

Notre Dame Cathedral:
Re-Built Respectfully

48° 51' 10.8'' N
2° 20' 59.64'' E



Nick Fabrikant

Notre Dame Cathedral is an iconic remnant of a profound spiritual time. Our age is becoming increasingly nihilistic. Therefore, we should respect the integrity of the cathedral's inherent design.

The Spire is the central part of the cathedral. It should be re-built with humility and respect toward the original engineers that made it possible. While Eugène Viollet-le-Duc's spire was not offensive and fit into the broad architectural vernacular, its style was ornate Gothic Revival, not High French Gothic. It was also disproportionately tall compared to the rest of the church.

A majority of the new spire proposals I've seen so far have been outright offensive due to their lack of humility and respect towards proportion, materiality, and the original 13th century design. These proposals attempt to make things different, brash, obnoxious and loud. There are many different proposals, but none so far that aesthetically supersede the spire that burnt down.

I am proposing something improved, not something different. A new spire, not to mimic the one built in the early 19th century but one as close as architectural historians can come to replicating the one built in the 13th century; limestone, austere, not as tall and more in proportion with the rest of the church. The roof will be as it was, supported by oak timbers and finished by traditional slate tiles. All detailing will be in adherence to the French Gothic vernacular, except, one: fastened to the top the spire will be a 3 metre high octagonal prism, with 8 cm long sides that will cast all colors of the rainbow when the sun shines.

Rainbows are the Bible's most clear and poignant covenant between Humans and God. This vertical crystal will refract light as the stain glass windows do inside, but now too on the outside. A frozen explosion of color will stream off the grey limestone walls, the surrounding grounds, extending the written covenant with God to all who approach and exit the cathedral. Being an octagon; the number 8 is the Bible's symbol of resurrection and regeneration, as the church begins anew.

On cloudy days, the prism will hold light, turning a light blue, a deep red or a pale violet which will emanate naturally atop the spire; forged from the medieval material of leaded glass. This finial will be inclusive and inspirational to each and every human culture, from every creed, and every nation; inevitably uniting goodness, piety, and the appreciation of Beauty.

A crystal beaming atop a medieval spire of Notre Dame Cathedral is optimal: for heritage, for France— for those that came before us, and for a united and inspired spiritual future.

Respectfully,
Nick Fabrikant
Engineer, Artist, Architect, Believer



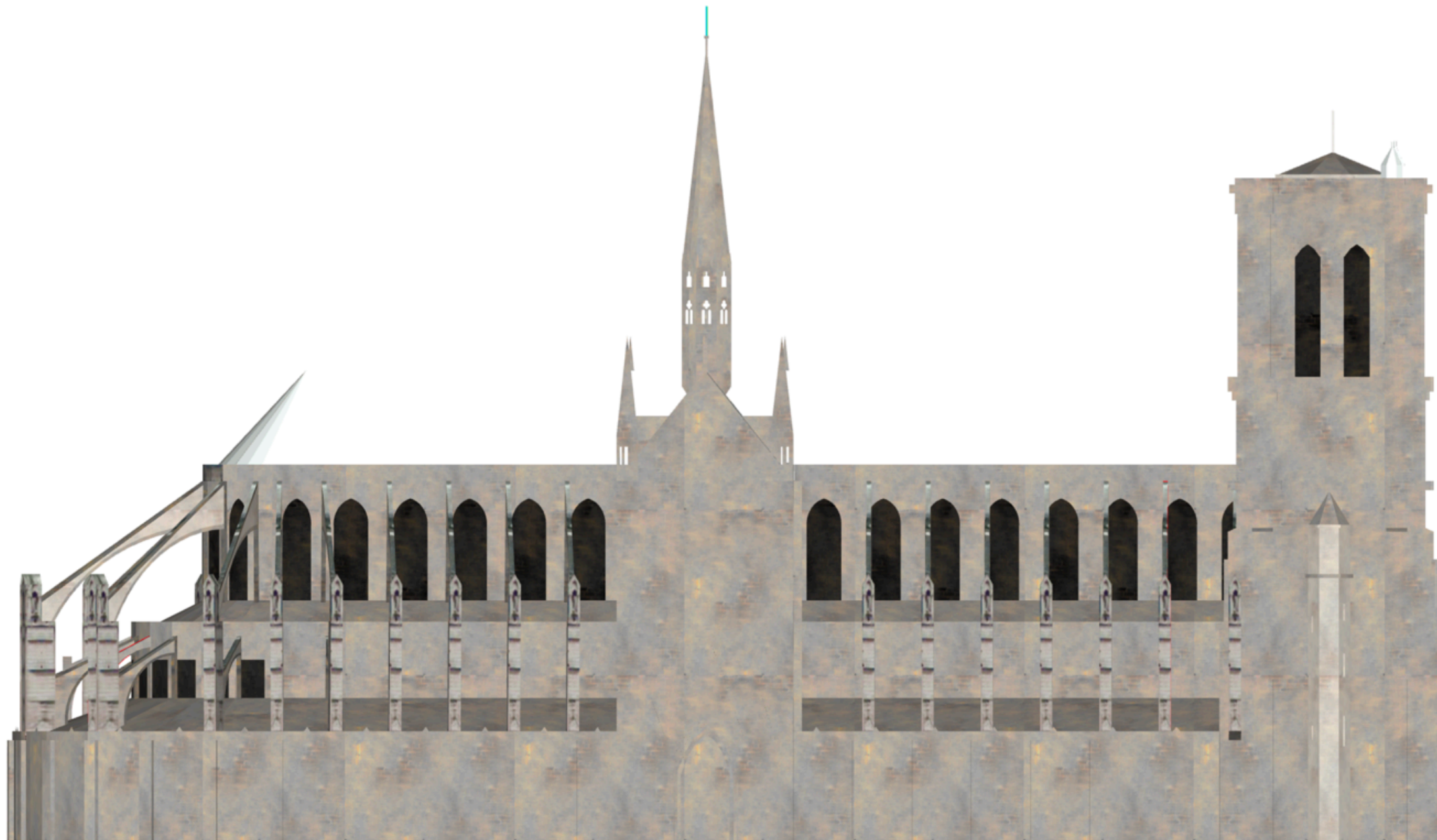


Engineer

Artist

Architect

A3.1

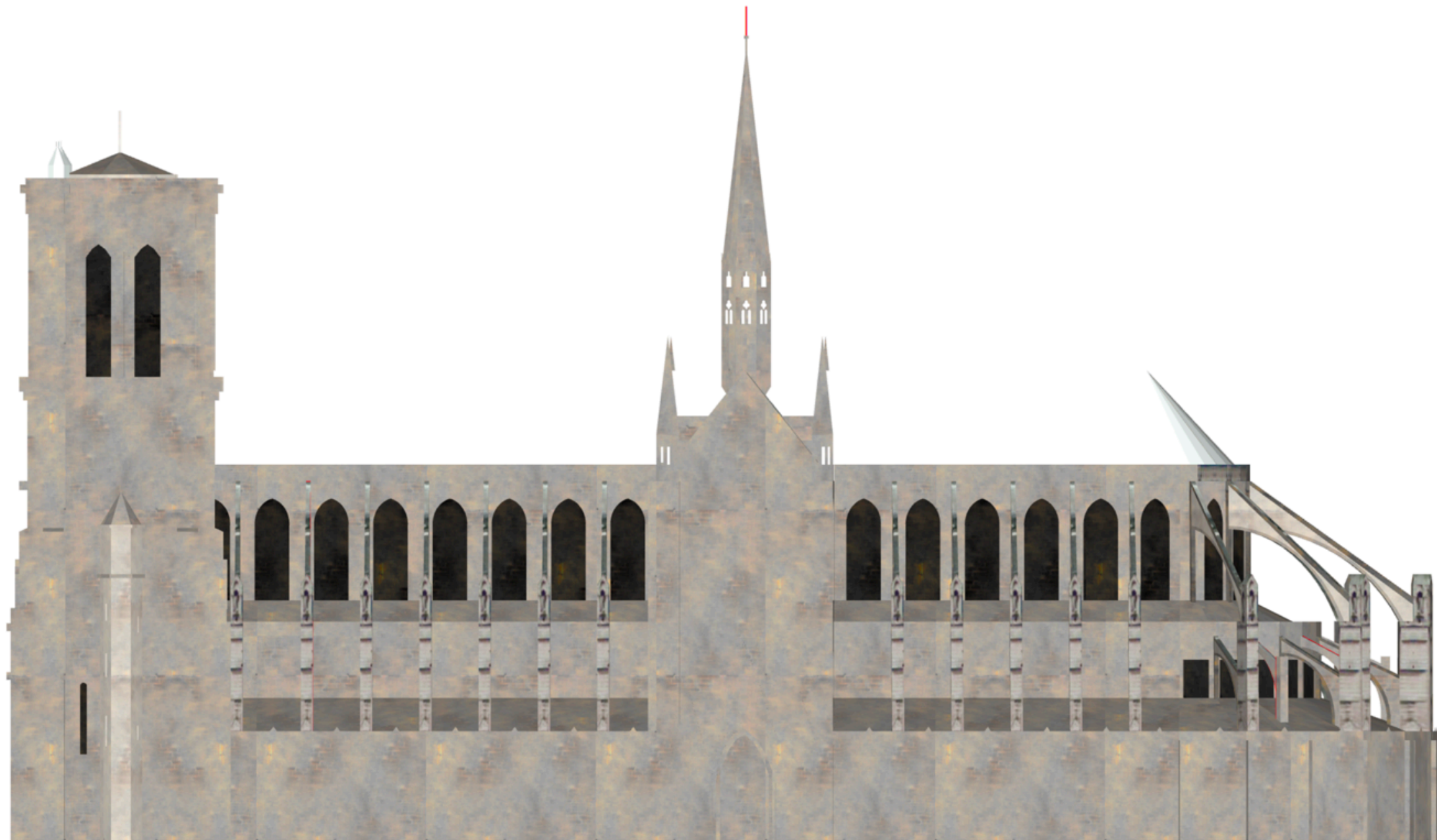


Engineer

Artist

Architect

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Engineer

Artist

Architect

A3.3



Engineer

Artist

Architect

A3.4

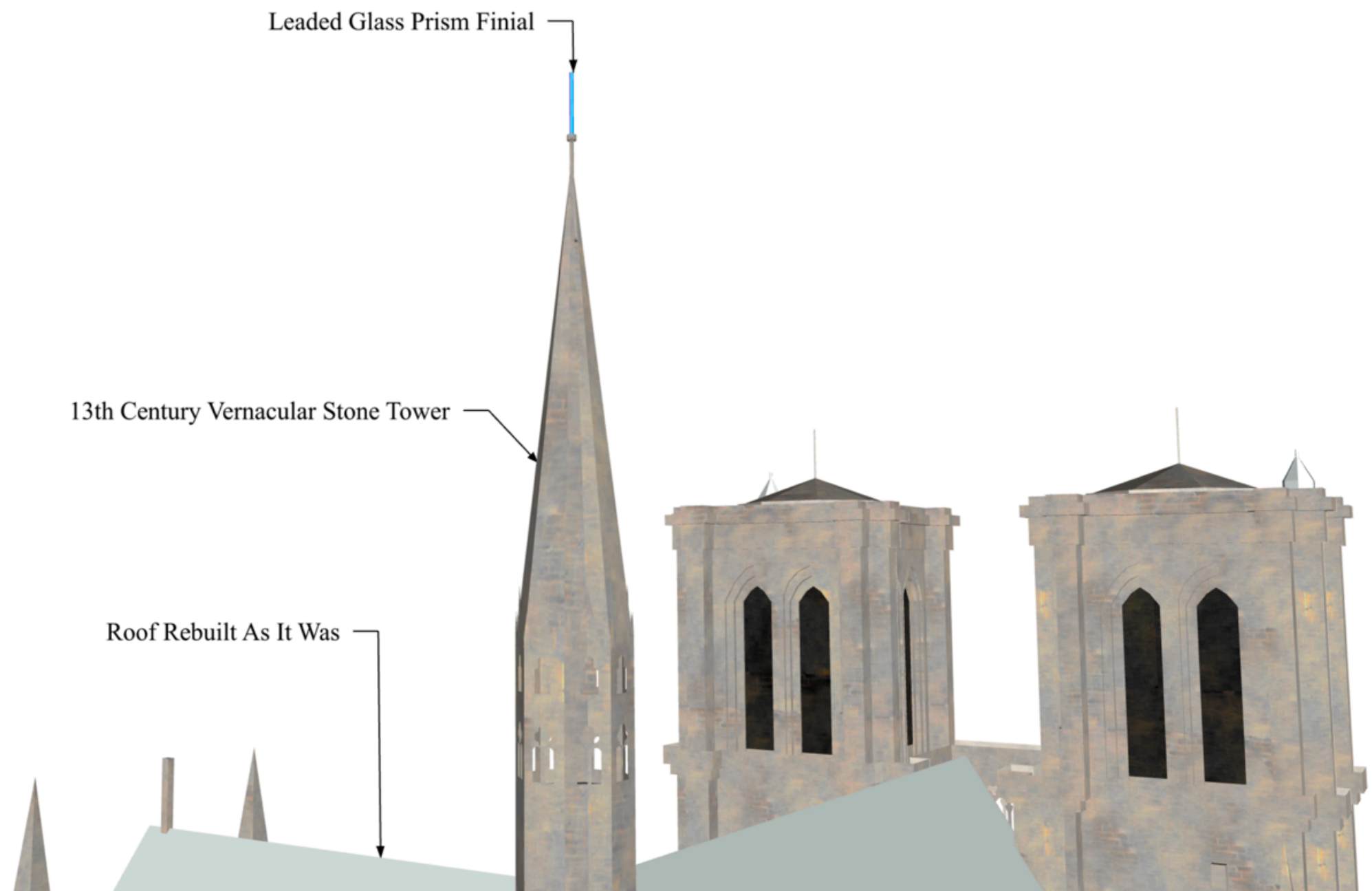


Engineer

Artist

Architect

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Engineer
Artist
Architect

A3.6



Engineer

Artist

Architect

A3.7

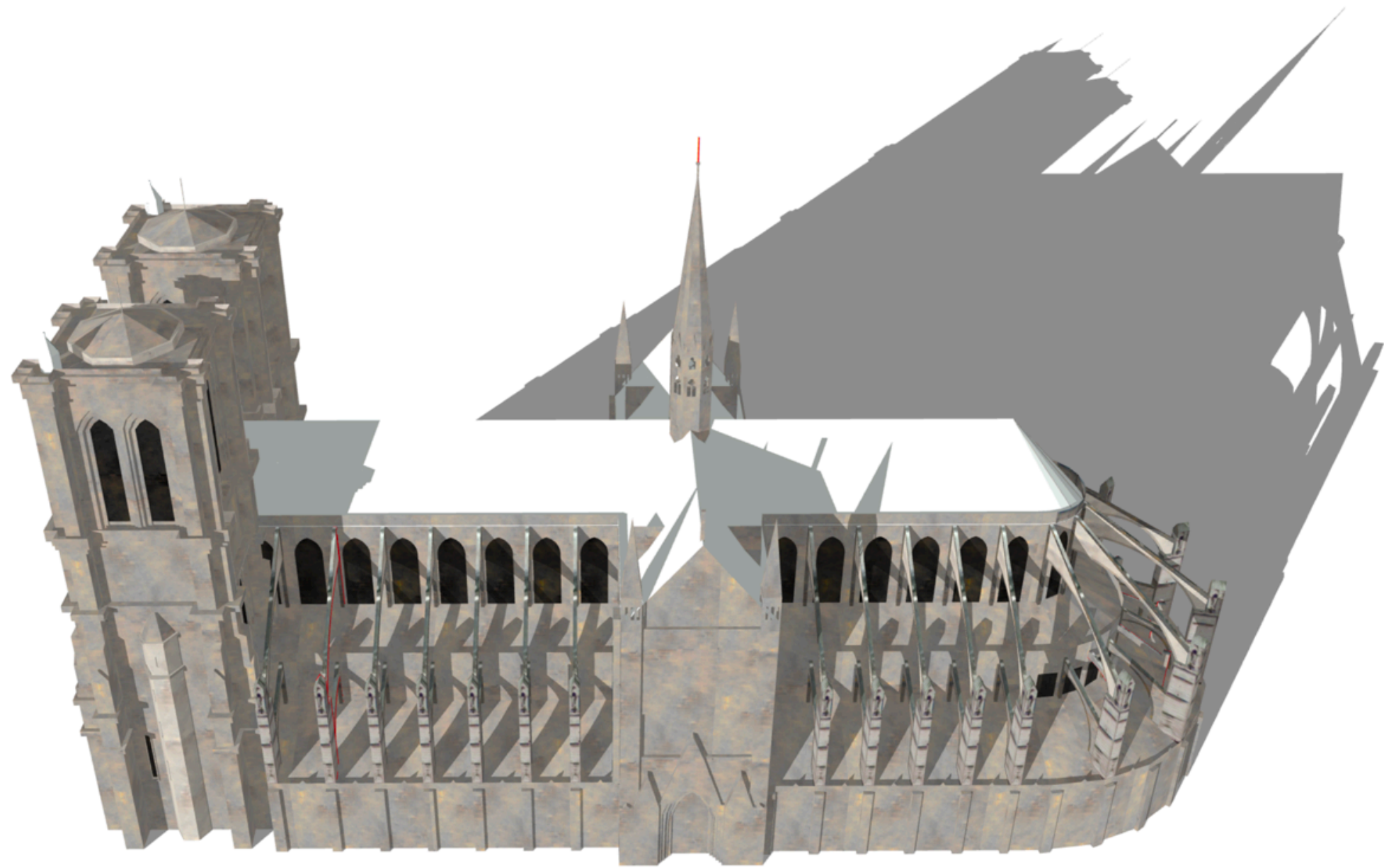


Engineer

Artist

Architect

A_{3.8}



Engineer
Artist
Architect

A_{3.9}

Merci

48° 51' 10.8" **N**

2° 20' 59.64" **E**



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