The Elements of Gothic
Amiens Cathedral, Begun 1220
Reims Cathedral,
the elevation

Clerestory

Triforium

arcade
Reims Cathedral

A section

Flying buttress

Vaults and Clerestory

Triforium

Arcade level

nave

aisle

Pier buttress
Façade  nave  transept  choir or chevet

Apse and radiating chapels

Circulation of pilgrims and the faithful to the altars

Access to the church

Lay congregation  clergy
Reims, the sequence of buildings superimposed
Reims, the Cathedral complex
The essential elements of Gothic:

- pointed arches
- rib vaults
- large windows (clerestories)
- scale – tall buildings and longitudinal (axial) plans
the arch – detail of the Colosseum in Rome
The impost block, or abacus, supports the centering.
Abacus or impost
Rib vaults rising from the impost and capital below
The groin vault

Thrust is concentrated in 4 points; sides can open to windows
The projecting and stiffening element in a Gothic vault is called the rib; Transverse \( rr \) diagonal
A spatial unit in a medieval church is called the bay, and the shape of the bay and its supports is intimately related to the vaults.

The plan of a church consists of the repeated units of the bay.
the sequence of spatial units = bays
Round arches over rectangular bays

Round arches over a square bay
The rib
Cairo, the Ibn Tulun Mosque

C. 876-879
THE LIWAN OR SANCTUARY OF THE MOSQUE OF IBN-TULOON.
Kairouan
Tunisia

Pointed
and

Horseshoe arches – on re-used columns
Cordoba, the great mosque
Masonry (stone) layed in horizontal layers called *coursing*
Destroyed early 19th century: Cambrai
Valenciennes, Arras
The bandes noires at work in Paris