

Plan from Phal-Blando et Louzier.
RAVAUX (J.-P.), « L'église Notre Dame d'Auxonne »,
Congrès archéologique de France (Côte-d'Or),
Ed. Société Française d'Archéologie, t. 152, 1994, p.23.

CHURCH INSIDE DIMENSIONS :

Chief nave length	54 m
Side-aisle length	47 m
Chief nave's vault height	14 m
Side-aisle's vault height	7 m
Width of the 3 naves together (about)	21 m

Saint woman

Stone statue from the end of the XVth Century or the beginning of the XVIth Century with traces of polychromy and of gilding. The face (oval shape, domed forehead, wide eyes, long and stait nose), the hair (the parting in the middle, split into wavy streaks), a short bust, a large frontal waistband with a knot, lengthened legs, the broken folds around the round edged shoes (called « en pied d'ours ») are typically found on sculptures from the Champagne Region. This statue might come from an entombment.



Eagle lectern (M.H)

The eagle, symbol of Saint John the Evangelist, holds in his claws the stood-up dragon. On his spread wings which form a reading desk, there is an inscription: « Me Francoys Viard et Anne de Villers bastonnier de céans 1562 lont fait faire ».

Virgin with the child (M.H)

Stone statue from the beginning of the XVth Century. Placed until 1969 on top of the church's doorway, this Virgin with the Child is probably the Virgin of the door of Pantesson (1447) destroyed in the XVIth Century.

Virgin with the Child called grape Virgin (M.H)

Stone statue from around 1415/1420 attributed to the sculptor Claus de Werve. Emphasis is put on the natural of the mother/child tête à tête. The Virgin's coat is full of wide and deep creases, creating shadows and lights. The wine grape evokes the symbol of the Eucharist.

Tombstones of the Morel brothers

Pierre Morel, lawyer who died June 9th 1400, is accompnied (bottom left) by his son Jean, canon from Besançon. Hugues Morel, Dean of Besançon and Treasurer of the Sainte Chapelle, died in 1421.

Thank you for your visit and see you soon.



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Notre-Dame Church Auxonne



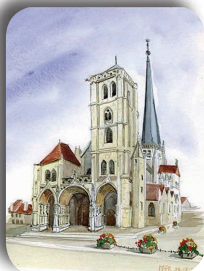
Côte d'Or - Burgundy

At the center of the Place d'Armes, the Notre-Dame Church, built in the XIIIth and XIVth Century, is the main monument of the city.

Main steps of the construction

- XIIIth and XIVth Century, construction of the nave and of the chancel, while keeping the bell tower of the first church (end of XIIth or beginning of XIIIth Century).
- XIVth and XVth Century, erection of the side-aisle chapels.
- XVIth Century, addition of the doorway with its two towers.
- XIXth Century, important restoration work.

Registered historical site (M.H.) December 24th 1907.



The doorway and its towers

Built by Antoine le Rupt between 1516 and 1520, the doorway is heavily decorated. The towers are asymmetrical because of the weakness of the ground on the northern side. The tower of the doorway is 40 m high and has 163 steps. The statues disappeared during the revolution, and were replaced in 1853-1854. The six on the South side are free interpretations of the prophets of the Well of Moses of the Chartreuse de Champmol in Dijon.



The south tower of the transept

Of a gothic style, the south arm of the transept and the south tower are the oldest elements of the building (end of XIIth or beginning of the XIIIth Century). The tower, the Louvre boarding (small circular openings) and the sculptures around the rosette are from the first church (end of XIIth or beginning of XIIIth Century).

The Bell Tower

The previous one was smaller (22,5m) and more compact. The spire (listed by the "Colchers Tors d'Europe" Association) was rebuilt by Phal-Blando in 1843 and is 33m high. The weather cock reaches a high of 70m.

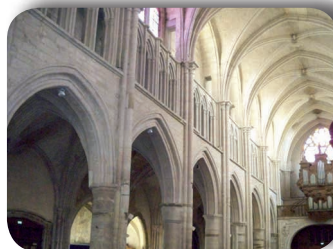


The side-aisle Chapels

The double row of chapels on the side aisles dates from the XIVth and mostly from the XVth Century. Phal-Blando, architect of the city, redesigned the chapels between 1858 and 1863 by giving each a gable and a window imitating the rayonnant gothic style. The doorways on the side added to the exterior wall were built at the same period. The statues of the buttress, of which nothing remains, were replaced in 1862.

The chief nave

The chief nave was built in three levels : the tall arcades, which are mounted on top of compact pillars, the triforium and the clerestory windows in front of the gangway. The small columns' capitals on the side of the chief nave are from the second half of the XIVth Century, especially the riche ones. The vault is decorated by some painted fleur-de-lis. The vegetable patterns on the key stones are adorned with faces.



The chancel

As large as a bay and with a six part apse at the end, the chancel has two small apses on its sides. The twelve stalls are from the last third of the XVIth Century, the misericords are adorned with expressive faces. The paneling of the apse were added in the XVIIth Century. A Christ in glory beams, painted on the vault, is surrounded by four Evangelists and lower by a male orant and a female one.

The wall adornments



Some parts of the fresco-paintings remain on the Northern wall and on the South transept. On the Northern side, next to a river, a panoramic view of a village with many bell towers is barely visible. On different pillars, characters are represented. On the fifth pillar of the chief nave (close to the South side entrance) the beautiful painting of the XVIth Century from Saint Hubert is well preserved. The hunter on his horse, accompanied by his dogs, facing the deer coming out of the bush, is between two characters kneeling in prayer and an angel.

The Pulpit (M.H.)

Attributed to the sculptor Denis le Rupt around the year 1556, it is made of pink stones of Sampans (Jura). This model inspired the pulpits in the Churches of Dole (Jura), Pesmes (Haute-Saône), Saint-Jean de Losne (Côte d'Or) and Gray (Haute-Saône). The painted wooden statuettes representing Evangelists were placed in the XIXth Century.



Funerary marble

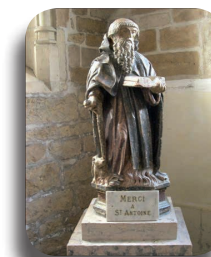
Military and diplomat, Duplessis-Besançon, great servant of the Monarchy, was Governor of Auxonne, where he died at 71. Last Major Commandant of Auxonne's Castle before the Revolution, François-Xavier David de la Martinière died on March 12, 1801.

The Callinet Organs (M.H.)

Previously placed on the choir screen (jube), they were later placed on the organ loft in 1629. The big oak organ case dates from the beginning of the XVIIth Century. The positive organ was added in the beginning of the XVIIIth Century. Its design (flowerpots, cherubs, sides of dormer, panel) dates from 1789. The musical instrument, completely rebuilt in 1789 by François Callinet (1754-1820) has 32 stops, 3 fingerboards and 1 pedalboard. The organs were entirely dismantled in the end of the XXth Century for a complete restoration.



Saint Anthony the Great (c 251– 356) (M.H.)



Statue made of polychrome stone from the end of the XVth Century. The old hermit, with his long beard divided into two parts, his wearing the clothing of the Antonines, has the cross of Tau, holds the Rules of the Antonines, and is accompanied by a pig. The flames coming out of the base refer to the « Saint Anthony's Fire ». Saint healer, he was invoked for protection against ergot poisoning and infectious disease (plague, leprosy, scabies...).

Christ Shown to the People (M.H.)

Stone statue from the beginning of the XVIth Century. In the nude under a crimson coat, the Christ is upright, wearing a crown of thorns ; he is leaning forward with his hand tied in front of him. At his feet was the nail covered board.

