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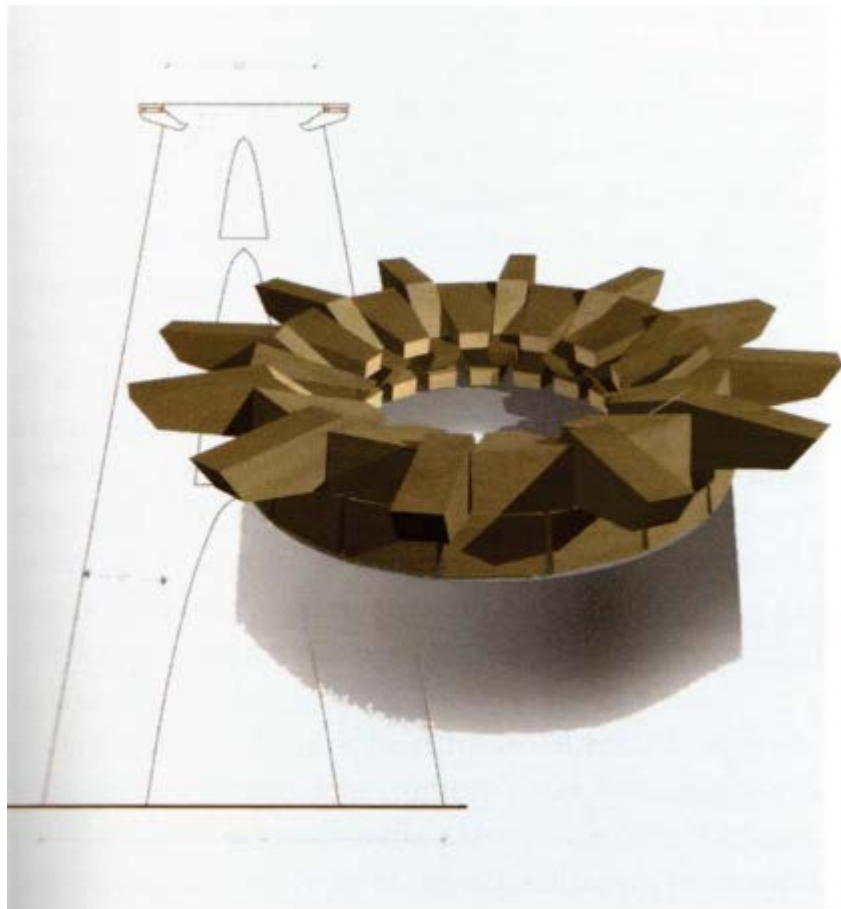
# Nuraghic village of Su Nuraxi

Patrimonio culturale  
**SARDEGNA** Virtual Archaeology



## ■ The stones shelves: function and morphology

The upper part of the keep of Su Nuraxi was occupied by a terrace with an overhang, which was probably wooden, a balustrade supported by stone corbels, arranged at regular, alternating intervals with isodomic basalt ashlar, to build a perimeter parapet. Still today, there are still *in situ* twelve corbels on the Nuragic fortress' walls.



**Fig. 1** - Three-dimensional representation of the terrace system on the Su Nuraxi keep  
(From Cappai 2012, fig. 4, p. 35).

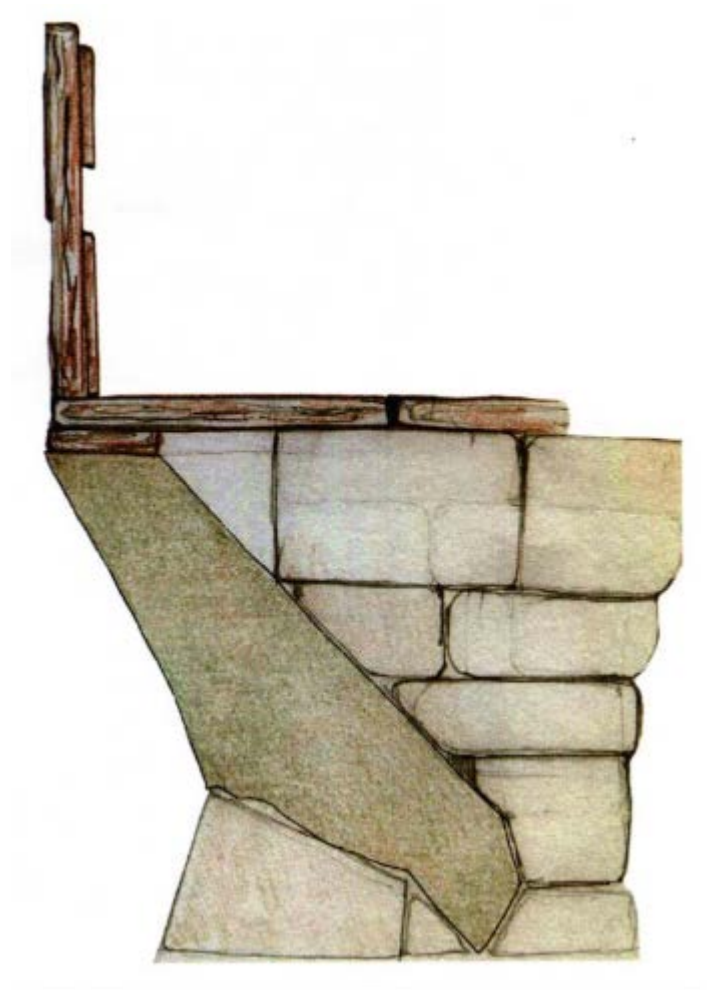
According to this reconstruction hypothesis, a ring wall built in the central tower of Su Nuraxi, to expand the floor space of the terrace. It comprised 12 corbels in a radial pattern, alternating with 12 wedge-shaped ashlar, secured with the lower face positioned horizontally; the corbels lying on the row underneath of wedge-shaped ashlar. This technical

stratagem makes one hypothesise that the terrace balustrade, supported by jutting corbels, was probably built in wood, due to how heavy any stone blocks would have been given their dimensions (figs. 2, 3 4).



**Figs. 2, 3** - Archaeological area of Su Nuraxi, corbels and wedge-shaped ashlars arranged according to Lilliu's reconstruction hypothesis (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).





**Fig. 4** - Arrangement of corbels and wedge-shaped ashlar according to Lilliu's reconstructive hypothesis  
(From Cappai 2012, fig. 7, p. 38).

Documentation of the position and functions regarding reality is mostly confirmed in miniature models of Nuraghi made in the Early Iron Age, that provide actual example, although idealised, of Nuragic tower constructions.

In fact, the stone model of hut 80 in Su Nuraxi in Barumini shows the alleged domed sentry box on top of the central tower, sheltered from the last steps of the staircase leading to the terrace (fig. 5).



**Fig. 5** - Model of a Nuraghe from room 80 in the village of Su Nuraxi in Barumini  
(photo by Pinna P.P., RAS Photographic Archive).



## ■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Emanuela Atzeni

## ■ Bibliography

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## La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



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