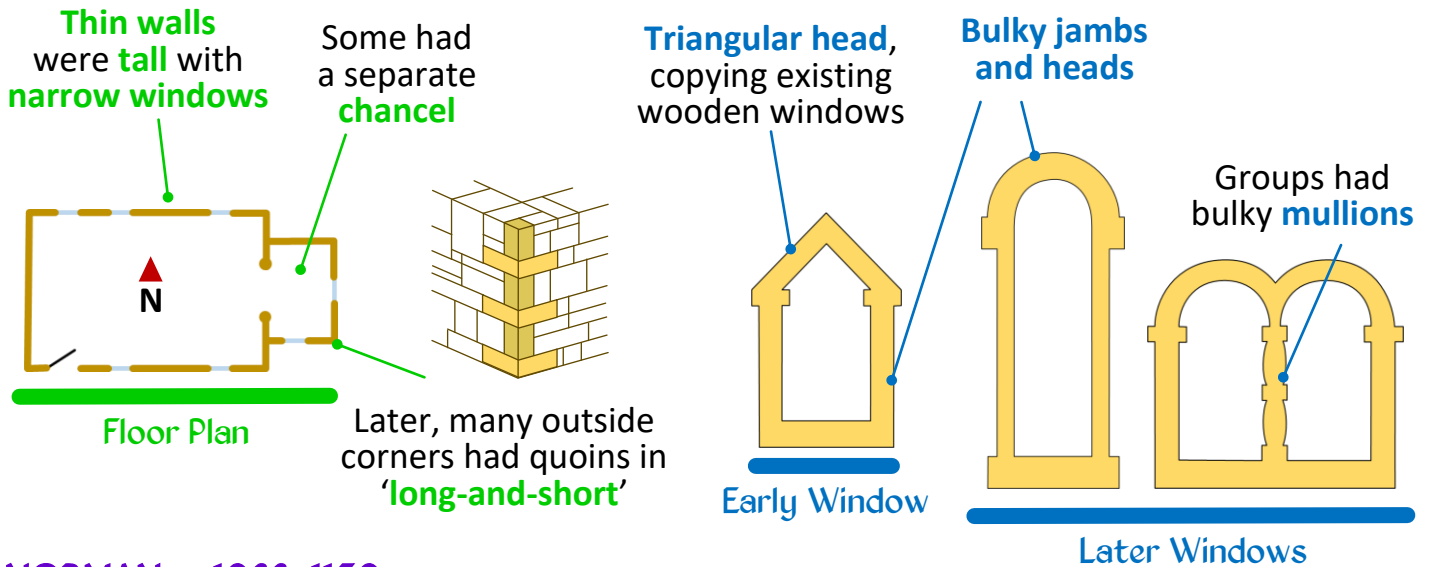


Church Architecture

Saxon c.600–1066

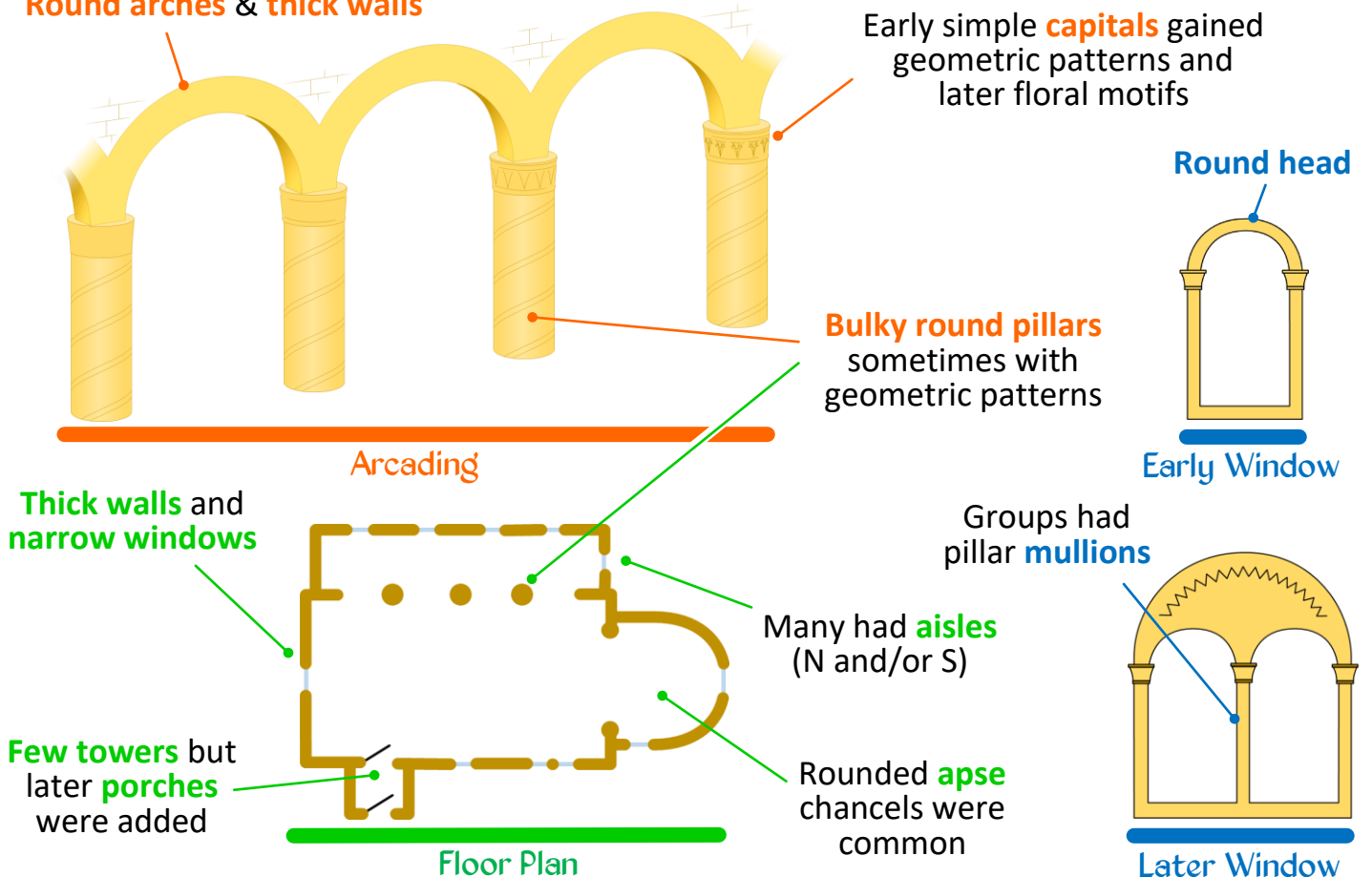
Early churches were wooden. Stone ones came later with **tall thin walls** and outside was often covered in **white plaster**. The Romans abandoned Britain abruptly in 400AD so skills and knowledge were lost but Saxons re-used parts they could not make from old Roman buildings (e.g. doorways/arches). Ornamental features were limited to geometric patterns.



NORMAN c.1066–1150

The Normans conquered England and changed building styles overnight. They usually built new in **stone** (destroying most Saxon churches). Their **round arches** pushed sideways so needed **thick walls** with only **small windows** (making it **quite dark inside** so were internally **whitewashed**). Finer tools and skills meant decorative feature developed, like floral patterns.

Round arches & thick walls

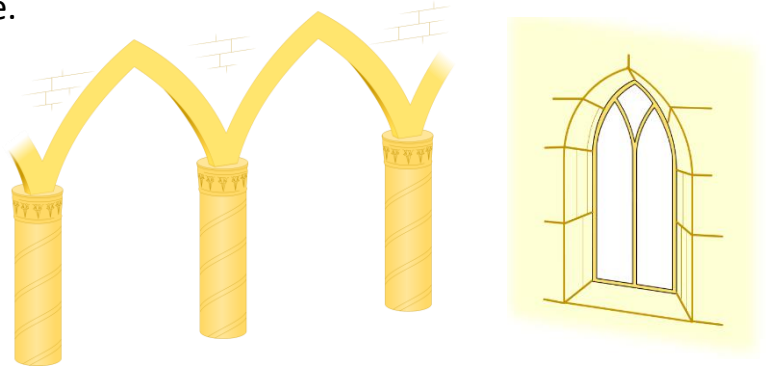


TRANSITIONAL c.1150–1180

Unlike sudden change with the Normans, now came **gradual change** as masons moved across Europe, developing and sharing new skills. **Styles mixed** and many buildings were modified with the latest trends (not demolished) leaving the old beside the new. Change further north lagged behind, being further from Europe.

Gothic pointed arches ...
... on bulkier round Norman pillars.

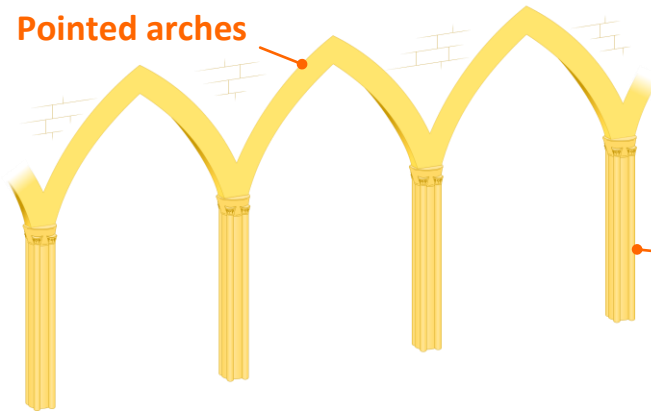
Gothic pointed window ...
... cut into a thick Norman wall.



GOTHIC c.1180–1520

This was the era of the **pointed arch**. It is stronger as it causes less thrust sideways and more downward, making possible **thinner walls** with **larger windows**. Flying buttresses came taking more of the strain so walls could be taller with more windows inserted for even **more light**. Walls were sometimes heightened to add another high row of windows (a clerestory).

Pointed arches



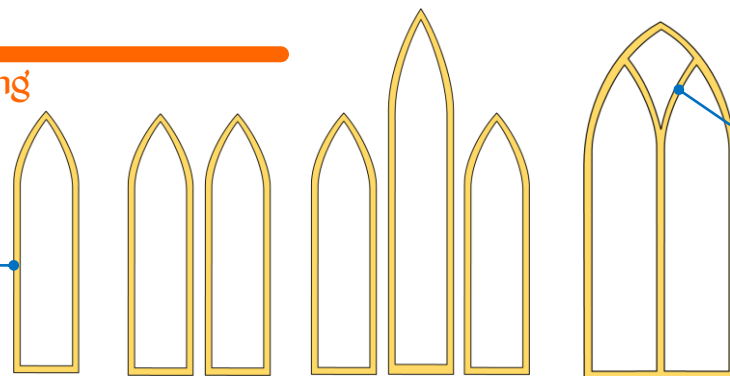
Early English Gothic c.1180–1250

Simple tracery first appeared (decorative stonework between glass sections).

Pillars were **slender** and **compound** (e.g. side columns)

Arcading

Tall, narrow **lancet windows** (often grouped)



Simple tracery (e.g. Y-tracery)

Windows grouped but with no tracery

Late Window with tracery

Slender **compound pillars**

Old thick walls remained ...
... but additions had **thinner walls**

Grouped **lancet windows**

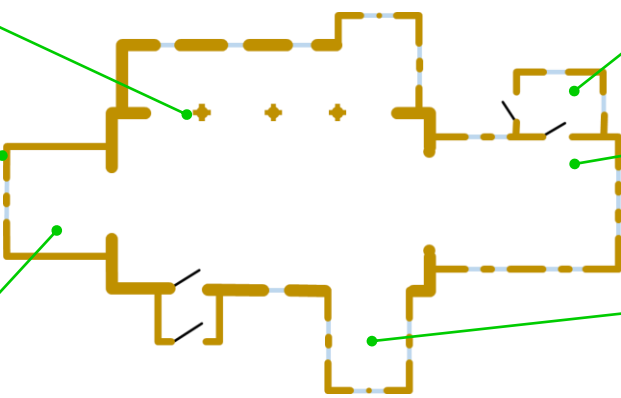
West **towers** more common

Vestry for priest

Newly built **squared chancels** replaced Norman apses

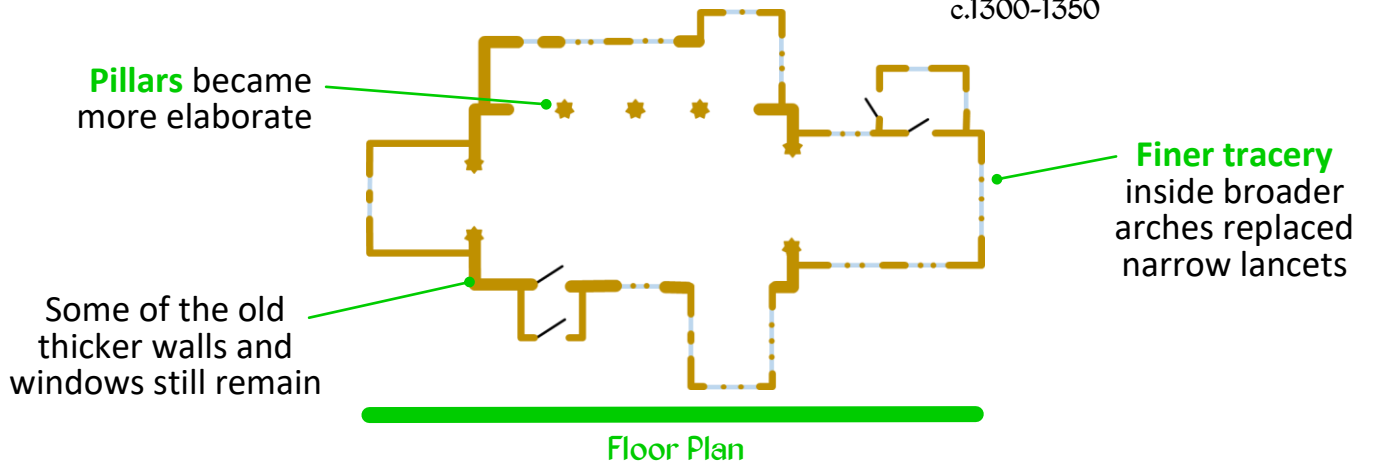
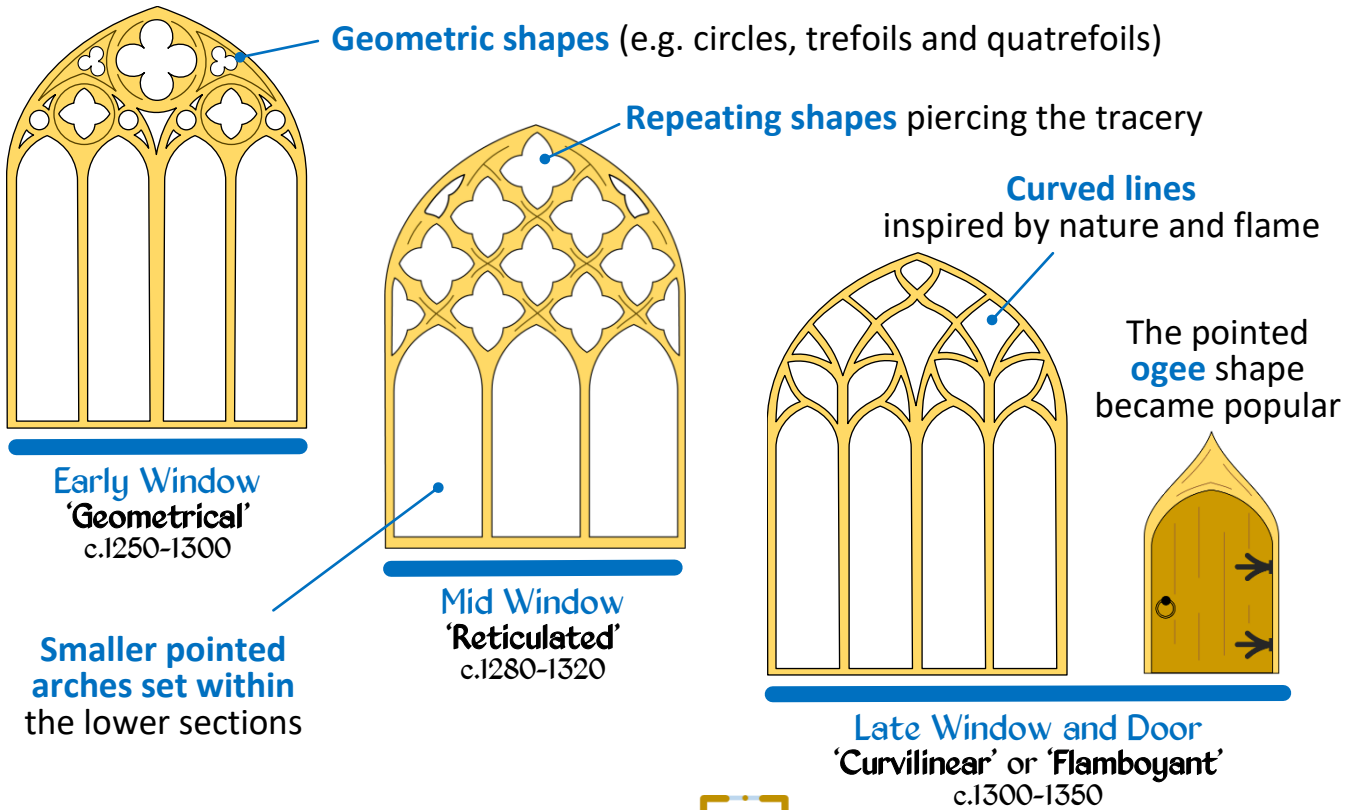
Transepts were often added north and south making a cruciform (cross)

Floor Plan



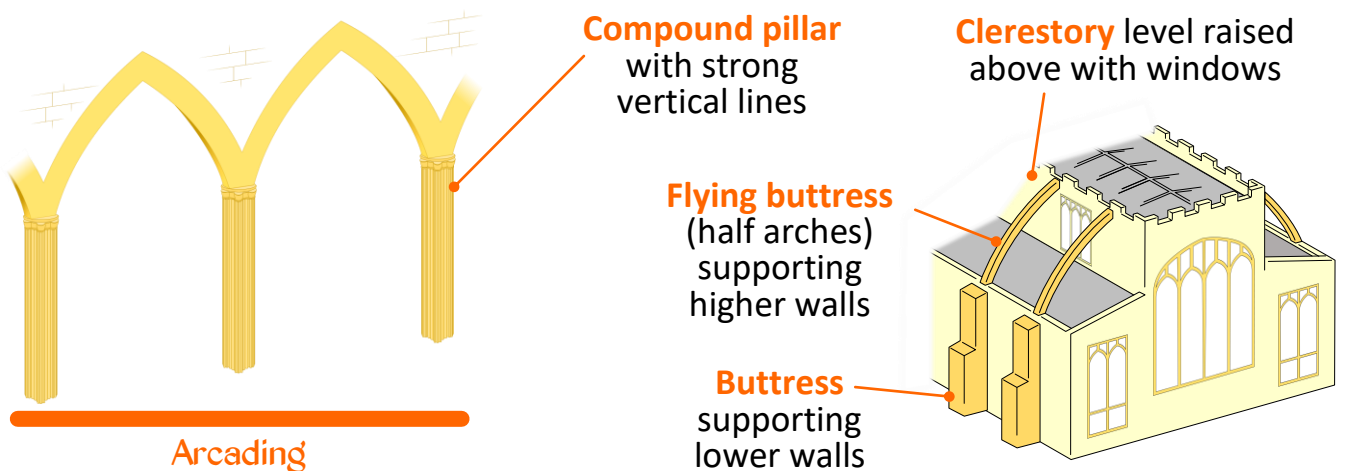
Decorated Gothic c.1250–1350

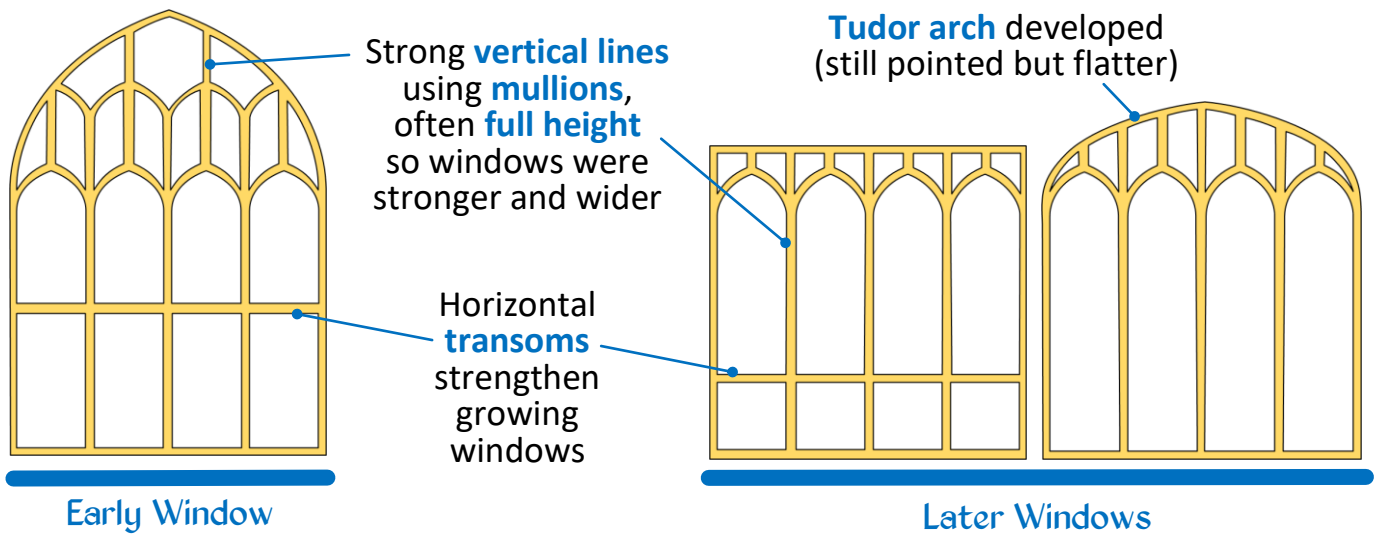
Tracery developed into more **elaborate patterns** within broader, pointed windows. Pillars became more elaborate with capitals and arches highly decorated.



Perpendicular Gothic c.1350–1520

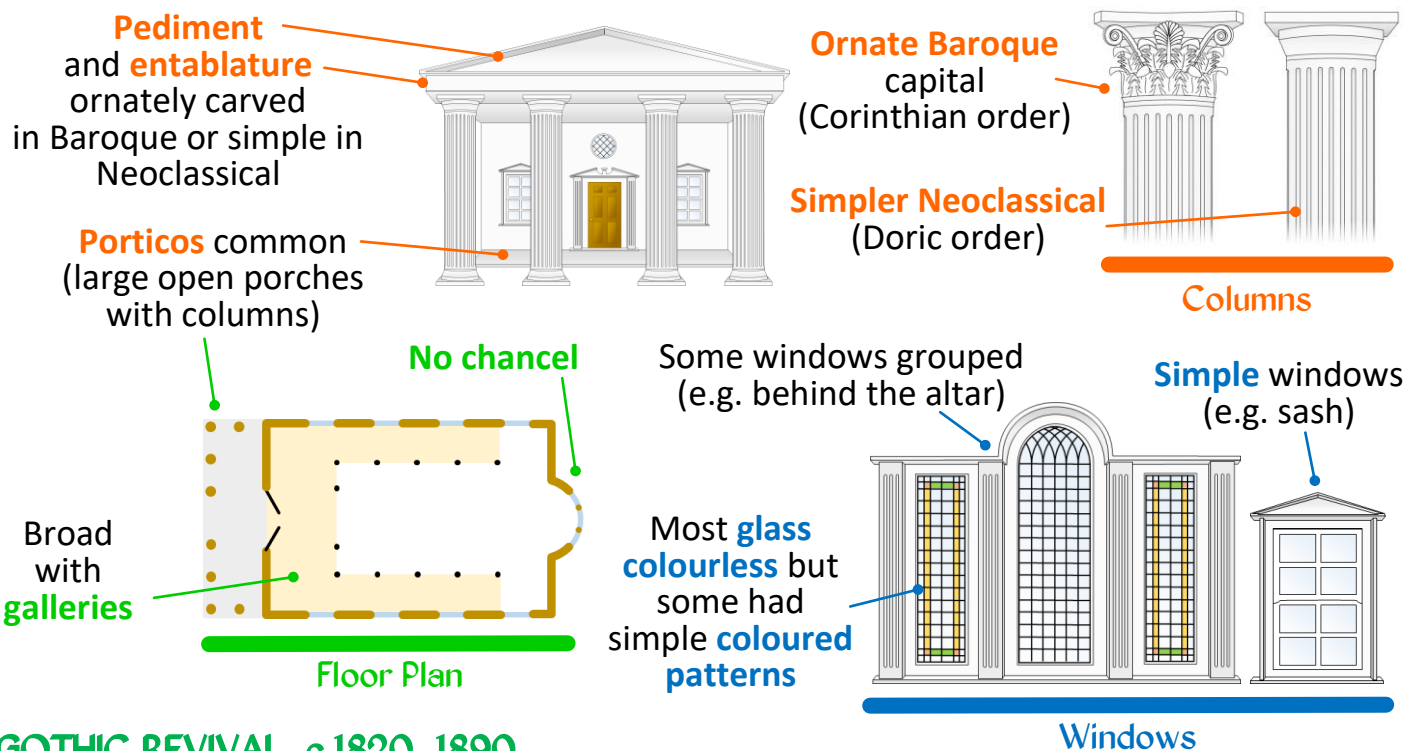
The 14th century Black Death killed 40–60% in England. With fewer masons a simpler style gained prominence dominated by **vertical lines** pulling your gaze upward. Other improvements (e.g. *flying buttresses*) increased window coverage and height further. More intricate patterns evolved later including fan vaults for ceilings of larger churches.





POST-GOTHIC c.1690–1820

Tudor England had sufficient churches then the **Reformation** and Cromwell's puritan Commonwealth led to destroying or plastering over decorative interiors. After came a renewed interest in church architecture (especially in growing industrial towns). There were two main periods both using the columns, symmetry and other features of Ancient Greece and Rome. **English Baroque** (c.1690-1730) was less rigid and often very ornate (e.g. *St. Paul's Cathedral, London*). Perhaps too extravagant for the English, it gave way to the longer-lived, elegant **Neoclassical** (c.1730-1820) focussing again strong vertical lines and proportion. Churches were mostly new (few were adapted). To bring everyone closer, most were a single room with no separate chancel and galleries were added (even in old churches).



GOTHIC REVIVAL c.1820–1890

After much austerity, interest in former catholic styles of worship grew and architects looked to styles associated with this earlier era. The growing population needed more churches which were built in a Gothic form (but styles were often a little muddled as the historic understanding was still developing). Existing ancient churches were **re-ordered** to restore traditional features (e.g. *stained glass added but interior plaster/whitewash and galleries removed*). More organs were installed for good hymn singing and enjoyment whilst new technologies were embraced including gas light and heating.