

# MEDIEVAL ARCHITECTURE

APRIL 9 2002

EARLY GOTHIC

Reading: Wilson, *The Gothic Cathedral*,  
“Introduction,” 7-12 and “Early Gothic,”  
13-around 40.

Basis of Wilson's thesis: competition between regions and communities. Constraint and choice on the part of builders and patrons/

The emergence of Paris fostered by the growth of Capetian monarchy. A line of increasingly powerful kings starting with Louis VI 1108-37

Wilson makes his case based upon careful descriptive juxtapositions

1. Bay system
2. Masonry vaulting; development of rib vaults
3. Elimination of wall
4. Transformation of classical orders to form a new fictive language
5. Development of the structural potential of the middle level--support hidden in gallery