroque Architecture: 1600 to 1750 AD

Neoclassicism in Architecture: 1730 to 1925 AD

Art Nouveau: 1890 to 1914 AD

Modern times

ARCHITECTURAL VOCABULARY

CHURCH

Atrium

Baptismal Font

Choir or Quire

Chapels

Crossing of Transept and Nave

Nave

Narthex

Parvis

Pulpit

Choir or Quire with raised floor compare to the nave

Oriented Chapel

Rood or Choir Screen

The Devils Door

Aisle, lower in height than the nave

West Entrance

Tower

South door

South Transept

South Aisle

Nave

Atrium

Ambulatory

Radiating Chapels

Dedicated Chapel

Crossing of Transept and Nave covered with a Dome or Tower

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.

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

In Abbey, the cloister is often located to the South.