HISTORY OF WESTERN ARCHITECTURE
LEARNING IN RETIREMENT - CARLETON UNIVERSITY
Raymond Stern – 2019

3RD SESSION – Monday May 13, 2019

260 - 1500


Early Christian - 260 to 550AD

Emperor Constantine – shift to Christianity and the East. Morphing of the Basilica into a Church.


Byzantine - 500 – 1453AD

Design of dome over a square – the Pendentive. Hagia Santa Sophia, Istanbul, Turkey - 537AD.

St Mark's Cathedral, Venice – 1092AD – regionalism, pluralism

Doges Palace – 1400AD – layered regionalism in design

The Islamic Golden Age – 8th to 14th century. From the Indus Valley in the East, through Persia, Middle East, North
Africa, to southern Spain in Europe.

House of Wisdom in Bagdad.
Islamic pointed arches – squinch arches.

Mosque-Cathedral of Cordoba – 200 year history.
Outstanding example of clash of civilizations expressed through architecture.
Concept of the “haram” or praying hall in the form of a hypostyle hall is the main feature of the mosque. Beauty and unification through repetition.

2. Gothic - 1200 to 1300 - Early Gothic Style
   1300 to 1400 - Decorated Gothic Style
   1400 to 1500 - Perpendicular Gothic Style
Feeling of lightness inside and out achieved with structural innovation.
   1. Pointed arch
   2. Ribbed vault
   3. Flying buttresses

Saint Denis Abbey, Paris - 1144 - first truly Gothic building.

Quito Cathedral, Ecuador – 1567AD
Syncretism in design

Romanesque - Early medieval Europe.
Semi-circular arches. Massiveness, thick walls, round arches, sturdy pillars, groin vaults, large towers, abstract geometric decoration.
Pair of arched window openings within a larger arch.

**Pisa Cathedral** - 11th century - Fused stylistic elements. The transept.

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1. **Pointed arch**
2. **Ribbed vault**
3. **Flying buttresses**

**Saint Denis Abbey**, Paris - 1144 - first truly Gothic building.

**Amiens**, Paris - 13th century – French Gothic strove for **great height**.

**Saint Chapelle**, Paris – 1248 – largest ratio of window to solid

**Multi-purpose** use accommodating entire community 10,000 people.

Court of the Lions, **Alhambra, Granada, Spain** – 1362.

King's College Chapel University of Cambridge - 1515 - Perpendicular English Gothic. World's largest fan vault – huge stained glass.


Saint Chapelle, Paris – 1248 – largest ratio of window to solid


King's College Chapel University of Cambridge - 1515 - Perpendicular. English largest fan vault – huge stained glass