

## History of Architecture and Culture III

### Lecture 2

#### Carolingian Renaissance

The first thing that we will be seeing today is the Carolingian Renaissance; the Carolingian renaissance is the first of three major medieval renaissance that happened at that time. Renaissance as you all know means rebirth or the redevelopment of something that was almost gone. So Renaissance is a period where you try bringing back the past that has influenced or that meant something to the society at one particular period of time. So the Carolingian renaissance when I talk about it, it happened in the beginning of the Carolingian era and it was marked by the coronation of Charles the great by Pope Leo II. This period of Carolingian Renaissance was the period of the cultural activity boom of that Roman times if you say, at that time this period marked the bringing back or the creation of literature, art, architecture. This period celebrated each and every culture that was valid or that was considered important at that particular point of time. It is still considered important for us. This Carolingian architecture if you see, the style of the North European Architecture and it was this particular architecture that I said was promoted by Charles the great. This evolved in the late 8th and 9th centuries. If you see this particular time, there was a constant trial or constant effort which was made in recreating the Roman renaissance, the roman culture, the roman architecture, like from the early Christian or Byzantine architecture that I said was lost after a particular period and obviously, they added their own innovation their own technology, their own understanding and they created some particular kind of architecture, art, culture, which we now call as the Carolingian renaissance. Renaissance because it tried illuminating or bringing back the past which was almost gone. Moving on to one of the most beautiful period of Christian architecture called the Romanesque Architecture in Europe. Romanesque architecture is one of the most landmarked architecture forms that evolved. If you see, not only in Christian architecture, in the world architecture, Roman architecture is one of the landmarked architecture that was ever made. On the decline of the Roman empire, the Romanesque style grew up in those countries that were under the rule of Rome. As I said, Rome was the epitome of power at that point of time. So many countries were under the Roman rule and after the Roman empire declined, each and every country that were under the Roman rule had this Romanesque architecture slowly growing in them. The reason apart from the Roman origin, the name obviously, Romanesque came from the Roman origin. It has a lot of Byzantine art influence. If you see the Roman influence along with the Byzantine influence made Romanesque architecture such an exquisite piece of work which you can see right now. If you see the materials; stones, bricks, marbles, terracotta, which were like pretty knew to the church architecture if you see and already made existing columns of the Roman buildings definitely acted as a quarry which were completely taken and Romanesque style of churches. The climatic conditions as I said varies

from North to South of Europe and that had a very direct influence on the Romanesque architecture. As I said, as Christianity grew throughout Europe, the erection of a church often marked the foundation of a city. As in, when a church was made, a city was made around it. For example, if you taken Indian cities, India had a lot of influence of the temple architecture. So, if you see there are a lot of cities that are developed around a temple. They were called temple cities, the same way, if you see Europe, Christianity became so important that there were churches made and civilizations made around the church with a church as the base. So at that time, the Pope was growing in power. The Papacy was at its highest, greatest point, the pragmatic sanction has been conferred for the Bishops, where the Bishops were given the authority over the municipal government or the provincial government, that itself shows the importance of church, the church got at that particular point of time.

So, that was when the monastic communities came into existence. This Monastic community came into existence in 6th Century itself. But by the 11th century, that became a kind of a revolution, it became so important, so powerful and monastic systems were developed. So there were many schools attached to the monastery and they trained youth for the religious services. So they had Monks and pupils and these monks and their pupils jointly designed the churches then and those churches were executed at that particular time. They didn't have a seperate architecture, seperate group of engineers who made those churches. These particular monks and their pupils, they designed and executed these particular churches and till almost 13th C, architecture was considered a form of divine art which they themselves took care of. There were a lot of chief Monastic orders that were made at that particular time and I am not going to explain each and every order from that time but I will probably mention two or three important monastic orders that took place at that time. The first one being the Benedictine order which happened in the 6th Century, in the south of Italy. This Benedictine order is important amongst the orders because this particular order along with teaching religious aspects to the pupil or teaching the religious rights to the students, they also taught architecture, painting, arts, they were all considered important to be taught. For example; Canterbury or westminster in England were examples of such monastic orders.

The next is the, Cluniac order in AD 909. Abbey of Cluny was headquarters of this particular order and this particular order has a double transept plan. So example of this particular order is the Lincoln and Salisbury Cathedral. The third one is the Cistercian order in AD 1098, this wasn't a Burgundy. Like that, there were many orders that were made during that point of time.

Moving on, to the influences of the Romanesque architecture. While, many parts of Europe still showed the Roman influence, many other parts of the Europe, slowly drifted off to another type of architecture all together. So this was very much influenced by the Byzantine art. The Byzantine art is basically those western, European architecture exhibiting the European

influence in a paramount degree, in a huge degree. Those were called the Byzantine system or the Byzantine classification. So there was something called the dark ages in the Egyptian architecture. Roman empire came, Roman empire conquered, Roman empire reigned and Roman empire declined. At that particular time, almost all of Europe, almost every important country of Europe was under the Romanesque rule. The Roman rule after it declined, it left behind a history of vast civilization which was no longer or was regulated or protected by the Roman law. Roman law as I said was the most important, most influential law and it had its own positives and negatives but Roman law made sure that particular community was living, that particular architecture was moving, those particular buildings were protected, they had a rule, they had a leader. But once it came down, European architecture came down drastically and it became something it was not. It became dead, it became dark. So all these monuments became unguarded and neglected, it became something. One fine day, Europe woke up, they decided that's it, we are going to move on, we are going to create something that the world will later look upon. When Europe decided this, Romanesque was born. See this Romanesque again was like early Basilican architecture because this had these ancient buildings that existed that time acting as a quarry for the new and determined character of the newly formed architecture style. So if you see Romanesque employed the Roman architecture vaulting system. See, Roman architecture's vaulting system was one important architecture form that was executed at that point of time. This Roman cross vaults were used throughout Europe till the beginning of the 12th Century. So this Romanesque architecture gave rise to the Rib and panel vaulting and that superseded the existing Roman cross vault, in which a framework of ribs supported thin Roman panels. You can see, Quadripartite vault was born.

### **Italian Romanesque**

Moving on the Romanesque architecture in Europe had Italian architecture, the German architecture, the English architecture, the French architecture, everything had their own set of Romanesque buildings, Romanesque churches, Romanesque Cathedrals and the first and foremost thing that we will be seeing today is; the Italian Romanesque architecture.

Italian Romanesque architecture, they adopted the Basilican concept as such because Italians were very slow in terms of adapting new construction style, new construction methodology and more over Roman architecture was centred in Rome. So, they didn't have to go looking for materials or looking for buildings because they were already there with them. So, what they decided, they decided to maintain the basic plan and the design of the existing Basilican concept of churches. But they concentrated on detailing and ornamentation for those particular buildings because for them, the ornamental arcades, the ornamental detailing became their most important part of their architecture. So, moving on, now I will be taking you to one of the most extraordinary building complex of the world. The Pisa group in Italy, if you see the Piza

group, in the plan you can see, you have the Cathedral, the Campanile, the Campo Santo and the Baptistery. So the Pisa group in fact forms the most famous building complex in the world and it actually has the baptistry which is the leaning tower of Pisa presently and it was one of the wonders of the modern world, the ancient world, everything.

This is the Pisa group of buildings. Here you have the Cathedral, here you have the Campanile which is the leaning tower of Pisa. This is the Baptistry and this is the Campo Santo, this building if you see here.

Moving on, first building which we will be discussing right now is the Pisa Cathedral. This was constructed between AD 1063 - 1092 and it is the finest examples of Romanesque architecture of all times. This resembled the early Basilican churches in plan as such if you see the plan, this part is as such is the Early Basilican church. It had a Nave, aisles on either side. The difference being the aisle was almost the size of the Nave and they had Aisle 1 and Aisle 2 and a central column between the aisles. That was the small difference you can see from the usual Basilican concept of architecture and the exteriors if you see had a band of red and white marble. In the ground storey, you can see wall arcading like this and the transept with segmental arch towards the end forms a small difference or a bigger difference from the usual Basilican concept. This was more like a cross in plan and you had three axis at all ends and the previous Basilican plan from the previous lecture if you remember had only a single Apse, where the Bishop used to sit. So, moving on the Pisa Cathedral has an Elliptical dome over the crossing which you see, this part of the dome. If you see this part and this part form a part of the churches. The place where these two coincide in the centre of that, there is a huge dome which is made but then actually this was not a part of the preliminary plan of the church. This became a later addition to the church. The reason why this particular church is extraordinary is because of the general proportions, beauty and delicacy of its ornate features. Its very simple and symmetrical and elegant.

Moving on, the next important building in this group is the Campanile, Pisa. So, it's a circular tower of 52 ft in diameter if you see. This tower is particularly important because it's part of the modern day wonders of the world. It is world famous, the leaning tower of Pisa. It has 8 storeys of encircling arcades. If you see these arcades, they encircle all eight storeys and it's like a crystal clear that every floor looks the same and the thing is, the inclination of this particular tower which has been a part of our conversation an debate since time and memorial was actually not planned before. It is basically due to the subsidence in the foundation and if you see, the top part of the building and the bottom part of the building, the top part hangs over the bottom part of the building and it looks very unstable in appearance.

Moving on, the next part of the particular group is the Baptistry Pisa. This Baptistry was also a circular plan and if you see the centre space or Nave is 60ft in diameter and it is separated by 4 piers and 8 columns from the surrounding two storey aisle. So basically the, aisle forms the outer diameter of this particular Baptistry which is 129 ft in diameter. If you see how Roman architecture gave rise to this Romanesque architecture, the Roman architecture was always square, it had particular number of sides. It was never a circle. The circle became a part of the church or a complex after Romanesque came into existence. So this particular complex itself has two buildings that are circular in plan and the outer circle of this particular building that I am talking about, the Baptistry Pisa is 129 ft in diameter i.e the overall diameter of the building. If you see, the lower storey is surrounded by half columns connected by semicircular arches. One of such arches opens into a door and that becomes an entry. That means the person who has designed this particular building has made sure that the symmetry is not lost, the continuity is not lost. They made the entry so camouflaged that it almost goes very similar to the other parts of the lower storey of this particular building. So in this, particular Baptistry, in the above flows you can see, there is a small completely columnated storey with shafts that are detached from each other at particular equal intervals. Above this particular flow, you can see a small gothic addition which surprises you because this Gothic was not a style of the Romanesque architecture. There is nothing to be surprised of, there is nothing to be shocked about because this was not a part of real plan of the particular Baptistry. This was later a Gothic addition that happened much later in the 14 Century. So, that is not a part of the Romanesque architecture style. So, please make a note of that. So, the particular building is crowned by an outer hemispherical roof. If you see this is the hemispherical roof which completely covers the whole building and through that penetrates the Conical dome. The Conical dome actually starts just below the particular roof and that dome penetrates this hemispherical roof and that becomes the most important architectural feature of this particular building because this kind of overlapping of two architectural features has never been experimented before. So, this particular church in plan has a remarkable similarity to the church of St. Donato at Zara and this brings us to the end of discussing the Pisa complex at Italy. As you may know and as you may understand, this is the one of the finest example of Church architecture of all times, not only Romanesque but of all time.

Moving on to the French Romanesque examples; Abbaye-Aux-Hommes at Caen. This is the particular church that I am talking about. The French renaissance if you see was a lot different from the Italian renaissance and it had its own influences and its own construction style. If you see this particular Abbaye-Aux-Hommes, is very different from the construction of this particular Pisa, Cathedral at the Pisa complex. This was constructed in AD 1066 and its also known as St. Etienne and people call it Abbey-St. Etienne or Abbaye-Aux-Hommes, whichever they please. It is one of the finest attraction for the French and for the tourists who visit France.

Even now it is considered to be one of the biggest examples of Gothic architecture. Now I will tell you it is the example of Gothic architecture presently. When this church was made, it was made in the period of Romanesque architecture and later these kind of additions were added to it, which actually was a part of the Gothic architecture. If you see, this was one of the many fine churches of the Normandy period and at this time, the Norman dukes were extremely popular, extremely rich, extremely prosperous and they were very famous. This particular church is one of the examples of the prosperity of these Norman Dukes. This was commenced by William conqueror and this Basilican type of church later developed into a Gothic architecture example in the 13 Century. If you see, this was the plan, this was the original Apse of the church. If you see this particular plan, you can see there is Nave, there is Aisle and this is more like the Aisle is half the size of the Nave, it was a typical Basilican plan previously and later, this part was a later addition which made it completely a gothic architecture. This particular church later became the epitome of Gothic architectural styles.

Moving on, these two western facade towers, flanked by square towers with angle pinnacles were later added in the 13th Century and that served as a prototype of the Gothic churches later as I said. This is the tower that I am talking about. So, the Ribbed vaulting system which I was talking about which was brought during the Romanesque period. The ribbed vaulting system was used for the first time in France for this particular church. If you can see, there are Rosette windows, flying buttress, everything in this particular church but this Sexpartite vault was used for the first time in this particular church. That was like the most important part of this particular architecture. The Sexpartite vault is a rib vault divided into six bays, if you see 1,2,3,4,5,6. If you see 6 bays by two diagonal ribs and three transverse ribs. So there are two diagonal ribs and three transverse ribs and this makes the sexpartite vault system that was basically used in this particular church and there are use of spires and different architecture features that were pretty new to this particular church.