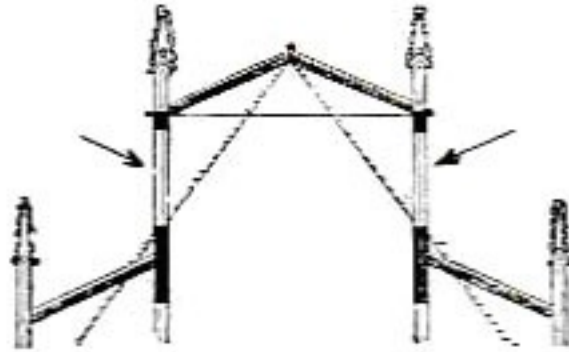


**clerestory, clearstory** 1. An upper zone of wall pierced with windows that admit light to the center of a lofty room. 2. A window so placed.



section through the upper part of a cathedral; location of the clerestory windows indicated by arrows

#### *Clerestory Windows:*

Clerestory windows have been used by architects and builders for centuries. A clerestory window is essentially any window that is placed up high in a room or space. They offer a way for light to be introduced into a room from above. Clerestory windows preserve privacy in a room while still allowing it to be lit naturally. They focus your attention on the sky and the changing weather patterns without the distraction that lower placed windows create. In the past they allowed natural light into spaces before the invention of electric light and skylights.

They offer many advantages when used in today's modern buildings: natural light, privacy, energy efficiency and cost effectiveness. They are energy efficient because they allow daylight to replace electric lights and when shaded properly do not allow for direct sun rays to enter a room. This is a big difference from a skylight that allows all of the sun's rays to enter a room which causes overheating in the summer. Also clerestory windows do not need special glass like skylights do to make them safe from breaking and falling, therefore they cost less than an equal size skylight. For these reasons they are a good alternative to skylights.

You will find clerestory windows in churches, libraries, classrooms and large halls. Look for them the next time you happen to be in one of these spaces.

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