



CHELSEA JUDY

Class of 2011

Major: European History

Minor: University Honors

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Beckman 209

**Secrets in Stone: A Look at Hidden Symbols
in European Architecture**

Architecture serves as a window to the past, linking the modern and ancient worlds. From Paris' masterpiece of Notre Dame, to Florence's jewel, Santa Maria del Fiore, to the elaborately carved facades of the university town of Salamanca, Spain, sacred pagan iconography can be discovered in the most unexpected places: Catholic cathedrals and universities. Using vivid images, I will examine buildings where the pagan metaphors and symbols concealed in the floor and ceiling serve as an architectural bridge between heaven and earth, physically bringing to life the esoteric maxim: "As above, so below." I'll explore the sacred language of architecture used to decipher how pagan influences continue to linger in sites dominated by Roman Catholicism.