

The Gothic Cathedral Christopher Wilson

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A. Reilly Richard John King British Museum Burton, North, Eng. (Parish) Patrington, Eng. (Parish)
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the gothic cathedral focuses on the interaction between design and the requirements of patrons following the creative processes of architects by reconstructing the problems and opportunities which faced them christopher wilson presents the essential facts on such aspects as chronology structural techniques and stylistic developments and then goes further seeing the story as a sequence of choices from which new solutions arose which in their turn gave rise to still more challenges illustrated with carefully chosen photographs and specially drawn diagrams this fresh perceptive and provocative book has already established itself as a definitive introduction to the subject

founded as the main church of the knights templar in england at their new temple in london the temple church is historically and architecturally one of the most important medieval buildings in england its round nave modelled on the holy sepulchre in jerusalem is extraordinarily ambitious combining lavish romanesque sculpture with some of the earliest gothic architectural features in any english building of its period it holds one of the most famous series of medieval effigies in the country the luminous thirteenth century choir intended for the burial of henry iii is of exceptional beauty major developments in the post medieval period include the reordering of the church in the 1680s by sir christopher wren and a substantial restoration programme in the early 1840s despite its extraordinary importance however it has until now attracted little scholarly or critical attention a gap which is remedied by this volume it considers the new temple as a whole in the middle ages and all aspects of the church itself from its foundation in the twelfth century to its war time damage in the twentieth richly illustrated with numerous black and white and colour plates it makes full use of the exceptional range and quality of the antiquarian material available for study including drawings photographs and plaster casts contributors robin griffith jones virginia jansen philip lankester helen nicholson david park rosemary sweet william whyte christopher wilson

the great gothic cathedrals of europe are among the most astonishing achievements of western culture evoking feelings of awe and humility they make us want to understand what inspired the people who had the audacity to build them this engrossing book surveys an era that has fired the historical imagination for centuries in it robert a scott explores why medieval people built gothic cathedrals how they built them what conception of the divine lay behind their creation and how religious and secular leaders used cathedrals for social and political purposes as a traveler s companion or a rich source of knowledge for the armchair enthusiast the gothic enterprise helps us understand how ordinary people managed such tremendous feats of physical and creative energy at a time when technology was rudimentary famine and disease were rampant the climate was often harsh and communal life was unstable and incessantly violent while most books about gothic cathedrals focus on a particular building or on the cathedrals of a specific region the gothic enterprise considers the idea of the cathedral as a humanly created space scott discusses why an impoverished people would commit so many social and personal resources to building something so physically stupendous and what this says about their ideas of the sacred especially the vital role they ascribed to the divine as a protector against the dangers of everyday life scott s narrative offers a wealth of fascinating details concerning daily life during medieval times the author describes the difficulties master builders faced in scheduling construction that wouldn t be completed during their own lifetimes

how they managed without adequate numeric systems or paper on which to make detailed drawings and how climate natural disasters wars variations in the hours of daylight throughout the year and the celebration of holy days affected the pace and timing of work scott also explains such things as the role of relics the quarrying and transporting of stone and the incessant conflict cathedral building projects caused within their communities finally by drawing comparisons between gothic cathedrals and other monumental building projects such as stonehenge scott expands our understanding of the human impulses that shape our landscape

an architectural history of peterborough clarifies the obscure and tangled building history of one of england s most interesting medieval monuments lisa reilly demonstrates how peterborough offers extensive information concerning both specific buildings such as canterbury and broader issues of the period such as the process of cultural assimilation patterns of construction and building design as a response to liturgical needs this study represents an expansion of the traditional use of formal and archaeological analysis to include a discussion of the building s social and political context the entire fabric is discussed from its anglo saxon remains the anglo norman construction of the nave choir and transepts the early gothic period which produced its well known west front through to the final construction of its fan vaulted retrochoir at the very end of the middle ages peterborough cathedral is the best preserved example of anglo norman architecture and provides an ideal case study for the period

rusland chapelry is in colton parish backbarrow is a hamlet on the westmoreland border

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