

# Canterbury Cathedral and English Gothic Architecture

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### Overview

Not only is Canterbury Cathedral a stunning example of early Gothic Architecture in England, it is also a mosaic of multiple building styles as a result of a series of renovations. This allows it to show an architectural timeline of style changes through history, as well as creating a rich history for the building itself. As a beautiful monument to English architecture and the Gothic style, Canterbury Cathedral is a must see for its beauty, history, and artistry.



### Key points

Canterbury Cathedral is the first true example of the English Gothic style. It now displays five different architectural styles at once. Renovations were required after the fire of 1174, as well as after the martyrdom of Thomas Becket, for whom a chapel shrine was added. New stylistic and cultural developments are reflected in the changes made to the design between renovations.

### Conclusions

Through historical accounts such as those by St. Gervais and Eadmer, we can learn about the complex narrative of this building and explore the tapestry of Gothic styles woven into this building. Canterbury Cathedral also teaches about the kinds of events that can change the layout of a building. It stands through time as an opportunity to learn and respect the splendor of the church and its tale.



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