

Paris, Saint Germain-des-Pres

The capitals show that the nave was constructed in two phases in a process ignore by most writers. The aisles and tower in the later 1080s and the clerestory walls some 50 years later. Many have been restored, but this does not disguise the essential characteristics of the capitals in each zone.

This means that Bony's argument for thin-walled construction needs to be revisited, for it relies on the extreme height of the clerestory to provide meaningful reasons for thin arcade arches.

There was a complex construction program around the crossing, presumably because the earlier building was in the way. While the east was being rebuilt from the later 30s the clergy could then use the nave for services. The sculpture for the west portal was inserted under the tower in time to make a nobler entry into the nave.

Considerable gifts began in the early 1130s when the west porch was added, and the choir was begun. There was a pause around the time of the aisle vaults while the crusade was draining funds, The aisles were probably completed and vaulted afterwards, and the triforium was not begun until the later 50s.

Above this level flyers were intended, and the clerestory walls and the roof over completed in time for the visit of the Pope. However, the bosses show that the high vaults were not completed until the 1220s and the flyers themselves not built until then. As in Notre-Dame, this was when the triforium was reduced in height and the clerestory windows were enlarged.