Lecture #6: Introduction to Architecture

Church Architecture

"Once A Week Art" An Introduction to Art History for Christian Students

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Early worship services in the Roman Empire were conducted in private homes or villas.

Mosaic floor of Roman villa in Israel used as a Christian house of worship in the 3rd century AD.

Fish – symbolizing Christianity One of the Greek inscriptions on the mosaic floor of the villa used for Christian worship lists the name of the woman who donated the altar or table to the "God Jesus Christ"

- Weren't just a place to live, but also where the family's business was conducted
- the front door opened onto a large, rectangular room with little furniture called the *Atrium*
- Near the entrance was a source of water
- At the opposite end of the Atrium was a raised dining area with a table where the master of the house would sit

Private houses in the Roman Empire...



Front door

- When a house was used as a church, the water source became the *baptistry* (baptismal font)
- The atrium became the nave, which could hold 100-150 people
- The table became the *altar*
- The bishop sat in the chair behind the altar
- Parishoners stood up; pews were invented much later; Eastern Orthodox churches still have no pews

Private houses were the early churches



- If the back wall of the chancel (where the service is conducted) is curved, the area behind the chancel is called the apse
- The *nave* is where the congregation gathers during the church service
- The *altar* is where Holy Communion is served



Front door

The Early Church

Church Architectural Terms: The *Nave*: where the congregation gathers





The Nave Rouen, France Cathedral



Monet, Rouen Cathedral





Church Architectural Terms:

The *apse* is the curved area behind the chancel

The *altar* is the table from which Holy Communion is offered

It can be placed against the East Wall of the chancel, or it may be centered in the chancel area.



The cruciform church plan





During medieval times, additional space between the chancel and the nave was often required to make room for the choir, members of religious orders, and priests. These extensions gave the church a crossshaped outline (*cruciform*) when viewed from above.

Cruciform Floor Plan with Transept



A *cathedral* is a church that serves as the bishop's headquarters – it doesn't refer to the style of the church



A basilica is a large and important Catholic church, given special recognition by the Pope



The chancel is the front part of the church were the service is conducted; it is usually 3 steps up from

the nave





The chancel – where the service takes place

> The altar or Communion table

The Nave: where the congregation gathers

The rood screen



In medieval times, a **rood screen** often separated the *nave* from the *chancel*.

nave







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What is an *icon*?

- A religious painting on wood, often of Jesus or the saints
- usually not signed, because the artist wanted to show that his artistic talent came directly from God
- Deliberately not "lifelike" to prevent idolatry



- The *iconostasis* was originally a low fence or wall between the *chancel* & the *nave*
- On it, icons were hung
- It represented the separation of heaven (the *chancel*) from earth (*the nave*)
- Changing out the icons for different seasons of the church year was tedious, so the permanent *iconstasis* was developed

A wall containing many icons in an Orthodox Church is called an *iconostasis.*



The Annunciation (12th century)

The iconostasis was never originally intended to block the view of the chancel from the nave, but over time it grew in size.



By the 15th century, the Russian *iconostasis* consisted of 5 rows of icons.

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St. Seraphim's Orthodox Church in Dallas, TX





Why are there "onion domes" on Russian churches?

- 1) Some say they look were meant to look like candles burning
- 2) Some say they were made to keep snow from piling up on the roof

St. Basil Cathedral



Located on Red
Square in Moscow,
Russia

•Legend that Ivan the Terrible had the architect blinded so he could never build a more beautiful church is untrue



•1 dome represents Jesus Christ

•3 domes represent the Holy Trinity

5 domes representJesus Christ and the4 Evangelists

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Russian cross

Represents Pontius Pilates plaque, "Jesus Christ, King of the Jews"





Represents a footrest, whose purpose was to prevent the flesh from tearing and to prolong the suffering during crucifixion Few churches in Russia display the crescent

Cross over a crescent moon

In 1486, Tsar Ivan the Terrible conquered the Russian city of Kazan, which had been controlled by the Muslim Tatars. He decreed from that time onward, all church crosses should be above the crescent moon, to show Christianity's victory (cross) over Islam (crescent moon).


Baptismal Font

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In the early church, the baptismal font was placed just inside the entrance to the church, sometimes, even on its front porch – the location emphasized the sacrament's importance in the life of a Christian believer

The Baptistry

- A *baptistry* is a building or area of a cathedral surrounding the baptismal font
- Separate buildings for baptism (baptistries) didn't come into being until the time in Church history when many adults were being baptized by immersion



Baptistry: San Giovanni in Laterano, Rome built by Emperor Constantine

The Baptistry: Florence





The North Doors of the Baptistry



 Ghiberti and Brunelleschi competed \odot

 Ghiberti won – his entry was cast in 1 piece; his rival soldered on the figures

Florentine competition: Baptistry doors

Sacrifice of Isaac



Brunelleschi's submission





2nd set of door panels, Gates of Paradise, were completed years later

Baptistry of San Giovanni (St. John) 1059-1150 Florence, Italy

The Baptistry

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When the baptistry was not in use, its doors were sealed shut

Ghiberti's Doors of Paradise



Baptistry buildings were often quite large. They had to be able to hold many people because the bishop only performed adult baptisms 3 times per year



As viewed from the congregation, there are 2 places for speakers. The *pulpit,* where the gospel is spoken and the sermon is given, is located on the left. This left side of the church is the gospel side.





Pulpit – Gospel side of the church

Lectern readings



St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York

Some Famous Churches

- St. Paul's Cathedral, London
 - St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City, Italy
- St. Basil's Cathedral, Moscow, Russia
 - National Cathedral, Washington, D.C.
 - Cathedral, Cologne
 St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York

St. Paul's Cathedral

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London, England

Architect: Sir Christopher Wren

@ Ed O'Keeffe

- English Baroque style, designed by architect, Christopher Wren
- Building begun in 1677
- Florence

 Nightingale,
 artists Turner,
 Henry Moore,
 Winston Churchill
 buried here





Photo of St. Paul's Cathedral during the Blitz of World War II. German bombs landed in or near the London church on many occasions.

Wedding of Princess Diana and Prince Charles inside St. Paul's Cathedral, London

Basilica of St. Denis Paris, France

- Original Abbey of St. Denis founded in 7th century
- 1st major structure designed and built in Gothic style
- Burial place of French kings, and Marie Antoinette
- St. Denis is the patron saint of France
- First rose window in france
- Flying buttresses
- Clerestory windows
- Ribbed vaulted ceiling

- Cornerstone
 laid in 1163
- One of the first buildings in the world to use flying buttresses
- Cathedral was desecrated during French Revolution





Notre Dame de Paris

"rose" window

Bell towers

Flying buttresses

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Gothic window

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Apse of Notre Dame de Paris

Flying buttresses

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Interior view of one of the rose windows

1 3 W 28 W 38 W

Kings of Judah statues on outside of building

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Notre Dame de Paris

In 1793 during the French Revolution, the Kings of Judah statues were beheaded when rioters mistakenly thought they represented kings of France

Notre Dame de Paris

Notre Dame – statues of the Apostles

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Gargoyles – rooftop of Notre Dame

During the mid-1800's, when Notre Dame was in a state of disrepair, Victor Hugo wrote a book known as "The Hunchback of Notre Dame", which raised interest in restoring the cathedral.



Notre Dame de Paris: coronation site of Napoleon I and Josephine in 1804





Pope Pius II attending the coronation ceremony of Napoleon

In reality, Pope Pius was very angry about being at the coronation, but David was told to change the painting to make him appear less annoyed.

St. Basil's Cathedral Moscow, Russia

Built by Tsar Ivan IV (Ivan the Terrible) in 1556 to celebrate the victory of the Russian Christians over the Muslim Tatars in Kazan.

The legend that the architect's eyes were poked out after he built St. Basil's so no other church could be as beautiful is *not* true.





Duomo Florence, Italy

 Dome designed by Brunelleschi

The Duomo

Building began in 1269 & was completed in 1469 with placement of ball & cross

Brunelleschi was so well thought of that he was buried in the underground vault with the church bishops.





Duomo © Campanile (Bell tower)

The Dome – designed by Brunelleschi

Original ball & cross on top of dome designed by artist. *Verocchio* (Leonardo da Vinci's teacher)



Westminster Abbey, London, England

First 1/3 of King James Old Testament translated here

Site of coronations of British kings and queens

Author *Charles Dickens* buried here

Chaucer buried here

Poet, Alfred, Lord Tennyson buried here



Queen Elizabeth II, at her coronation at Westminster Abbey, London in 1953 Westminster Abbey



Church and monastery were dedicated to the memory of St. Peter



Hagia Sophia Istanbul, Turkey

Byzantine church converted to a mosque by the Muslims

World's largest Christian church for 1000 years

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Minarets

St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City

Church appeared in the 2002 *Spiderman* movie

> Selected as one of the favorite buildings in America

Gothic Revival architectural style

Canterbury Cathedral Canterbury, England

CONTRACTOR OF THE

Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, was murdered here by the knights of King Henry II in 1170

Church originally designed by Bramante

The front of the church (façade) is topped with 13 statues of John the Baptist, Christ and 11 of his apostles World's tallest dome designed by Michelangelo



Pieta by Michelangelo found inside St. Peter's

St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City

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Bernini's colonnade

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Egyptian obelisk

Contraction of the local division of the

St. Peter's Basilica

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Statue of

St. Peter

Statues of the Apostles

Only obelisk in Rome which has not toppled since ancient Roman times





from 13th century BC, was moved to a Circus to the left of the Basilica in 37AD by Emperor Caligula, then moved to St. Peter's Square in 1586

> Bernini's colonnade

Thorncrown Chapel





Considered one of America's most beautiful buildings. Designed by E. Fay Jones, understudy to Frank Lloyd Wright