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REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA
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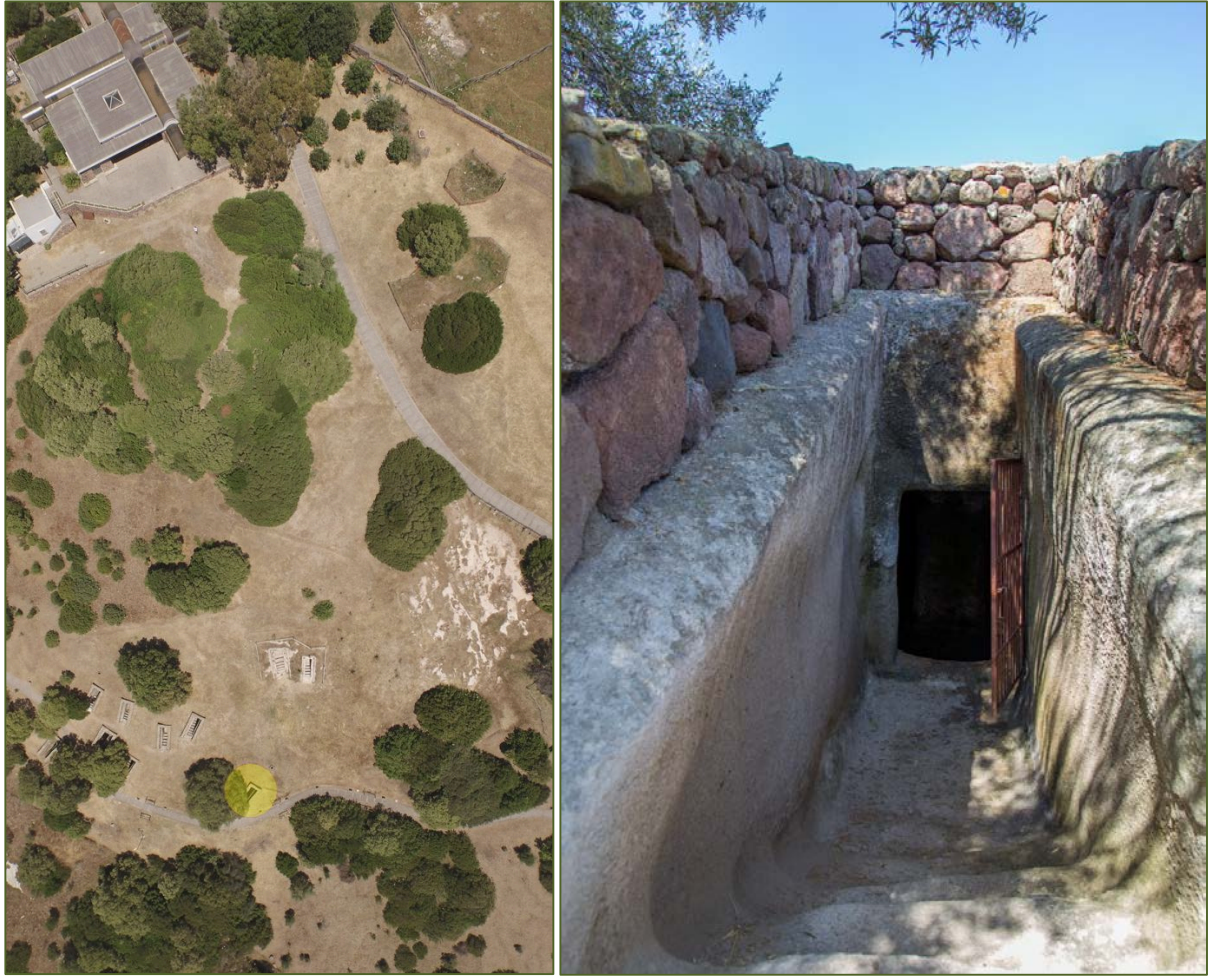
Archaeological area of Mount Sirai

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ Tomb in chamber no. 5

The tomb in chamber no. 5 is the best known of the tombs in the hypogeum necropolis of Monte Sirai. The chamber, preceded by the usual corridor (known as *dromos*) with steps (figs. 1-3) has a large central decorated pillar



Figs. 1, 2 - Aerial view of the hypogeum necropolis and entrance corridor to tomb (photo UNICITY S.p.A.).

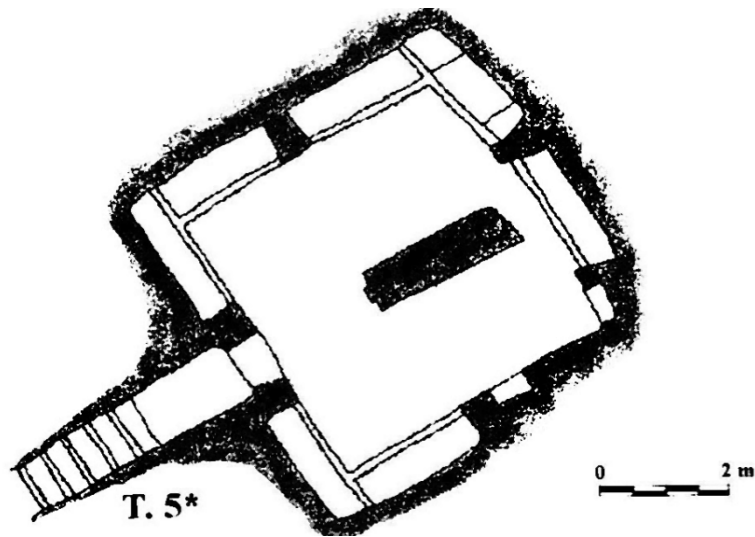


Fig. 3 - Map (BARTOLONI 2000, fig. 23).

that is a real partition, which experts believe shows a type of architecture that evolved later, between the 4th and 3rd century BC.

Decoration of the hypogeum tombs, and markedly on the pillars is well known in Sulcis architectural tradition. The pillar organises the square internal space, with the sign of the goddess Tinnit on the side facing the entrance. She is unusually upside down, present in bas-relief (fig. 4).

The Phoenician iconographic motif of the Carthaginian goddess, is used here in a burial environment, and the direction she is presented in is to be assumed to be the representation of the way the space of death is upside down compared to life: the presence of upside down signs in prehistoric tombs in Sardinia may also lead to an execution influenced in some way by this cultural background.

The tomb shows sarcophagi dug into the rock and niches, and has a scenographic reproduction of ceramic items (fig. 5).



Figs. 4, 5 - Pillar with markings of Tinnit and niches containing reconstructed ceramic pieces (photo UNICITY S.p.A.).

■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Giuseppina Manca di Mores and Prof. Marcello Madau

■ Bibliography

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La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



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