



Fig. 2: Sketch indicating the load transfer of the “tectonic frame” (the scheme of a Gothic cathedral)

4. Conclusion

This study has demonstrated that the field of structural design is a potential bridge between architectural design and architectural history. If this potential can be used in an efficient manner the architecture students will be able to analyze the built environment in its multidimensional nature. An indispensable component of this multidimensional architectural environment is the structural system. Architectural history indicates that humankind has devised various structural systems to make the spatial enclosures possible and consistent structure is the prerequisite for the design of space. By adapting the proposed integrative model based upon the two major structural themes and their variations in different historical contexts, it will be possible for the architecture students to comprehend the built environment in a much more comprehensive way.

In many parts of the world contemporary urban sites and construction activities share the same geography with historical sites of cultural heritage. If architectural education follows the proposed path then architects of the future will be able to develop a historical-critical way of thinking which will enable them to interrelate the past, the present and the future. Therefore, they will learn how to analyse the design problem existing in the present, how to derive patterns through a critical analysis of the past and how to adopt these principles into the architecture of the future. In addition, this educational model which is devised for the departments of architecture can also be adapted into the departments of civil engineering since these professions always work together and engineers should possess the similar historical sensibility towards the built environment.

5. References

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