



# Palace of Baldu

Patrimonio culturale  
**SARDEGNA** Virtual Archaeology



## ■ Building techniques for the Palace

*Lu Palattu* di Baldu is a square tower in the south-east corner of the pentagonal complex that it is developed around. It was the residency, at least seasonal, of the judge, the bishop of Civita, or the curator of Balaiana, in spite of the fact its construction modules lead one to believe it was a fortified complex, that can be compared with others on the island and in other regions.

The tower shows different building techniques: a clear distinction can be seen between the lower and top parts of the structure (fig. 1).



**Fig. 1** - Luogosanto, Palace of Baldu: corner between the North and West façades (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).

The ground floor, that incorporates a large granite rock, has small openings directed towards the courtyard, perhaps to guarantee aeration of the room which is thought to have

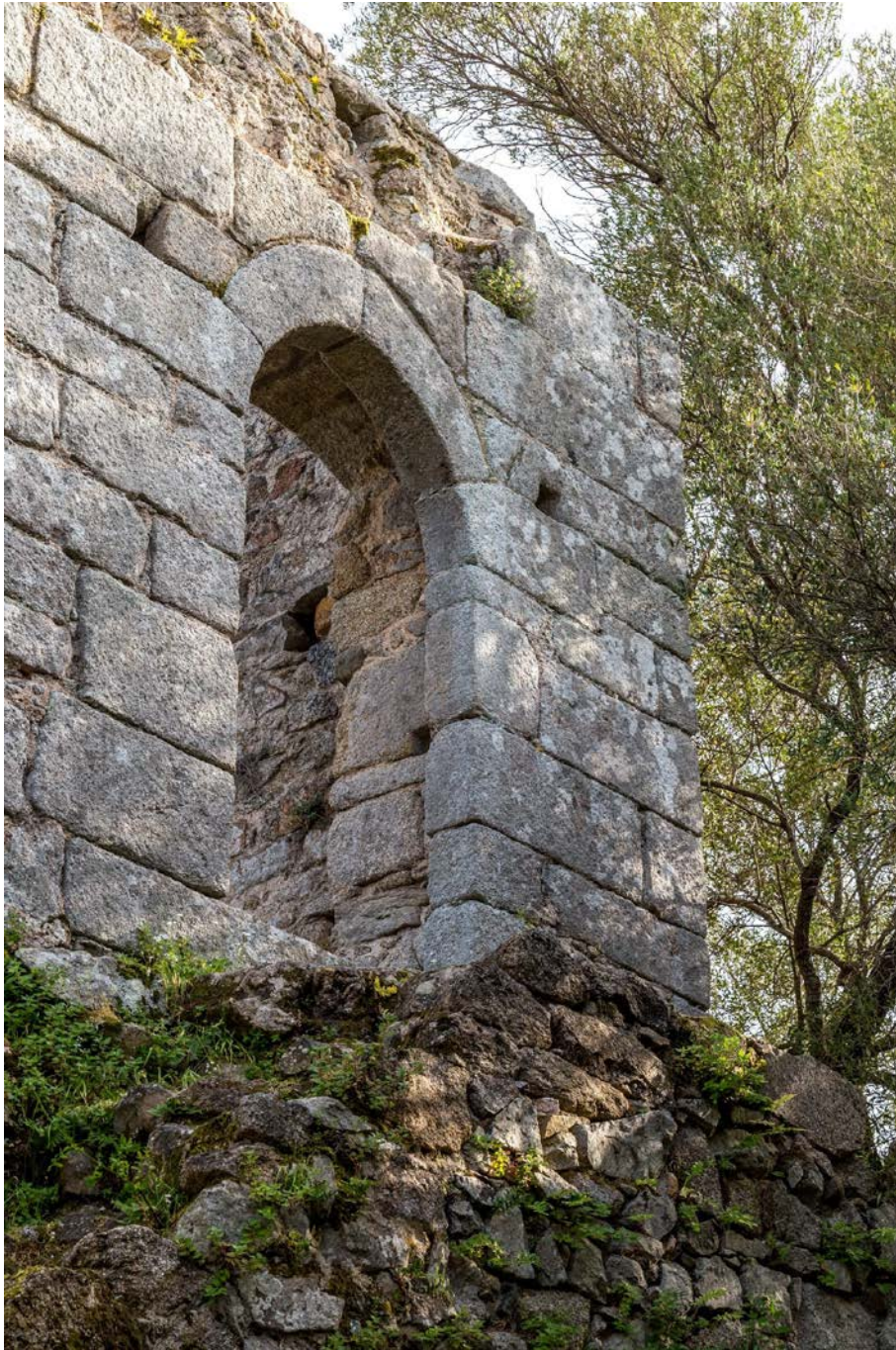
been a storeroom. The first floor received air and light from embrasures while the second floor had single-arch windows (fig.2).



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

Access was only in the north façade via an external stone staircase, that reached the second floor and opened onto an pointed arch door made with two monolithic shaped ash-lars (fig. 3).



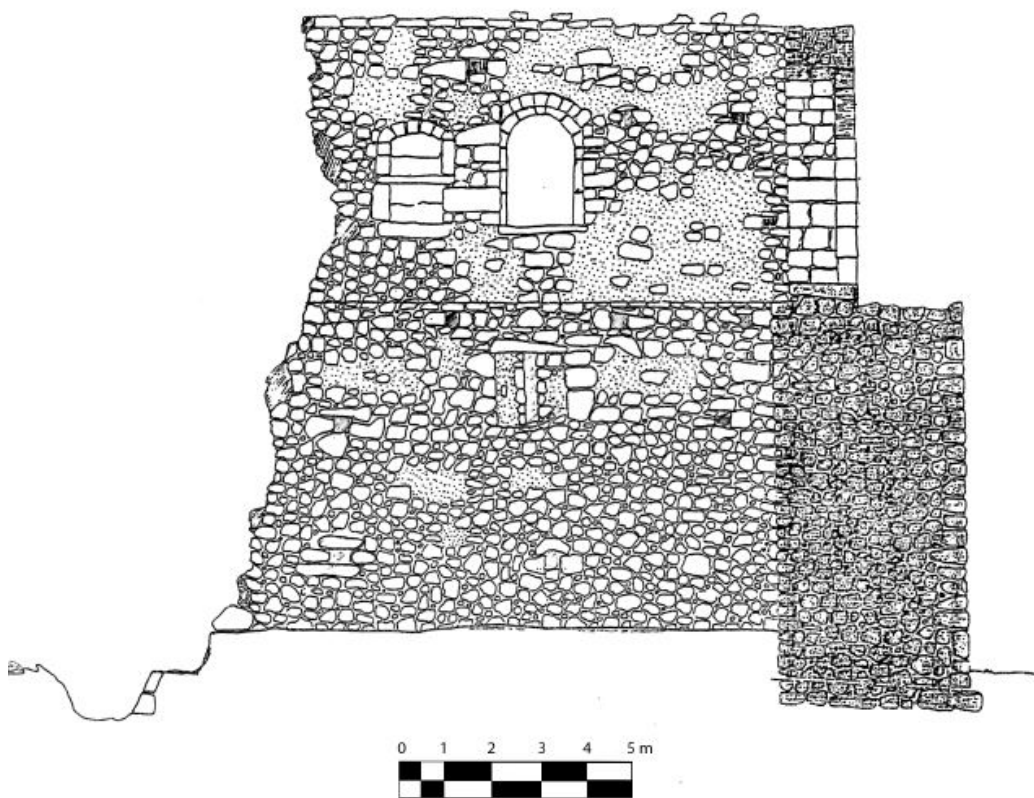


**Fig. 3** - Luogosanto, Palazzo di Baldu: north façade and external staircase (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).

The façade on the second floor is made with even, long granite ashlars; the base is characterised by rough, irregularly placed stonework: both have holes in them created for the housing of beams that were the scaffolding for the construction of the structure.

The eastern façade, damaged in the left portion, is different in the use of irregular stones in the lower part and the use of elegant rows of ashlar on the upper part. There is also an arched opening in this façade, which has partly collapsed.

The south side is totally missing while the west side is damaged on the right hand side: in the base there is a mixture of techniques due to the presence of the staircase (fig.1); the upper floor has a drip-pan and two overlapping niches next to the single-arch window (fig. 4).



**Fig. 4** - Luogosanto, Palazzo di Baldu: internal view west of Palazzo di Baldu (graphic production by A. M. Azara).

A scarp wall defended the tower that covered the lowest part (fig. 5): the jutting out part reached about 1.20 metres and the wall was sloping so that it could not be climbed.





**Fig. 5** - Luogosanto, Palazzo di Baldu: scarp base to bottom of tower wall (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).



## ■ Credits

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

## ■ Bibliographic abbreviations

PINNA 2002-2003      F. PINNA, *Un villaggio medioevale nel cuore della Gallura*, in *Almanacco Gallurese*, 10, 2002-2003, pp. 77-84.

PINNA 2004      F. PINNA, *Luogosanto, scavi archeologici nell'area del Palazzo di Baldu*, in *Aristeo*, I, 2004, pp. 319-321.

PINNA 2008      F. PINNA, *Archeologia del territorio in Sardegna. La Gallura tra tarda antichità e medioevo*, Cagliari 2008.

PINNA, CORDA a c.d.s      F. PINNA, D. CORDA, *Scambi e circuiti commerciali nella Sardegna medievale: dati archeologici dal Palazzo di Baldu (Luogosanto, Olbia-Tempio)*, in *B.S.S.H.N.C.*, 2014, pp. 748-749.

## ■ Periodicals and magazines

**B.S.S.H.N.C**      *Bulletin de la Société des sciences historiques et naturelles de la Corse*, Bastia, I, 1881 e ss.



UNIONE EUROPEA



REPUBBLICA ITALIANA



**REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA**  
**REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA**

## La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



UNIONE EUROPEA

Progetto cofinanziato dall'Unione Europea  
Programma Operativo FESR 2007-2013

FESR - Fondo Europeo di Sviluppo Regionale - Asse I, Linea di Attività 1.2.3.a