

THE CROSS AND THE CRUCIFIX

Protestant Cross

It's a big deal in several branches of Protestantism that one never creates or displays iconography of God specifically. By extension that includes Jesus. So, the Protestant cross is generally plain (or person-free, anyway).

Catholic Cross

The Catholic Church is all in for as much symbology as they can get! They will have Jesus on the cross. (That's what makes it a crucifix.)

The Pope in 1850, where we're setting the show was Pius IX. The Vatican has some interesting items from his time, including this fire screen which seems portable and like something that could be useful to us: <http://www.papalartifacts.com/portfolio-item/blessed-pope-pius-ix-an-embroidered-panel-fire-screen/>

The Gothic crucifix underwent some notable changes from prior incarnations.

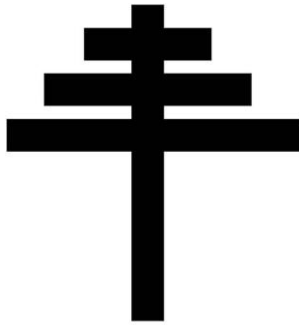
- Jesus went from wearing the tabard to just a loincloth
- He is slumped over and far more realistic
- The 5 wounds are visible, usually with blood
- It would have the INRI engraving, since that's been in use since the 13th Century
- Victorian Gothic colors were most often Purple, ruby, black, ochre, forest green and gold

If it is a LITURGICAL crucifix, used for ceremony, it might have other saints on it. That was more common in Italy and France than in England



If it is a PAPAL cross, it would have three crossbeams. Technically that was first used in 1885, but it's gaudy and sort of fun, so we might not care! This one is still a cross.

Papal Cross



Papal Cross

The Papal Cross, identified by its three horizontal bars decreasing in length from top to bottom, is a unique symbol in Christianity. As the official insignia of the papacy, it is used by the Pope during liturgical events.

- History: While the exact origins of the Papal Cross remain uncertain, it has been associated with the Pope and the Vatican since at least the 13th century, signifying the Pope's ecclesiastical authority and role as Bishop of Rome.
- Popularity: The Papal Cross is predominantly visible in the context of the Catholic Church, especially during papal ceremonies and in Vatican iconography.
- Shape: The Papal Cross features a lengthy vertical beam intersected by three horizontal beams, with each beam shorter than the one above it.



Pope John Paul brought this back in 1983 for a few very high profile events!

Some Resources and Images

Straightforward but accurate history of the crucifix <https://www.christianiconography.info/cross.html>

Difference between Gothic and Romanesque <https://artincontext.org/gothic-architecture/>

French Gothic example, but quite similar <https://www.hunterandrose.co.uk/products/early-19th-century-french-gothic-cross-with-carved-christ>

A Spanish gothic altar cross (with the liturgical side images)
https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/H_1911-0621-1

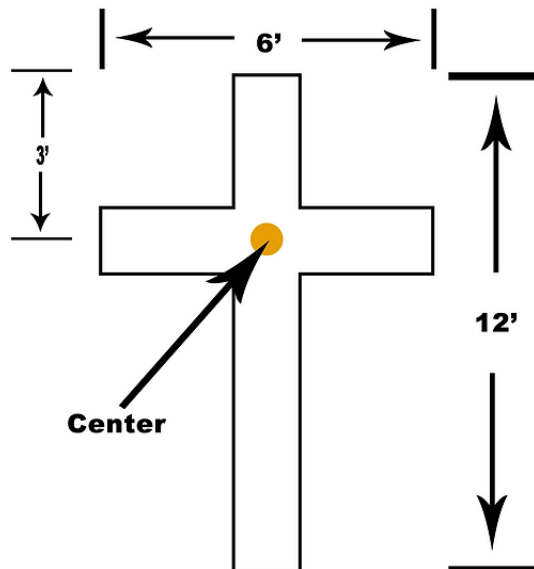
Finials <https://victorianweb.org/art/architecture/gothic/14b.html>

Victorian enamel earrings- not specifically gothic, but representative of color they could produce
<https://www.hantiquejewelry.com/shop/1830-40s-victorian-14k-guilloche-enamel-earrings/>

Gothic Architecture 101- more vertical with more windows- based on an interpretation of theological documents about light, also because construction techniques allowed for it (like the flying buttress and rib vaults); could build larger churches more easily. Also includes a lot of tracery because stained glass windows can be heavy. We see this type of ornamentation in other things as well.

Size of the Cross

Most common ratio is 1:3



**For 1:3 ratio on any cross, as pictured,
width of cross arm is 1/2 of height
and is attached 1/4 down from top**

Early Victorian Gothic revival armchair

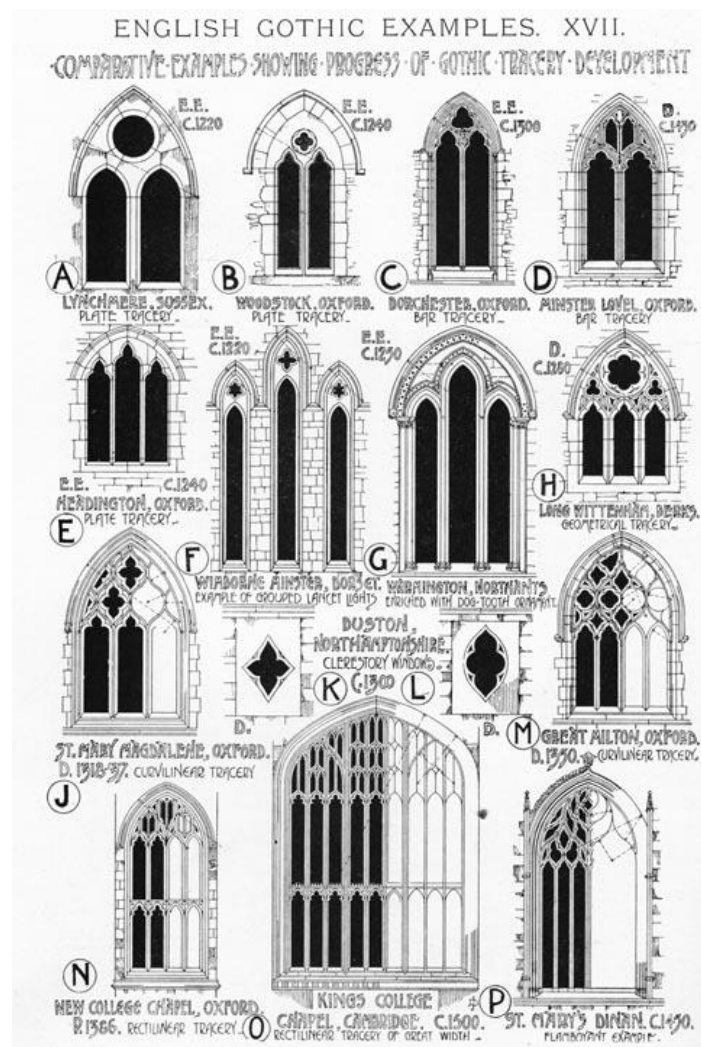


Fig. 11.7 Printed by B. T. Batsford after (Sir) Banister Fletcher, *English Gothic Examples*. Reproduced in Banister Fletcher, *A History of Architecture on the Comparative Method of the Student, Craftsman, and Amateur* [1890], second edition (London: B. T. Batsford, High Holborn, 1905). Plate Seventeen, facing p. 341.