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REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

Nuraghic village of Su Nuraxi

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ Su Nuraxi: the central tower

The imposing keep (Phase A, 1500-1300 B.C.) is a truncated cone (base diameter 10 metres), comprising three floors with a terrace, in a polygonal work of basalt that are interlocked block with interblock and with the spaces filled with soil and shards. The tower, still standing today at a maximum height of 14.10 metres, was originally 18 metres high, providing a wide panoramic view of the valley of Pardu'e S'Eda (fig. 1).



Fig. 1 - View from the keep over the valley of Pardu'e S'Eda (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).

The entrance, which is raised compared to the courtyard and facing South, has a robust sub-square architrave over it, with a unloading window (fig. 2) that leads to a foyer, to the right of which there is a niche, interpreted as a guard's sentry box (fig. 3).





Fig. 2 - Right, the keep entrance (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).

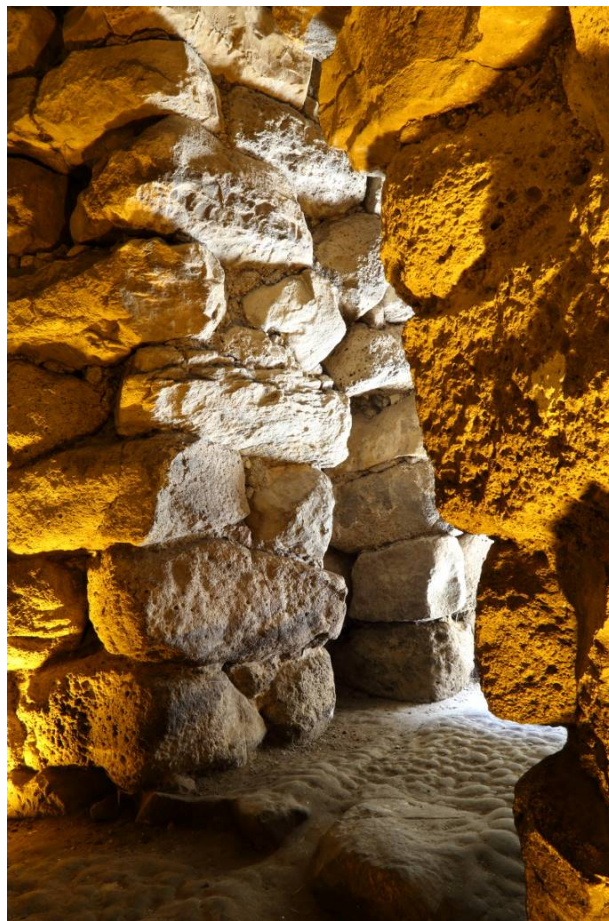


Fig. 3 - The foyer with the sentry box (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).

The round, outlying *tholos* chamber (diameter of 4.80 x 7.76 metres height), has two niches in the walls at opposite sides (fig. 4).

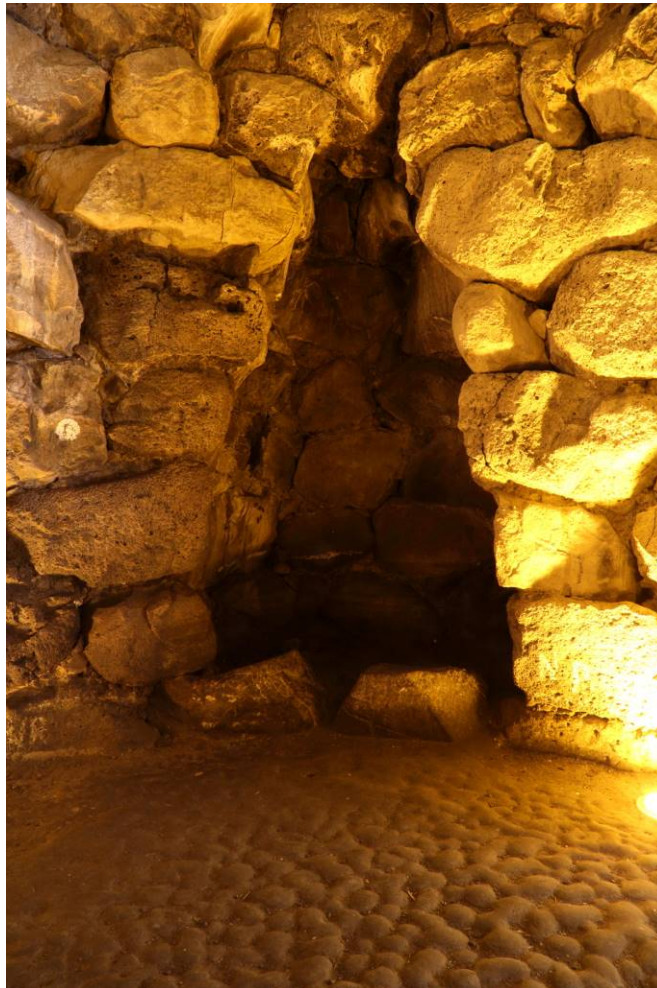


Fig. 4 - Niche on the ground floor of the keep (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).

At 4.22 metres height from the ground, there is an opening in the wall leading to the chamber staircase, that was reached with a wooden ladder that leads to the upper floors and the top terrace. The chamber also had a wooden mezzanine, of which only the floor beam holes remain, where a piece of olive wood beam was found. Carbon 14 tests were carried out on it, that have returned an approximate date for the wood (and therefore for the tower) between 1470 and 1070 B.C. A second chamber (2.40 diameter x 5.90 metres height) above the lower one takes light from a low, narrow window, with a rough architrave over it; at 1.75 metres from the floor, there is a staircase that continues into the last chamber of the keep, and from here, to the top floor. The latter with a jutting parapet

on corbels, was built to replace a primitive terrace with wooden barriers, when the quarter-foiled bastion was covered with stone (phase C of Su Nuraxi). The façade of the inner walls is also made from multi-faceted smaller stones arranged to fit together, usually arranged in irregular rows. In the chambers, especially the lower one, mud mortar is often used that fixes the wedges into the joints and into the levels where they are laid.



■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Emanuela Atzeni

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