

Megalithic circles of Li Muri

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ The "culture of megalithic circles" of Arzachena

The necropolis of Li Muri is part of the so-called "European Megaliths". During the fifth millennium B.C. in Western Europe, specifically in the Catalan, Pyrenees and Corsica-Sardinia areas, there was a development of the cultural phenomenon of Megaliths, characterised by the use of large stones in cultural and funerary architecture, whose most distinguishing feature is the megalithic tomb within a circular mound (fig. 1).



Fig. 1 - 3D reconstruction of funerary circles (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).

The cista generally consists of four monoliths side by side, buried in comparison with the level of the soil, and can be of a simple or complex type (with a circular mound structure), single or associated with others in small necropolis (fig. 2).





Fig. 2 - La Macciunitta (from Antona, Lo Schiavo, Perra 2011, p. 243, fig. 2)

The tombs in the Catalan, Pyrenees and Corsica-Sardinia areas have significant common structural features: the stone cista can be buried or visible, rectangular, square or trapezoidal, located inside a ring of stones consisting of small and medium size rubble or with a ring of single stones, with double-layer walls or large stone slabs positioned vertically of a diameter between 5.30 and 22 metres. The burials are generally single or multiple. The connection between the graves is of the tangent or intersecting type.



Fig. 3 - Megalithic circle Su Corrazzu de Is Pillois in Guspini
(from Wikimapia <http://wikimapia.org/#lang=it&lat=39.626837&lon=8.622476&z=20&m=b>)

In Sardinia, within the articulated overview of prehistoric cultural phenomena in Gallura, there are a number of architectural funerary megalithic monuments, where the mound is an important component, which show a tight relationship with the Corsica-Pyrenean area (fig. 4).

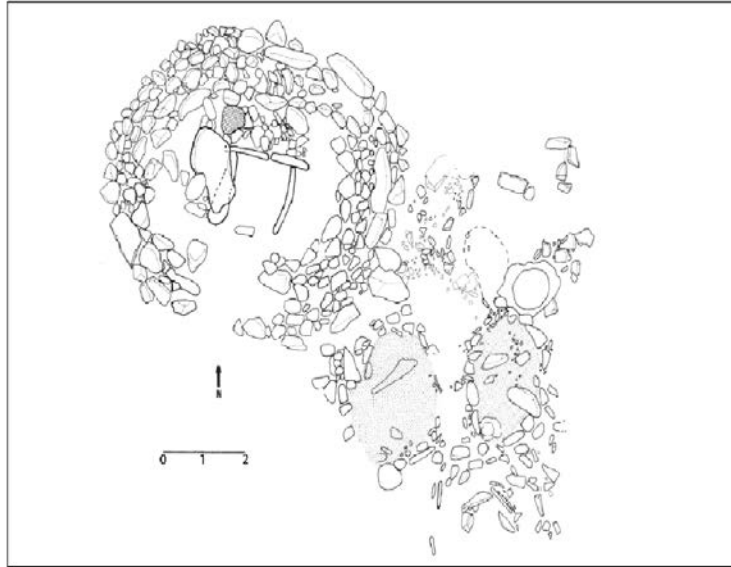


Fig. 2 – Corsica, Monte Rotundu: planimetria (da De Lanfranchi 2000).

Fig. 4 - Circle Necropolis with cista at Monte Rotundu, Corsica (from Lanfranchi 2000).

■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Emanuela Atzeni

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