

Stock features:

Tortuous , fragmented narratives relating mysterious incidents, horrible images and life- threatening pursuits predominate in the eighteenth century. Specters , monsters, demons, corpses, skeletons ,evil aristocrats, monks and nuns, fainting heroines and bandits populate Gothic landscapes as suggestive figures of imagined and realistic threats.

This list grew, in the nineteenth century, with the addition of scientists, fathers , husbands, madmen, criminals and the monstrous double signifying duplicity and evil nature. Gothic landscapes are desolate, alienating and full of menace. In the eighteenth century they were wild and mountainous locations. Later the modern city combined the natural and architectural components of Gothic grandeur and wildness, its dark, labyrinthine streets suggesting the violence and the menace of Gothic castle and forest.

Architecture, particularly medieval in form, signaled the spatial and temporal separation of the past and its value from those of the present. The pleasures of horror and terror came from the reappearance of figures long gone.