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Architecture in a Changing World

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Sainte Chapelle

Sainte Chapelle, is located in the heart of Paris. The chapel stands tall in the courtyard of the royal palace. It is the holy chapel commissioned by King Louis IX of France. It is a considered to be one of the highest Gothic architectural structures built in the thirteenth century. It is a royal medieval Gothic chapel, which was built for King Louis IX to display his *Passion Relics*. One of the most famous and important was the Crown of Thorns, where King Louis IX is accepting the crown. Some historian interpreters have inferred that by King Louis IX being given the Crown of Thorns he is accepting Christ and that King Louis IX, himself is the next chosen one and the people of France are the chosen people.

Sainte Chapelle is a two story Gothic chapel. With details on every last inch of the structure both on the exterior and in the interior. The exterior architecture shows very simple designs, from the outside a lay person would not be able to distinguish the richness the interior possesses. Both buttresses and flying buttresses are seen on the exterior, as well as there is a clear distinction between the upper and lower part of the chapel. The richness the interior possesses is displayed in no other chapel I have seen. Every inch of the interior is decorated either with stain glass windows or with rich primary colors. The stain glass windows are some of the finest in Paris. There are fifteen stain glass windows that tell a religious story of history leading up to King Louis IX with the famous rose window. It is one of the most beautiful monuments I have been to since in Paris.

Work cited:

Decandia, Guiseppe. “Sainte-Chapelle De Paris” *Sainte-Chapelle De Paris.* Architecture De Religious, n.d. Web. 09 Mar. 2015