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REGIONE AUTÓNOMA DE SARDIGNA
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Nuraghic complex of S'Arcu 'e Is Forros

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ The living quarter

There are some temporary dwelling places, groups of huts, next to the temples, which were closely linked to the carrying out of community ceremonies. The *insula* 1 (diameter 19.40 metres), built on a steep granite incline and bordered by an external wall, comprises 12 rooms open on to a central circular courtyard (diameter 7.30 metres) with a beaten clay floor, to level off the irregularity of the rocky base, where there are still clear traces of fires (fig. 1).



Fig. 1 - *Insula* 1 (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).

During its use, it underwent continuous adaptations and modifications that are still visible in the residual walls of the various rooms (figs. 2 and 3).



Fig. 2 - Insula 1 (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).

In spite of the large amount of product from the collapse, the walls are still 2 metres high in some places; the slight jutting is related to the use of a single or double sloping roof, as proven by the carbon deposits of a longitudinal beam discovered inside room no. 8. In the niches inside the huts, or high up on the walls facing the courtyard placed in the centre of the *insula*, urns, bowls and milk boiling vases have been found with large jugs with geometric decorations from the early Iron Age.



Fig. 3 - Wall composition in the areas of *insula* 1 (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).

Thermal insulation systems of walls, obtained by using clay plaster with traces of grey-blue colour are still visible in rooms nos. 3 and 7. There are *pithoi*, fragments of bronze swords, buttons, bronze foil, bucket handles, parts of bronze figures, copper *oxide* ingots and lumps, pieces of bronze grouped together for being melted, all from structure 3. Trachyte bowls were placed in the rooms nos. 6, 8 and 9 (fig. 4).



Fig. 4 - Trachyte bowls from room 6 in *insula* 1 (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).

The carbon layer shown above the floor of room 8 contained jars, a melting pot handle and milk-boiling vases with large handles, pear-shaped and askoid jugs with geometrical decorations.

A second grouping of huts, *insula* 2, located in an area that was strongly sloping between the *megaron* temple 1 and 3, has only been partly dug up so far.

Inside, 10 rooms arranged around a sub-elliptical *temenos* were found (figs. 5, 6).



Fig. 5 - Aerial view of *insula* 2 (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).



Fig. 6 - Room 2 of *insula* 2 (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).

Unfortunately, the state of collapse that obliterates part of its surface does not make the complex accessible for a better interpretation, that would seem to belong to an older construction phase.

■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Emanuela Atzeni

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