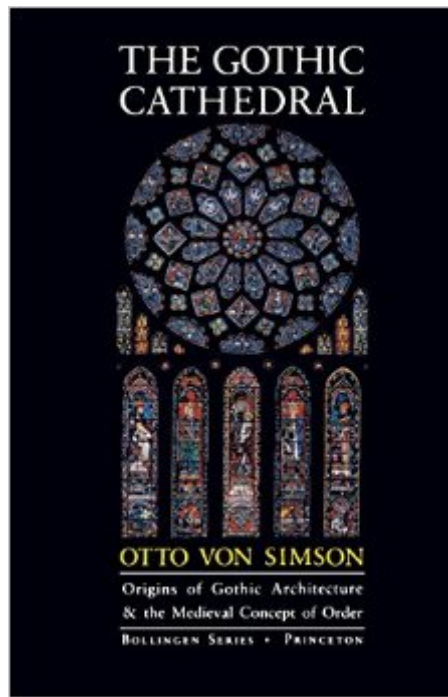


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# The Gothic Cathedral



## Synopsis

The description for this book, *The Gothic Cathedral: Origins of Gothic Architecture and the Medieval Concept of Order*, will be forthcoming.

## Book Information

Series: Bollingen Series (General) (Book 48)

Paperback: 364 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (9 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #562,118 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #102 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Buildings > Religious Buildings](#) #1080 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > History](#) #1172 in [Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Reference > Architecture](#)

## Customer Reviews

There aren't many books available looking at the phenomenon or idea of the Gothic Cathedral as a whole, and few of those are generally accessible reading. There are countless books on particular cathedrals and churches - Notre Dame, Salisbury Cathedral, Chartes, the Abbey of St. Denis. There are other books that look at particular aspects of the architecture or function; particular books on flying buttresses, stained-glass windows, and such are also numerous. This third edition of Otto von Simson's book (originally published in 1956, updated in 1962 and again in 1987) looks at the Gothic Cathedral as a whole from many different standpoints - architecture, artistic value, spiritual value, economic value and influence, functional and practical concerns. 'The cathedral,' Simson wrote in his first preface, 'was designed as an image, and was meant to be understood as one.' Simson is direct in his admiration of Gothic style, calling Gothic architecture 'perhaps the most creative achievement in the history of Western architecture'. It is indeed hard to find rivals to this claim. The Gothic Cathedral, according to Simson, is the earthly representation of supernatural reality. It is a physical manifestation of the theological ideas and aspirations of the Middle Ages. However, Gothic has become a bit too commonplace in some respects - being at the centre of many European and

North American cities and towns, it also suffers from being seen as a relic more appropriately the object of archaeological examination than current appreciation. Simson highlights many of the aspects of Gothic architecture, including the use of light in new, unparalleled ways, and the relationship between structure and appearance.

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