

## **Key characteristics of and differences between Carolingian, Romanesque and Gothic styles and regional variations**

### **Carolingian**

– trying to revive Roman pattern by:

- large scale
- geometric order
- fragments of classical detail used decoratively

### **Romanesque**

Three formal elements of Romanesque shared by all regions

- blind arcading
- transverse arches
- vaulting in nave

Distinguishing between regions:

- French – plain and severe stone
- English (Norman) – combines French framework with Celtic decorative patterns
- Italian – has freestanding campanile
  - Northern – material is brick
  - Tuscan – Lombard screen facades, polychromy

### **Gothic**

French Phases:

- Early – first development of flying buttress, pointed arch, stained glass “walls”
- High – large lancet windows with tracery
- Rayonnant (Flamboyant) – tracery patterns like rays or flickering flames

English Phases:

- Early – solid/void ratio in walls more solid than French, wall buttresses, dominant central spire at crossing, not on west facade
- Decorated – development of elaborate tierceron vaulting and carved ornament
- Perpendicular – return to more sober ornament, emphasis on verticality, fan vaults

German: very like French until 14<sup>th</sup> c., when develops unique curvilinear vaulting patterns

Italian: there isn't any real Gothic architecture in Italy worth talking about