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REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA
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Port and coastal towers of Arbatax

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ The domus de janas and menhirs of S'Ortali 'e su Monte

In *San Salvatore*, not far from the sea and beaches of Orri, you have the archaeological area of *S'ortali 'e su Monte*. This is a real monumental complex formed by *domus de janas*, *menhirs*, one nuraghe and two tombs of giants, extending over about 8000 m² on a granite hill dominating the nearly coastal plain.

The presence of *domus de janas* and *menhirs* proves that the area has been used since very ancient times. A first underground tomb, dated to the Late Neolithic period (3200-2800 B.C.), dug in the north side of the hill of *S'Ortali 'e su Monte*, has a vestibule; from this, through a hatch, you enter a pseudo-rectangular shaped cell with a double niche (figs. 1-2).



Fig. 1 - The *domus de janas* dug under the hill of *S'Ortali 'e su Monte* (photo by C. Nieddu).

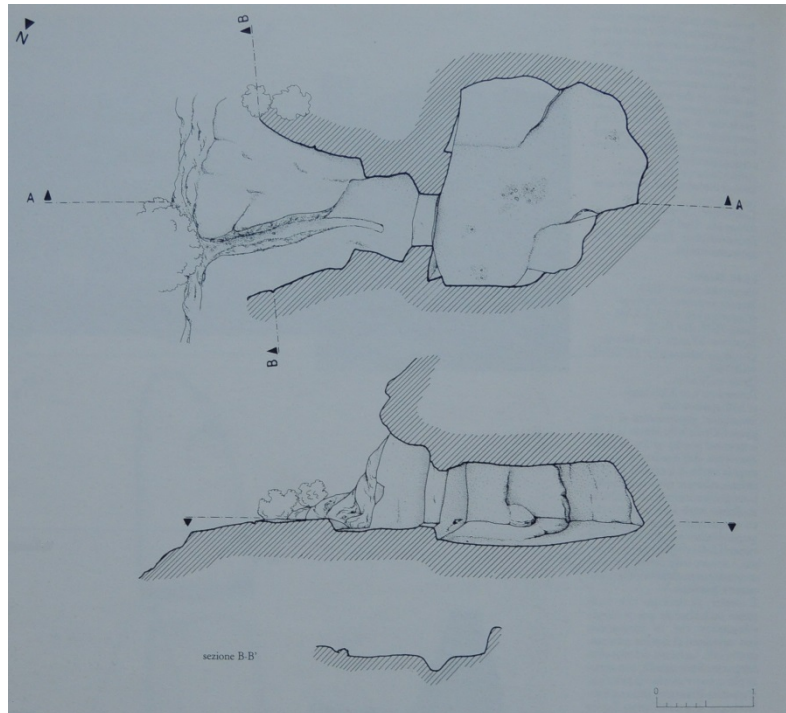


Fig. 2 - Plan and section of the *domus de janas* of *S'Ortale 'e su Monte* (from Locci 1990 b, p. 74).

Several *menhirs* also belong to the Neolithic period; they are of the aniconic, proto-anthropomorphic type¹. Several menhirs and a cup-shaped boulder are also visible next to the country church of San Salvatore (fig. 3) and their presence could be connected to the tomb dug in a granite rock spur behind the church.

¹ The "proto-anthropomorphic menhirs" are "aniconic", that is have no true portrayal and have a flat face (the main one) and are arch shaped for both the front and the back.

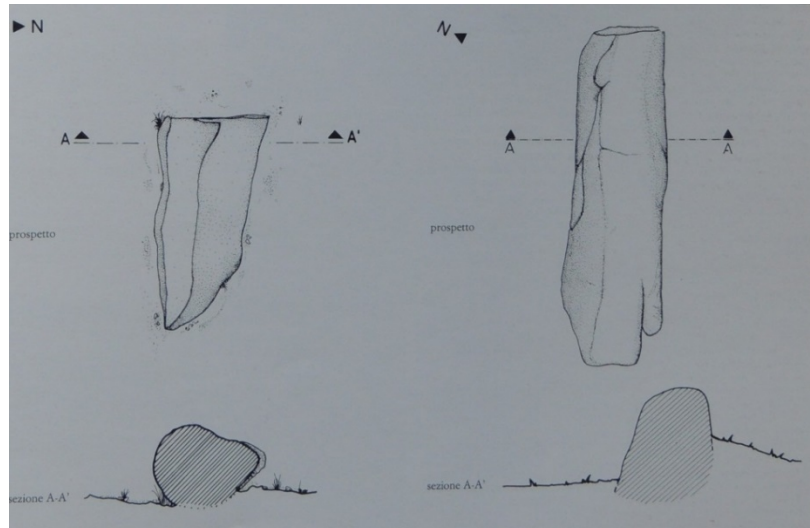


Fig. 3 - Plan and section of the *menhirs* of *San Salvatore* (from Locci 1990 d, p. 87).

This *domus* has a trapezoidal vestibule leading to two longitudinal cells. The two small rooms are an irregular semi-circular shape (figs. 4-5).

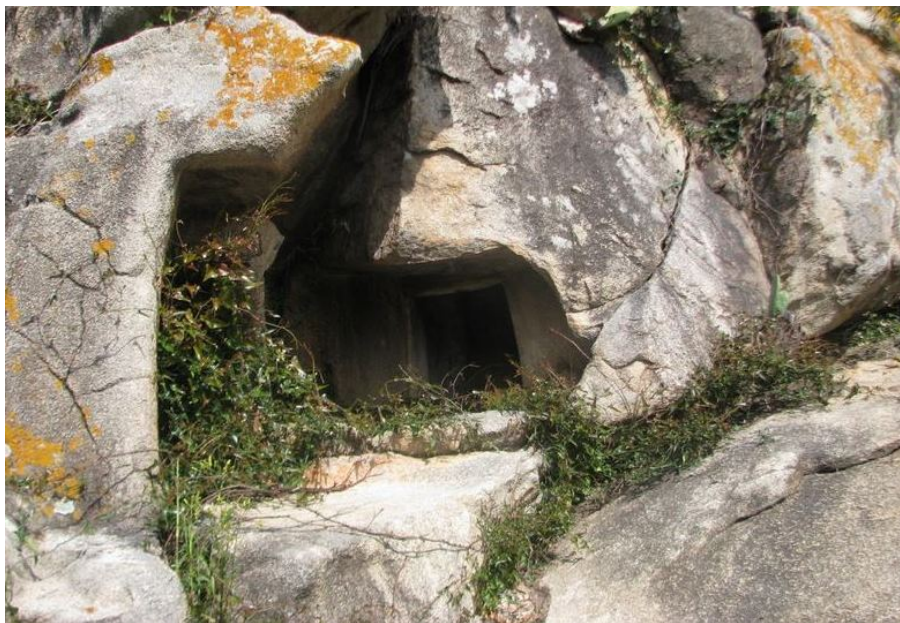


Fig. 4 - Plan and section of *domus de janas* of *San Salvatore* (from Fadda 2012, p. 25, fig. 31).

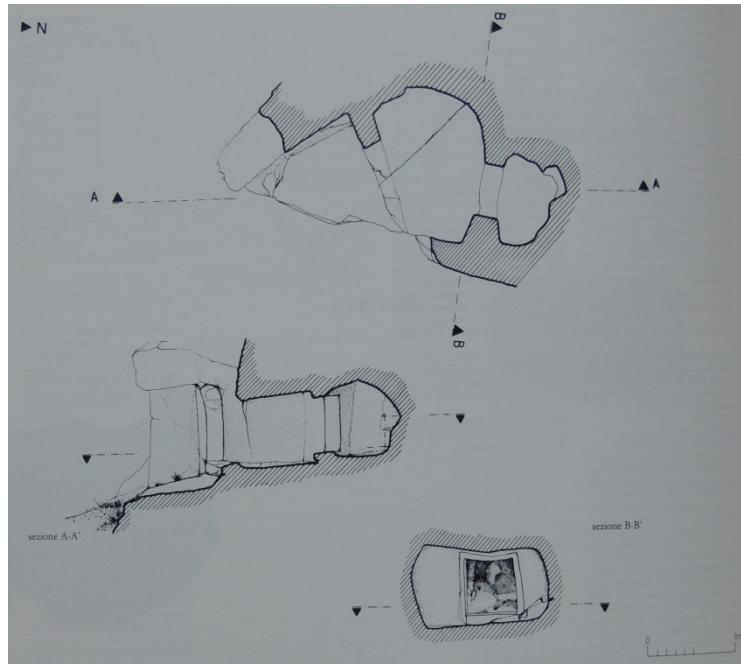


Fig. 5 - Plan and section of the *domus de janas* of *San Salvatore* (from Locci 1990 c, p. 86).

Two granite *menhirs*, datable between the III and II millennium B.C., are placed in front of the tomb of giants of *S'Ortali 'e su Monte*, at a distance of about ten metres (fig. 6).



Fig. 6 - The *menhirs* in front of the tomb of giants of *S'Ortali 'e su Monte* (photo by Unicity S.p.A)

■ Credits

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La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



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