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REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA  
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

# Castle of Monreale

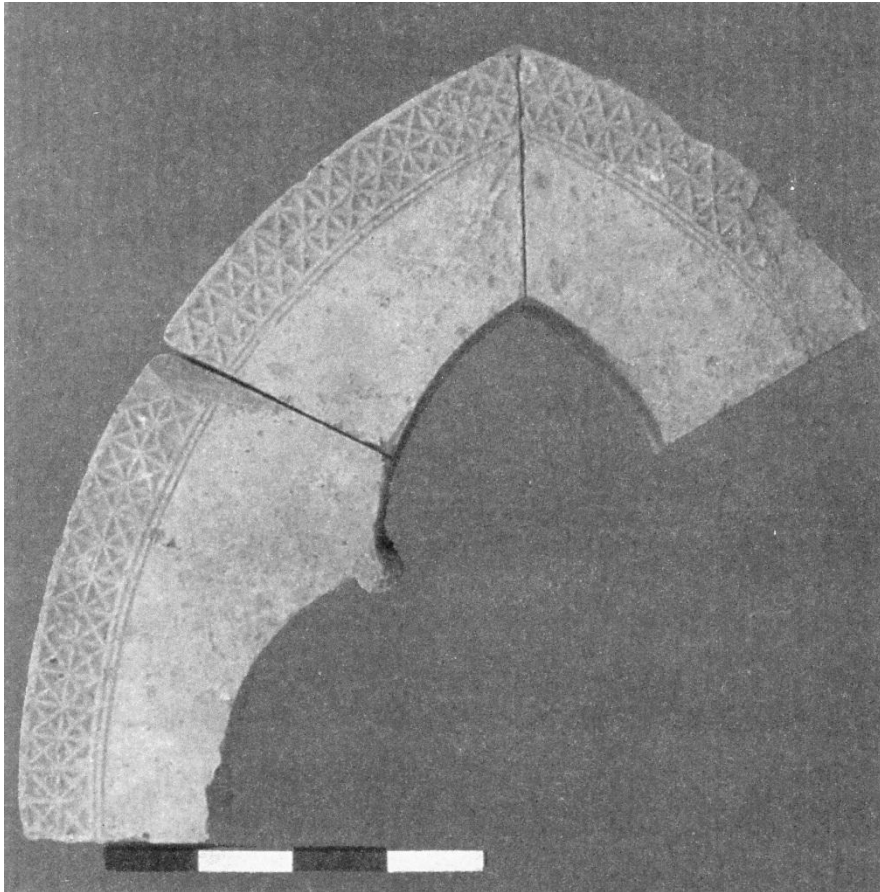
Patrimonio culturale  
**SARDEGNA** Virtual Archaeology



## ■ Architectural Elements

During the archaeological digs in the inner rooms of Monreale castle, it was possible to see the presence of trace of the ancient architectural decorations. In the north perimeter wall, there is still a impost with an arch between the second and third floor of the wall, while between the first and the second floor there is a voussoir and an arch peak incorporated in the wall. The jamb of the only window still found on the ground floor was made with irregular blocks of grey marlstone. In 1955, in the layers of collapsed wall near the window, in the area between the first and second courtyard, some ashlar in yellow marlstone were found. The recombination of the blocks allowed a part reconstruction of an acute triple arch window and finely sculpted geometric decoration in the front archivolt (fig. 1). The discovery of plaster fragments with traces of carbon drawings suggests that the walls of some rooms were decorated. Several fragments of architraves with artistic engravings come from the area of the keep. Blocks with decorative incisions have been placed in the wall (figs. 2-4).





**Fig. 1** - Archivolt of the window (from Uccheddu 2004, fig. 10, p. 223).





**Fig. 2** - Decorative element in the keep wall (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).



**Fig. 3** - Decorative element in the keep wall (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).



**Fig. 4** - Block with decorative elements in the keep wall (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).

## ■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Maria Grazia Arru.

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

## ■ Bibliography

Uccheddu 2004 = G. Uccheddu, *Le strutture murarie del castello di Monreale (Sardara-VS)*, in V. Grieco, *I catalani e il castelliere sardo*, Cagliari 2004, pp. 181-240.





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