

Gothic Architecture

Complete the following text according to the parts of the speech

Forget the association 1. _____ (preposition) the word “Gothic” to dark, haunted houses, *Wuthering Heights*, or ghostly pale people wearing 2. _____ (adjective) nail polish and ripped fishnets. The original Gothic style was actually developed to bring sunshine into people’s lives and 3. _____ (adverb) into their churches. To get past the accrued definitions of the centuries, it’s best to go back to the very start of the word Gothic, 4. _____ (conjunction) to the style that bears the name.

The 5. _____ (noun) were a so-called barbaric tribe who held power in various regions of Europe, between the collapse of the Roman Empire and the establishment of the Holy Roman Empire. They were not renowned for great achievements in architecture. As 6. _____ (preposition) many art historical terms, “Gothic” 7. _____ (verb) to be applied to a certain architectural style after the fact.

The style represented giant steps away from the previous, relatively basic building systems 8. _____ (determiner) had prevailed. The Gothic grew out of the Romanesque architectural style, when both prosperity and peace allowed for several centuries of cultural development and 9. _____ (adjective) building schemes. From roughly 1000 to 1400, several significant cathedrals and churches were built, particularly in Britain and France, offering architects and masons a chance to 10. _____ (phrasal verb) ever 11. _____ (comparative) problems and daring designs.

The most fundamental element of the Gothic style of architecture is the pointed arch, which was likely borrowed from Islamic architecture that would have been seen in Spain at this time. The pointed arch relieved 12. _____ (quantifier) of the thrust, and therefore, the stress 13. _____ (preposition) other structural

elements. It then became possible to reduce the size of the columns or piers that supported the arch.

14. _____, (adverb) rather than having massive, drum-like columns as in the Romanesque churches, the new columns 15. _____ (modal verb) be more slender. This slimness was repeated in the upper levels of the nave, so that the gallery and clerestory would not seem to overpower the lower arcade. In fact, the column basically continued all the way to the roof, and became part of the 16. _____ (noun)

In the vault, the pointed arch could be seen in three dimensions where the ribbed vaulting met in the center of the ceiling of each bay. This ribbed vaulting is another distinguishing feature of Gothic architecture. However, it should be noted that prototypes for the pointed arches and ribbed vaulting were seen first in late-Romanesque buildings.

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