

Frequently Asked Questions

Question 01:

Explain Carolingian Renaissance.

Answer:

Carolingian Renaissance is the first of three medieval renaissances. The beginning of the Carolingian era is marked by the coronation of Charles the great by Pope Leo II. The said period is considered to be the period of cultural activity. Carolingian Architecture is the style of North European Architecture promoted by Charles the great. The Carolingian Renaissance happened in the late 8th and 9th Centuries. The period exhibited a conscious attempt to recreate the Roman renaissance, emulating Roman, Early Christian and Byzantine architecture, with its own innovation.

Question 02:

Explain various factors that influenced European Romanesque Architecture.

Answer:

The following factors influenced Romanesque Architecture in Europe:

- i. Geographical:
 - The style which grew up on the decay of the Roman empire, and is known as Romanesque, was carried on throughout practically the whole of the Western empire that is, in those countries which had been directly under the rule of Rome.
 - The influence of Byzantine art brought through Ravenna and Venice also influenced the Italian Romanesque in Lombardy and Europe generally.
- ii. Geological:
 - In these early times a rough use of the material at hand characterizes the style in each country, and will be referred to under the same.
 - Local materials like stone ,bricks, marbles, terracotta were used, as well as readymade columns from existing old Roman buildings.
- iii. Climatic:

- Local styles were favored by the variations of climate north and south of the Alps, as referred to in each country.
- iv. Religious:
- As Christianity grew throughout Europe, the erection of a church often marked the foundation of a city.
 - Papacy was rising to great power and influence.
 - Pragmatic Sanction had already conferred the authority of Bishops over provincial and municipal governments and this had increased the power of the church.
 - Monastic communities had come into existence from 6th century
 - But the 11th century saw the great development of Monastic system.
 - Schools attached to monasteries trained youth for the service of religion.
 - Monks and their pupils were often the designers of cathedrals, and up to the 13th century architecture was considered sacred art.
- v. Social and Political
- The system of feudal tenure, or the holding of land on condition of military service, was growing up, and caused important changes in the social and political organization of states.
 - The growth of the towns as civilization advanced is noticeable.
 - Constant warfare rendered the condition of the people unsettled during this period, and skill in craftsmanship was at the lowest ebb.
 - Christianity and civilization gradually extended from southern to western Europe.
- vi. Historical
- Before the year A.D. 1000, buildings sprang up in all parts with many local peculiarities, which will be noticed under each country; but the change was slow.
 - Nearly all the nations of Europe had at this time come into existence ; France, Germany, and Spain, were becoming powerful and tending to set aside the rule of the Holy Roman Empire
 - In northern Europe, Denmark, Sweden, and Norway were distinct kingdoms, and England had become welded into one by the Norman kings at the end of the eleventh century

Question 03:

What are the chief monastic orders? Elaborate with examples.

Answer:

Monastic communities had come into existence from 6th century. But the 11th century saw the great development of Monastic system. Schools attached to monasteries trained youth for the service of religion. Monks and their pupils were often the designers of cathedrals, and up to the 13th century architecture was considered sacred art. The chief Monastic orders were as follows:

(i) The Benedictine order

- Founded in the South of Italy in the sixth century by S. Benedict, by whose decree architecture, painting, mosaic and all branches of art were taught.
- All the older monasteries in England belonged to this order, Canterbury and Westminster Abbey being the chief establishments.

(ii) The Cluniac order

- The Cluniac order was founded in A.D. 909, the celebrated Abbey at Cluny being the head quarters.
- The plan was especially notable for double transepts, a feature which was adopted in many English Cathedrals, as at Lincoln and Salisbury

(iii) The Cistercian order

- Founded in A.D. 1098, at Citeaux, in Burgundy.
- In plan, the typical church was divided into three parts transversely by screens, walls, or steps.
- There were frequently no aisles. The transepts were short, as also was the eastern arm of the cross, and the choir extended westward of the transepts.
- The most important examples were Furness, Fountains, Roche, and Kirkstall Abbeys.

(iv) The Augustinian order

- Differed little from the Benedictine.
- It was introduced into England in A.D. 1105, and Bristol, Carlisle and Oxford Cathedrals were founded by this order.

(v) The Premonstratensian order

- Instituted at Premontre, in Picardy, in A.D. 1119
- Castle Acre Priory in England is an example

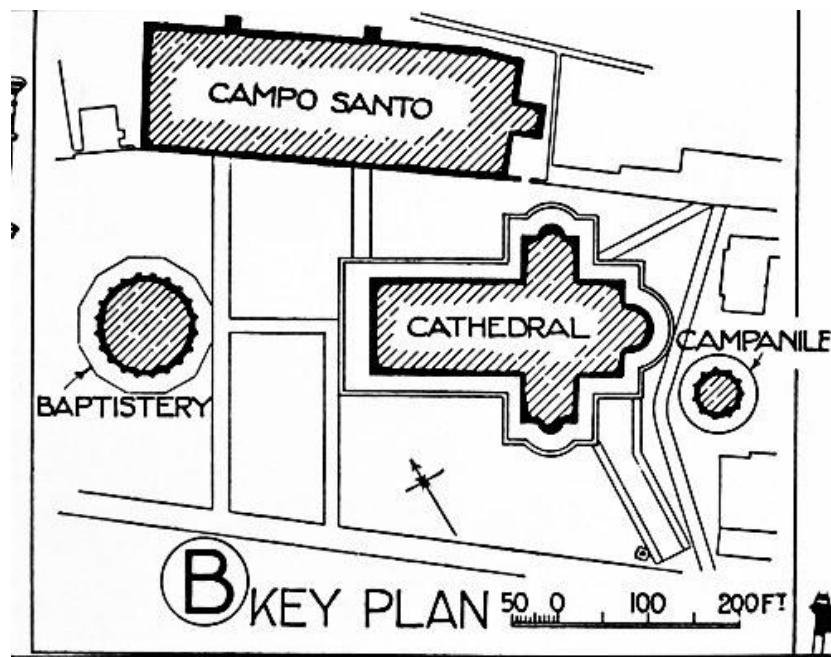
(vi) The Carthusian order

- The Carthusian order was founded by S. Bruno, about A.D. 1080, the chief French establishment being the Grande Chartreuse, near Grenoble, others being Vauvert, Clermont in Auvergne, Villefranche de Rouergue, and Montrieux.
- Two churches were preferred, one for the monks and the other for the people

Question 04:

Explain the architecture of the Pisa Group, Italy.

Answer:

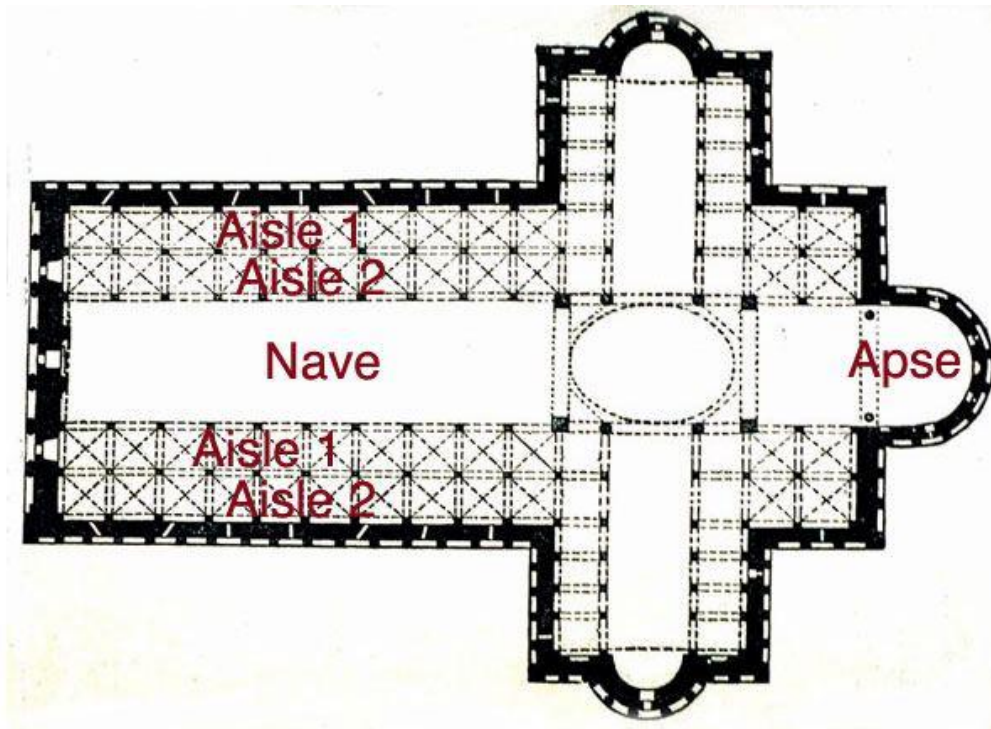


- Pisa Cathedral with Baptistery, Campanile and Campo Santo forms one of the most famous Building Complex in the world.

Pisa Cathedral

- Build from AD 1063 to 92
- The Cathedral is the finest example of Romanesque Architecture.
- It resembled early Basilican churches in plan

- The exterior of the cathedral has bands of red and white marble
- The Ground story has wall arcading
- There are transepts with segmental apse at each end which is an advance over Basilican plan.



- The elliptical dome over the crossing, or intersection of nave and transepts were added later date.
- General proportions were employed in the cathedral and beauty and delicacy of its ornate features became the important feature of the exterior of the cathedral.

The Campanile, Pisa

- Circular tower – 52ft in diameter
- 8 stories of encircling arcades
- It is now the world famous leaning tower, the wonder of the modern world.
- Its inclination, which is on an increase, is due to subsidence in the foundation

- The upper part now over hangs the lower portion, and is hence very unstable in appearance

The Baptistry, Pisa

- Constructed from AD 1153 to 1278
- Designed by Diotti Salvi
- Circular plan with a central space or nave, 60ft in diameter
- Separated by 4 piers and 8 columns from the surrounding 2 storied aisle.
- The building is 129ft in diameter
- The lower storey surrounded by half columns connected by semi circular arches. Under one arch is the door.
- Above there is an open arcade of small detached shafts
- The arcade is surmounted by Gothic additions of 14th century
- The building is crowned by an outer hemispherical roof. Through that penetrates a conical dome
- There is a remarkable similarity to Church of St.Donato at Zara.

Note: Add sketches to supplement your answer.

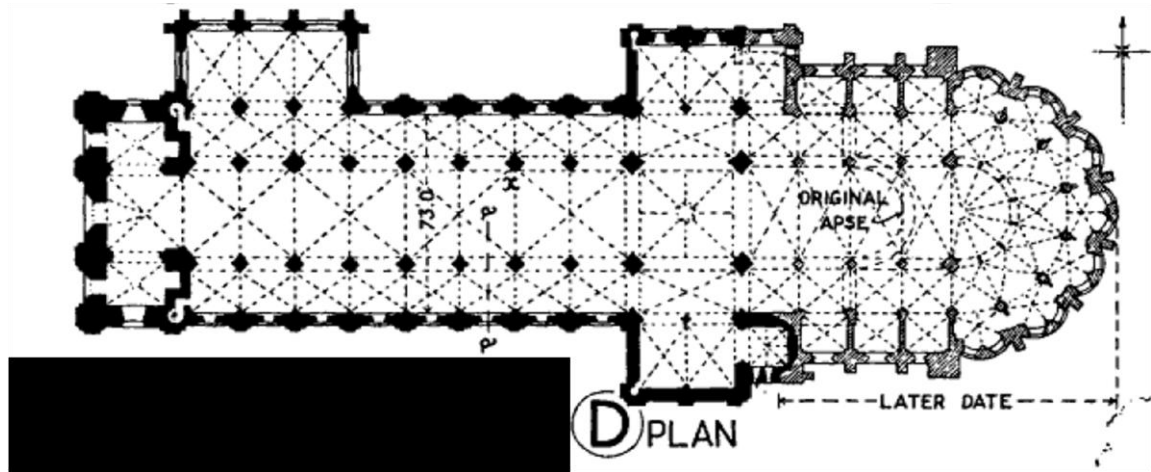
Question 05:

Explain the architecture of Abbaye-Aux-Hommes, France

Answer:

- One of the finest example of Romanesque architecture in Europe.
- Build in AD 1066
- It is also known as St.Etienne
- It is considered to be one of the many fine churches of Normandy at this period
- It is the product of prosperity and power of the Norman dukes.

- The construction of the said church was commenced by William the conqueror.
- The Vaulted Basilican type later developed into complete Gothic in the 13th century.



- The western façade of the church, flanked by square towers with angle pinnacles were later added in the 13th century
- That served as the prototype of later Gothic churches. Many, later gothic churches were inspired by the Architecture of this church.
- This church saw the usage of the Ribbed vaulting system, for the first time in France
- The features included Rosette windows and flying buttress
- Sexpartite vault, which is a rib vault divided into six bays by two diagonal ribs and three transverse ribs was used.
- Use of spires as architectural feature
- The abbey was to be built in Caen stone