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REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA  
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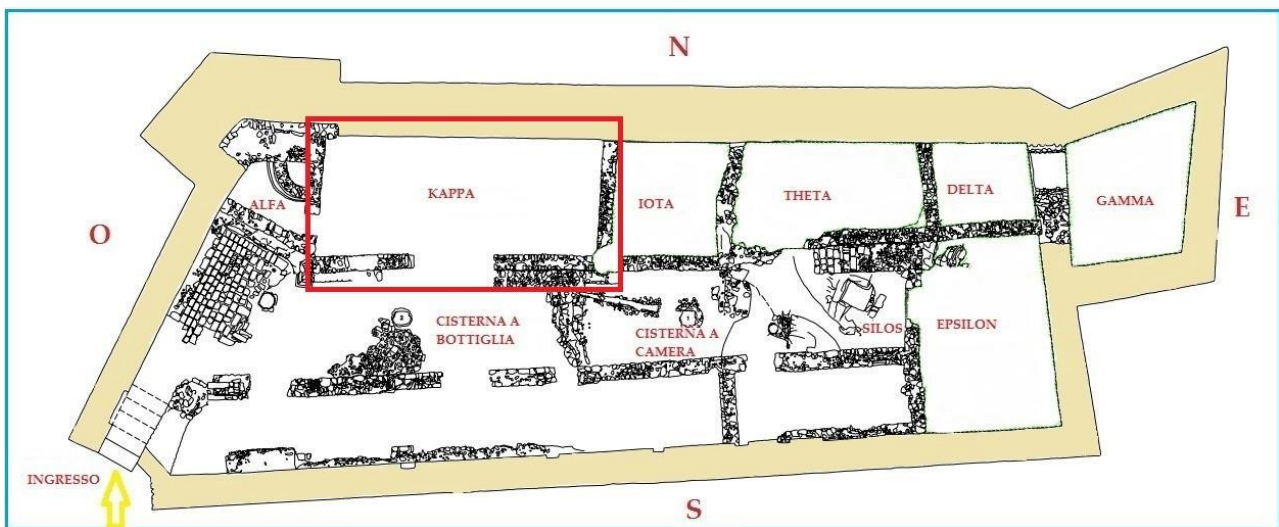
# Castle of Monreale

Patrimonio culturale  
**SARDEGNA** Virtual Archaeology



## ■ *Kappa* room

This is between the *alpha* and *iota* rooms (figs. 1-2-3). The digs showed up a complex archaeological stratification that bears witness to the long period in which the castle was used, as seen in the many archaeological items recovered (mostly ceramics), that can be dated in a period from the 12th century to the 16th century. Two structures discovered under a floor from the start of the 14th century are particularly important: in the first, in the eastern part of the kappa room, a part of an underground hut was found, dated to the High Middle Ages (fig. 4), with an earthen schist floor, a fireplace and animals bones with signs of slaughtering; in the second, in the western half of the room, a number of remains of walls, just a few rows of stones high, built directly onto the rock, have been found underneath the high middle ages layers. The presence of several leftovers from smelting indicate that this was a metal-working plant, which has not yet been dated (fig. 5). On the walls inside the room, some fragments of plaster were found, with carbon designs. An inscription was found in the kappa room which refers to the works carried out in the castle during the first quarter of the thirteenth century.



**Fig. 1** - The *kappa* room (reconstruction by M. G. Arru from SPANU 2003, p. 58).



**Fig. 2** - The keep seen from above with an indication of the *kappa* room (Reconstruction by M. G. Arru, photo by R. Bordicchia).



**Fig. 3** - The *kappa* room (from STASOLLA 2010, p. 46).



**Fig. 4** - *Kappa* room: underground hut (from STASOLLA 2010, p. 48).



**Fig. 5** - *Kappa* room: structures for the ironworks (From STASOLLA 2010, p. 48).

## ■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Maria Grazia Arru.

Preliminary research by Dr. Valeria Paretta and Dr. Daniele Corda.

## ■ Bibliography

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## La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



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