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REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA
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Palace of Baldu

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ *Lu Palatzu* of Baldu

Lu Palatzu of Baldu is a square-plan tower placed in the south-eastern part of the pentagonal complex which developed around it (fig. Its height reaches about 10 metres, but it is possible that in ancient times it was higher as, in addition to the three floors which may be inferred, it must have had a terrace, which ensured a good visibility of the surrounding area.

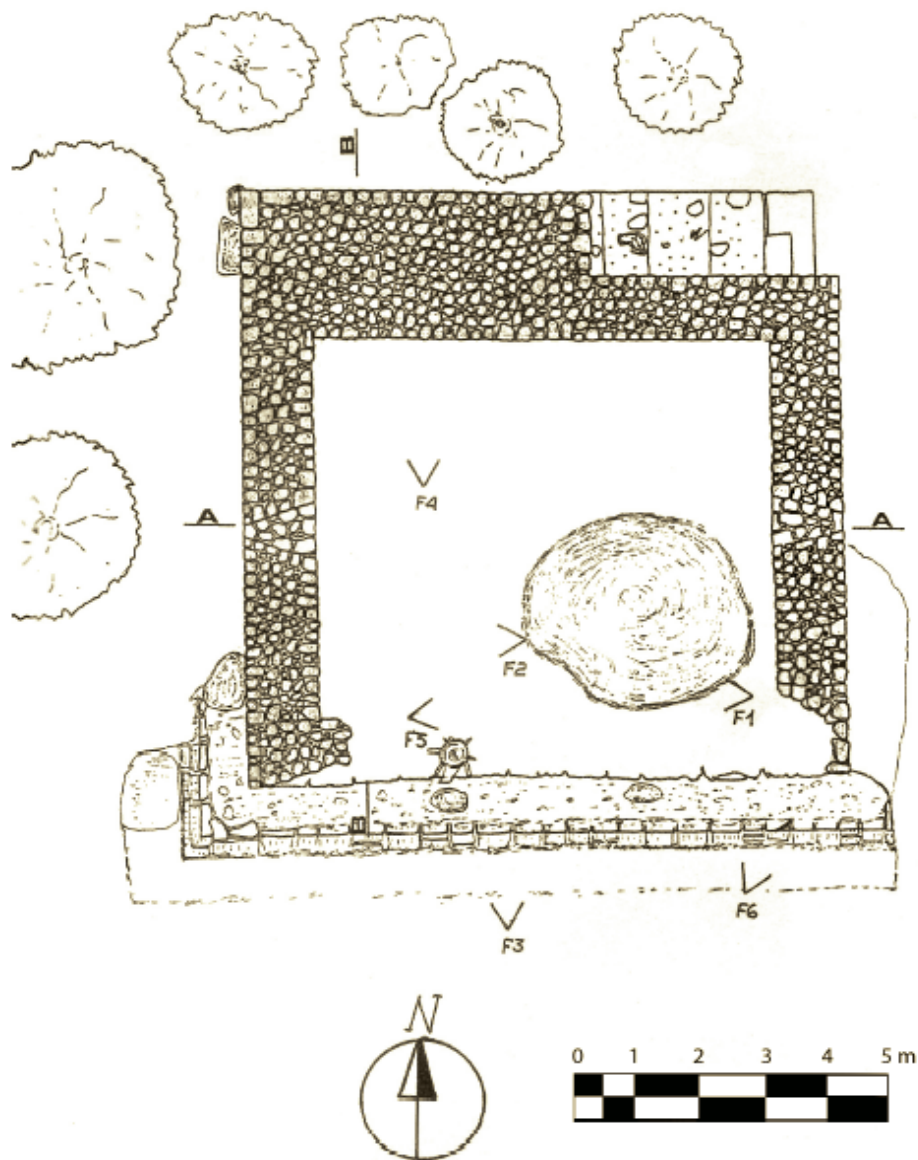


Fig. 1 - Plan of *Lu Palatzu* (survey and graphic reconstruction by A. M. Azara).

The lower level of the tower, externally with a scarp base, has a large mass, the use of which is not clear, but it may have been used to support some kind of structure and the surrounding space was used as a storeroom: the openings in the wall facing the courtyard are compatible with that theory, to aerate the store and goods within it.



Fig. 2 - The Palace of Baldu, seen from the South-East (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).

The three floors must have been used as living and administrative quarters which would justify the technique and elegance of the masonry and the presence of a series of large windows, as well as an external staircase that provided access to the ground floor (fig. 3).

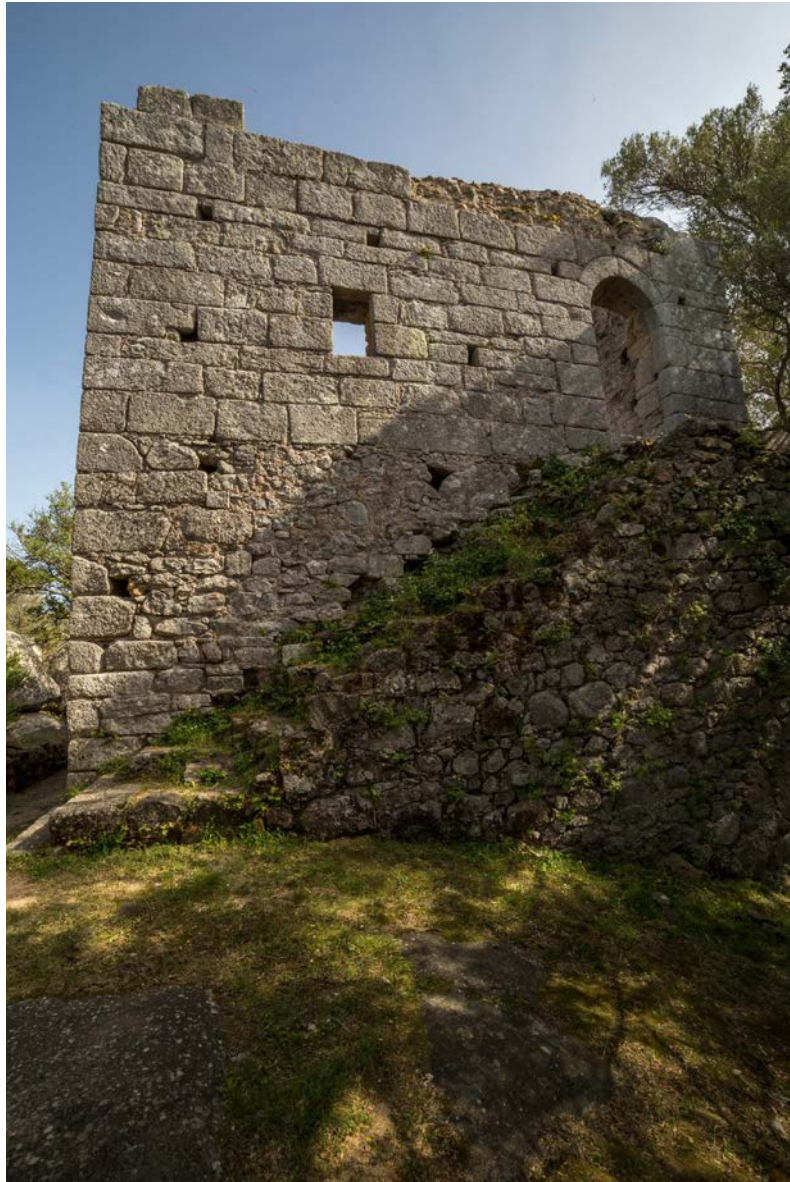


Fig. 3 - The Palace of Baldu, staircase (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).

The upper terrace played mainly a defensive role. This was due to many elements such as the scarp base that made an attack on the palace rather difficult and the location of it too, in a naturally defended position both due to the depression in the land that surrounded the complex and for the presence of granite rocks with tafoni which were over 10 metres high and hid the two floors of the tower on the east and south-east sides.

Based on all these elements and the presence of the seventeen rooms for civil use around the tower, it has been suggested that it was a residence, perhaps a seasonal one, for the giudice or bishop of Civita, but also the *Curia Regni* of the district of Balariana, in spite of

the fact that its construction modules make one think of a fortified complex that can be compared with other on the island and in other regions.

According to tradition, this structure is connected to the Visconti family of Pisa, particularly to Ubaldo, who lived during the thirteenth century: this dating is appropriate to this type of tower, often used in the private residences of Pisan families. The geometric arrangement of the structures around the fortified tower is also another piece of information that refers to the same period, while the news of the villa of *Sent Steva* being linked to the complex comes from the 14th century.



■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Claudia Cocco and Dr. Francesca Collu

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