



UNIONE EUROPEA



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REGIONE AUTÓNOMA DE SARDIGNA
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

Archaeological area of Tharros

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ The temple of inscriptions or Temple K

Halfway up the western side of the San Giovanni hill, which is dominated by the tower of the same name, there is a base in sandstone blocks supporting a small temple, known as temple K, and a portico (figs 1-3)



Fig. 1 - Location of the temple of the inscriptions (from Google Earth. Reprocessed by C. Tronchetti)



Fig. 2 - The area of the temple of the inscriptions" (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)



Fig. 3 - The remains of the temple of the inscriptions on the slopes leading up to the Torre di San Giovanni (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)

The temple K is small, rectangular, and accessible from a small staircase of five steps, and had two *in antis* pillars on the front (figs. 4-5).

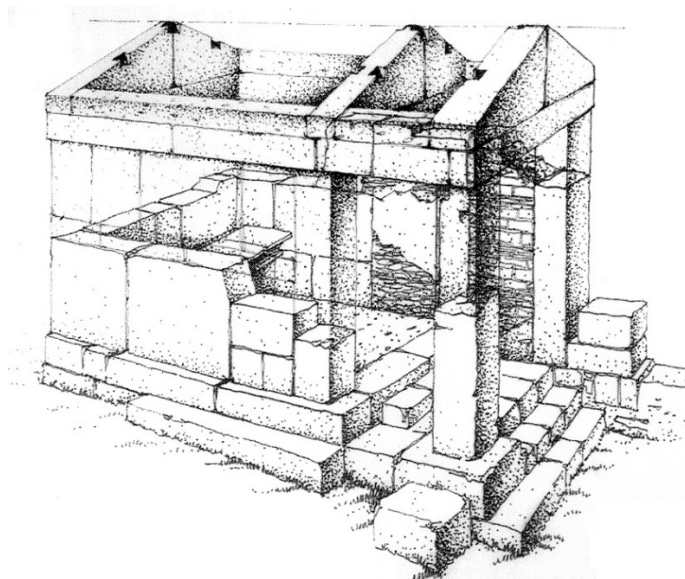


Fig. 4 - Reconstruction of temple K (from ACQUARO 1988, p. 221)

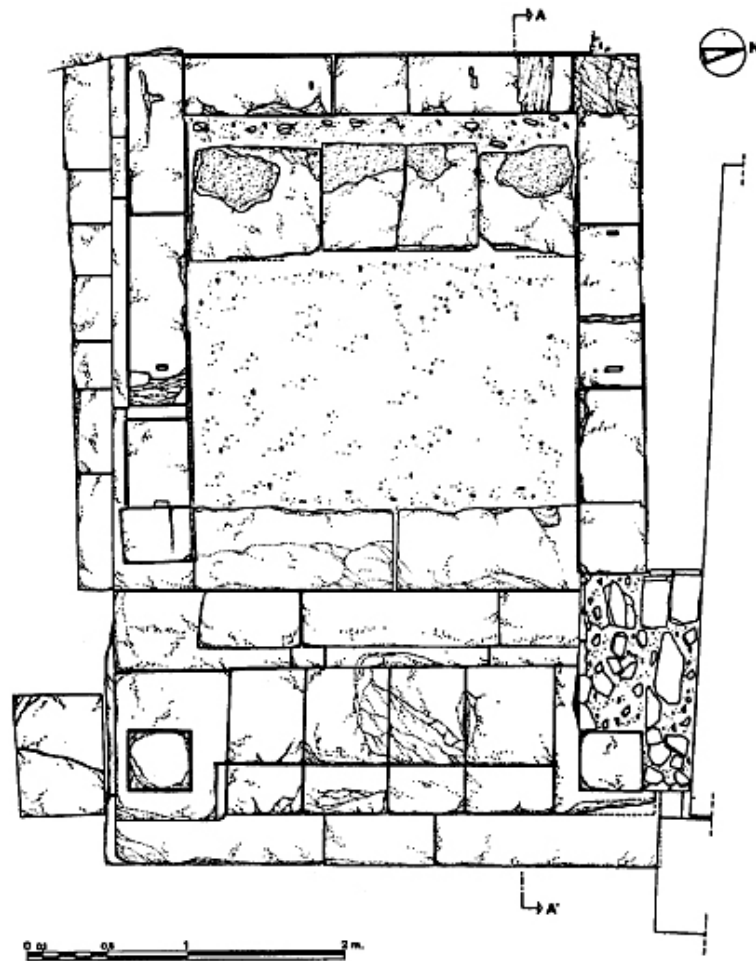


Fig. 5 - Map of temple K (from ACQUARO 1983, p. 626)

The back part of the cells contains an altar with an Egyptian moulding cornice.

There is a small portico alongside the temple K, widely renovated in the Imperial Roman age to make some residential rooms; originally the the architectural decoration elements were for the portico, with Egyptian moulding found in the collapse of the building along the slope (fig. 6).



Fig. 6 - Architectural Egyptian moulding decorations from the temple of the inscriptions
(photo by Unicity S.p.A.).

The temple-portico complex described above is dated to the 2nd century B.C., but the presence of sandstone blocks, reused, some of which have the letters of an inscription on them in Punic lettering “he listened to his voice...” makes the theory of a previous Punic sacred building now lost very likely.

■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Carlo Tronchetti

■ Bibliography

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