

L2-10day10

Carolingian Art

Art Discussed:

***Equestrian Statue of Charlemagne* 9th Century**

Palatine Chapel 792-805

Lorsch Gatehouse 9th Century

Monastery Plan of Saint Gall 819

VOCAB:

Cloister

Monastery

HW:

Self-contained communities' exist today. Explore on the web how a kibbutz or a monastery work today.

Equestrian Statue of Charlemagne

- Inspired by Roman equestrian monuments such as Marcus Aurelius
- Imperial crown and robes
- Orb as a symbol of the world
- Rider larger than the horse he rides on
- Horse is on parade, seems tame and obedient
- Sits as though he is standing upright

Lorsch Gatehouse, Lorsch

- Not really a gateway, but probably in an atrium in a monastery
- Cf. a triumphal arch in a Roman forum

- Gabled roof for snow
- Three equal openings
- Columns placed against wall
- Surface pattern and design
- Fluted pilasters
- Chapel on top may have been a reception hall for distinguished guests
- Imitation pediments

Palatine Chapel, Aachen

- Central plan, topped by an octagon
- Built for Charlemagne
- Inspired by San Vitale
- Capitals taken from old Roman monuments
- Large heavy appearance
- Arches smaller on first story, larger on second
- Arches on second story have Roman columns placed inside that are purely decorative, and do not hold the arches up
- Arches on first floor have a low, heavy, thick appearance
- Arches have a striped pattern

Monastery Plan, St. Gall, Switzerland

- Ideal plan of a self-sufficient monastic community
- Church in center, other buildings around
- Daily activities in one place

- Cloistered monks never leave except to work in the fields
- Community of about 250-300 monks with 30 to 40 serfs per monk
- Highly organized
- Many altars in church, not for congregation, but for monks to say Mass
- Everything necessary for the monks grouped around the cloister
- Timber architecture in outer buildings
- Standard of comfort was high for the time
- Serfs lived with animals in their pens
- Infirmary, school, convent, guest house