

2022-04-06 - Lecture 27

8.3 Western Europe after the Roman Empire, c 500-1200 (continued)

- 1) Vocabulary (re-cap from previous lecture)
 - **abbey**
 - **monastery**
 - **cloister**
 - **refectory**
 - **westworks**
 - An **abbey** is sanctified by the Church in Rome. Walled, includes land, residence for an Abbess or Abbot, and may include monks, nuns, priests-in-training. A **monastery** is a place where monks or hermits live alone in the monastic lifestyle of religious devotion.
 - Venn-Diagram: *all abbeys are monasteries but not all monasteries are abbeys*
 - **Ideal plan of St. Gall** (c. 816) - embodied the social order of the **Benedictine Monks**
 - (1) **life of devotion** to prayer and study
 - (2) **life of production** in sustainable community
 - Only surviving architectural plan of a major work of architecture from between 476-1300
 - Program consisted of 1/3 monastic duties, 1/3 agriculture and crafts by serfs, 1/3 hospitality.
 - Church dominated the plan - a **double-ender** with a **westworks**.
 - Included a **cloister**, a **hospice**, and a **refectory**.
 - The cloister was a meditative space that one ambulated - but generally did not enter upon, as it represented a *paradise* that had to be imagined and attained....
 - The **refectory** was the dining hall.
 - * The **hospice** was the place for pilgrims and paupers to stay.
- 4) Dominance and power of the **abbeys** and **monasteries**
 - Gorze and **Cluny** emerged as the dominant centers of monastic power and influence (Northern France and Central France respectively).
 - **Cluny II** (980) Order of Cluny begun by William I, Duke of Aquitaine (910)
 - **Cluny III** (third version of Cluny) begun in **1088** by **St. Hugh of Semur**
 - Very sophisticated alterations and enlargements to accommodate the lives and work of the monks.
 - **Cluny III is a Romanesque Cathedral**. Five-aisled, Roman arches, barrel vaults, simple planar forms, simple solid buttresses, masonry reduces as building gets higher (thus reducing weight). Simple, strong, and lighting was not great as round-arch windows and barrel vaults were high up and forces needed to travel down walls.
 - Cluny home to about 1200 monks and *conversi* lay initiates who carried out menial tasks so that monks could concentrate on prayer and liturgical purpose.
 - Twin palaces for noble visitors such as popes, kings, emperors.
 - The ambulatory around the apse contained a series of small radiating chapels - this development is called a **chevet**. It allowed pilgrims to visit the churches and chapels without disturbing the choir.
 - The **chevet** form dominated churches of the 11th century to accommodate the pilgrimages.
 - Chevet of Abbey of Fautevroult (1100) - Eleanor of Aquitaine
 - One side for monks - one side for nuns
 - **Cistercians** led by **St. Bernard of Clairvaux** (1090-1153) reacted strongly against the opulence and ostentatiousness of Cluny III
 - *Cistercians eschewed decoration and preferred austerity*. Decoration to them was a distraction from their meditative purpose - design principles and aesthetics centered on good proportions and structural expression.
 - **Le Thoronet Abbey (1150)** by the **Cistercians**
- 5) The Normans and **William the Conquerer and spread of Romanesque**
 - In a deal between **King Charles III** of France and Viking leader **Rollo**, Charles gave the **Duchy of Normandy** to the Vikings to (1) get them to stop invading France, and (2) provide a buffer between Paris and other potential invaders
 - Therefore the **Normans** came to power and they were *ex-Vikings*
 - King of Normans William built the **Abbey and Cathedral of St Étienne (1066)** in Caen in coastal France along the English Channel
 - **Romanesque cathedral** of sheer, tall **westworks** and ribbed vaulting
 - William embarks on Norman conquest of England **1066**. This is the **Norman Invasion**.
 - William went on to build more than eighty castles in England
 - **Durham Cathedral (1093-1133)** **Romanesque cathedral** with westworks
 - Ironically, now that **Mont-Saint-Michel** belonged to the Normans, who had destroyed it in

the 10th century as Vikings, they undertook to rebuild the *Romanesque* church and abbey now that it belonged to them.

6) The ***Romanesque architecture***

- Strong geometrical, cubic architecture
- Arches are usually half-round // Vaults are usually barrel vaults
- Surfaces are planar and simple with integral buttresses (not flying buttresses)
- Windows are small and few and many are high up
- Forms are simple for the most part and carving is not abundant
- Some Romanesque Cathedrals have towers that disintegrate into spires and finials
- Fenestration increases higher up to lighten the load (mass) of the structure
- Compare and contrast diagram of Durham with several French Gothic of later period