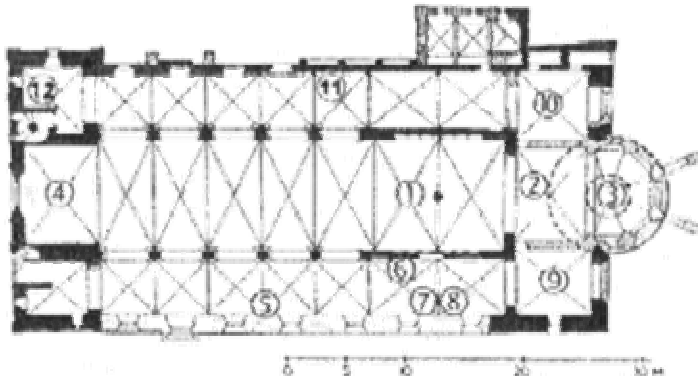


## Walk through the Florin Church:



The church was built in approximately 1100 AC. under the archbishop of Trier, Bruno von Lauffen, as a Romanesque collegiate church with three naves and minor aisles and a cloister. Over the centuries, last between 1595 and 1600, the church was subject to Gothic amendments (pointed arch windows and vaulting). Before his election as archbishop, Bruno von Lauffen was the dean of the St. Florin collegiate.

Today, the Florin church presents itself as a Gothic-influenced Romanesque pillar basilica with a simple but impressive space effect. This may be due to the interior size of the church. It is 55 m long, 15 m high, 10 m wide in the nave and 4.20 m in the aisle. The impression is enforced by the triple stairway to the prechoir (1), choir (2) and apse with altar.

The entrance area is vaulted by the organ gallery (4) with baroque leaf garlands and the dove of peace in the peak.

In the right/south aisle we can see the bronze relief "The entombment of Jesus Christ" by August Wittig in 1858 (5). Formerly, it was part of the tombstone of superintendent Rogge on the graveyard in Koblenz, who died in 1912. In 1968 the grave was flattened.

On the prechoir wall on the left hand side there are three painted altar niches showing St. Agatha (1300), St. Margareta (1360) and the man of pain (1475) (6), which have partially survived.

Across from these niches, in the outer wall windows there are Gothic glass paintings from approx. 1320 (7). They depict the life of Christ, starting with the annunciation angel (right bottom window on the left) and finishing with the resurrection (left top window on the right). It is most likely these windows originate from the St. Kastor Church in Dausenau and were a gift from the Baron von Stein made to the church in 1820.

Between the windows you can see one of the few surviving tombs (Epitaph) of the foundation chairman, Finger, died in 1711, with his coat of arms (right forearm with forefinger on it). (8)

To the east the aisle is finished off by the baptism chapel (9) with a baptism stone from that time erected in 1898. The Gothic tracery window has two glass paintings (approximately 1340 with crucifixion and pouring out of the Holy Ghost/Whitsun), which is also a gift from the Baron von Stein. In the vaulting above, you can discover a cannonball in memory of the bombardment of Koblenz by French troops in 1688.

To the left, passing the door, you will get to the main nave and the choir (2). In the Gothic apse (3) there is the main altar with a crucifix of 1820; a so-called hollow cross. The three niches behind the altar are painted with Gothic illusionary paintings (about 1835), the two wall niches next to the altar are covered with a fresco (about 1775) by Januarius Zick, the court painter of the last archbishop and elector of Trier (feet washing of Jesus and wedding of Kana). The bible on the altar originates from the 18th century.

It is worthwhile to have a look westwards towards the organ gallery (4), which used to be a chapel gallery, to obtain an overall impression of the church.

The winter church is located in the northern/left aisle (10).

Before the entrance to this, at the north wall, there is a casting of the tomb/epitaph of the archbishop of Trier, Jakob von Baden, who died in 1511 and was buried in the church. The original can be found in the collegiate church in Baden-Baden.

In the vaulting of the north tower whose Romanesque style has remained unchanged there are two Frankonian stone coffins (reddish sand stone) originating from 450 AC. They were not discovered until 1929/30 during a major renovation of the church and churchyard. (12)

## History of the Florin Church:

- 949 Foundation of the canon-institution by Duke of Schwaben. Numerous property gifts, among others Montabaur.
- 1100 Construction of the Florin church in its present form as romanesque pillar basilica.
- 1240 Construction of the sacristy on the cloister with access to the church, wrongly called chapter house.
- 1350 Demolition of the romanesque apsis and reconstruction with gothic windows
- 1460 Gothic voulting of the choir and pre-choir up to the pulpit, rebuilding of the chapel gallery into organ gallery, big gothic window in the western wall
- 1595 Gothic voulting of the entire church
- 1688 Bombardment of Koblenz by French troops in the Palatine war of succession, fire, caving in of the towers and the voulting
- 1711 Reconstruction under dean Finger and archbishop Hugo von Orsbeck, stones in the middle and right naves
- 1794 French revolution troops occupy Koblenz and seize the church
- 1802 On 2nd July dissolution of the foundation and expropriation by France with a small pension for the last canons. Establishment of a storage depot. Cloister is pulled down.
- 1808 Napoleon hands the church over as a present to the town of Koblenz to be used as a slaughterhouse with sales counters. Not realized due to lack of money and the deliberation wars 1813/14.
- 1815 Congress of Vienna. Koblenz turns Prussian, the church continues to be used as storage depot
- 1816 Town of Koblenz requests clearance of the church to establish the slaughterhouse, Prussia wants to set up a military church, wearisome negotiations
- 1818 Friedrich Wilhelm III expropriates the church for compensation and leaves the church to the Protestant Military and Civilian Community for common use. Reestablishment as church with altar, pulpit, baptism chapel, organ and bells
- 1820 Inauguration as Protestant church
- 1898 Renovation and repainting of the church in historic style. Towers rebuilt with spires where previously round hoods were.
- 1929 Major renovation, present pulpit, excavations Frankonian stone coffins, Roman tower foundations under the altar
- 1944 Damages by air attacks in the choir area
- 1951 Reconstruction of the church
- 1971 Renovation of the interior following a smouldering organ fire, present painting of the interior
- 1981 present painting of the exterior where previously the stones were visible