



UNIONE EUROPEA



REPUBBLICA ITALIANA



REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA
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Archaeological area of Therros

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ The church of San Giovanni

Along the road that lead to Cornus from Tharros, in a necropolis that was first pagan and then Christian, at some point a small paleo-Christian basilica sprung up at some unknown point, probably between the 6th and 7th centuries A.D., which still show the remains of an apse, demolished and partly used as the foundation for the later church of San Giovanni (figs. 1-3).



Fig. 1 - Location of the church of San Giovanni compared to Tharros: A) the church; B) Su Muru Mannu (from Google Earth. Reprocessed by C. Tronchetti)



Fig. 2 - The church of San Giovanni (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)

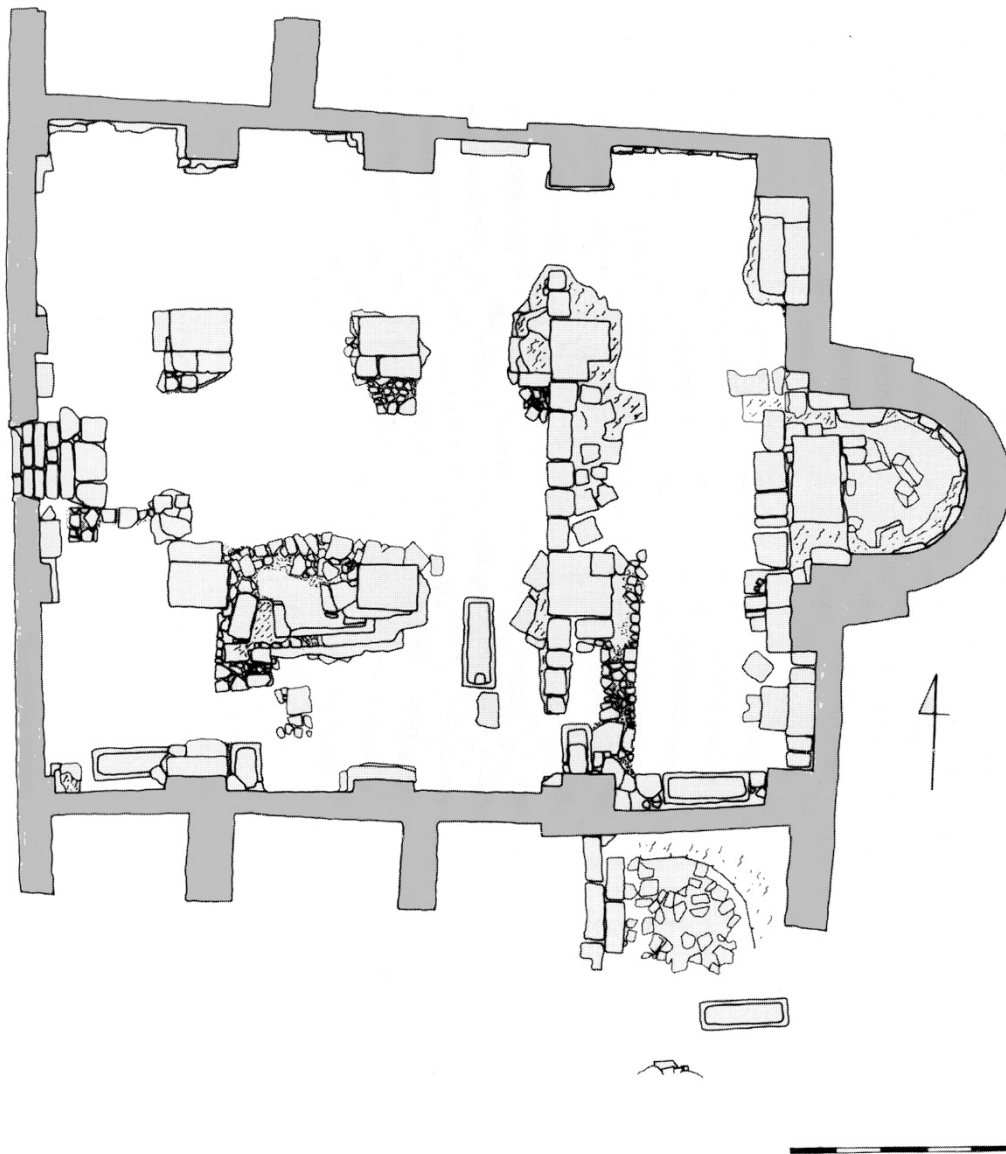


Fig. 3 - Map of the church of San Giovanni with the remains of pre-existing structures
(from MESSINA, MUREDDU, 2002, page 241)

The current appearance of the church comes from the transformation of the first Byzantine cross-shaped church, cutting through the longitudinal arms, to create a rectangular building, that is divided internally by three naves (figs. 4-8).

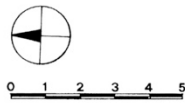
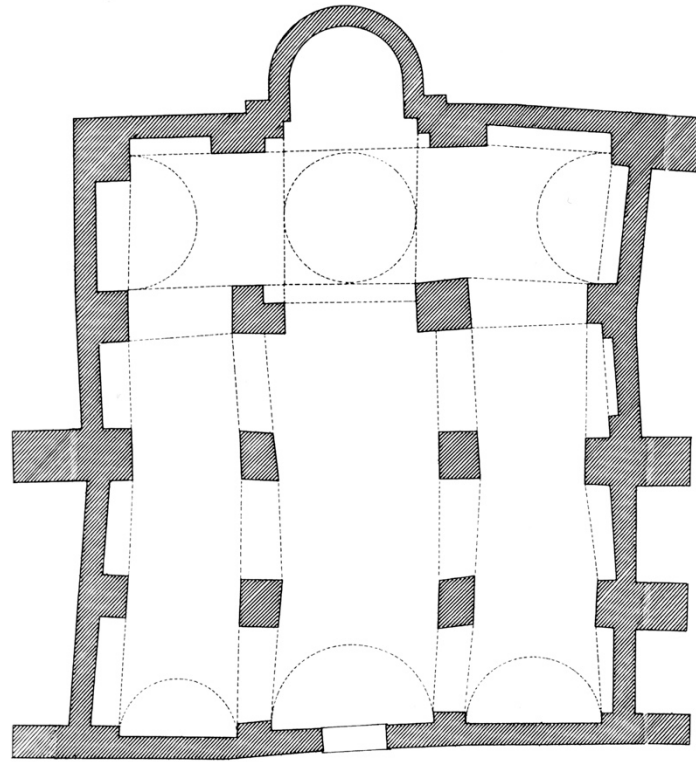


Fig. 4 - Map of the church of San Giovanni (from Coroneo 1999, p. 38)



Fig. 5 - The church of San Giovanni (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)



Fig. 6 - Façade of the church of San Giovanni (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)



Fig. 7 - Apse of the church of San Giovanni (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)



Fig. 8 - Detail of a blocked up mullioned window (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)

A large part of the blocks used to build the first and second church building were taken from the nearby city of Tharros, according to a well-known, consolidated practice. The current church has been generally dated to the Proto-Romanesque era, around the 10-11th century, based on the structural aspects of the apse and the presence of mullioned windows in the apse and transept.

■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Carlo Tronchetti

■ Bibliography

R. CORONEO, *Architettura romanica dalla metà del mille al primo '300*, Nuoro 1993, pp. 42-44.

R. CORONEO, *San Giovanni di Sinis*, in V. FISHER (ed.), *Chiese cruciformi bizantine della Sardegna*, Cagliari 1999, pp. 37-39.





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La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



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