

Megalithic circles of Li Muri

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ The *allées couvertes* and the "cista" of tomb n. 5

The fifth tomb in the necropolis of Li Muri (fig. 1) is a chamber tomb from the Bronze Age similar to an *allée couverte* (from the French "covered corridor"), an elongated collective burial in which there is no distinction between the entrance corridor and the burial chamber itself, derived from dolmen. The structure of the mound only develops on three sides; fragments of slabs similar to those of the cista in the adjacent circles can be seen between its stones. This detail, together with the recovery of several soapstone necklace beads outside the tomb, leads us to hypothesise that the chamber tomb may have been built over a previous cista.



Fig. 1 - Arzachena, Necropolis of Li Muri, tomb 5 (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).

In Sardinia, the evolution of these structures (fig. 2) leads to the construction of huge dolmen tombs with arched stele during the Early and Middle Bronze Ages.



Fig. 2 - Area with *menhir* and *allée couverte*, in Corte Noa di Laconi (NU)
(from <http://www.sardegna.beniculturali.it/getImage.php?id=4145>).

This type of tomb is typical of the megalithic phenomenon, widespread in Western Europe from the end of the fifth millennium B.C., and characterised precisely by the use of large stones in funerary architecture (fig. 3).



Fig. 3 - *Allée couverte* de l'île Grande (from <http://fr.topic-topos.com/image-bd/france/22/allee-couverte-de-lile-grande-pleumeur-bodou.jpg>).

■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Emanuela Atzeni

■ Bibliography

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