



UNIONE EUROPEA



REPUBBLICA ITALIANA



REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA  
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

# Giants' tomb of Thomes

Patrimonio culturale  
**SARDEGNA** Virtual Archaeology



## ■ The tomb mound of Thomes

The “mound” is a monumental funeral structure that has a large support from sedimentary materials, such as stones, gravel, earth, that accumulated and formed an artificial, circular or sub-circular hill, sometimes grown out from a perimeter stone structure that is called a peristalite. The mound also covered the giants’ tomb at Thomes in such a way that it was hidden and visible at the same time; in fact, it also served to give the tomb an effect of monumentality and visibility (fig. 1).

It is possible that the deposition of the deceased should take place from the top of the chamber, possibly by only removing the part of the mound required in order to move the mobile element of the cover.



**Fig. 1** - Hypothetical reconstruction of the monument (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).

The close relationship between the mound and the exedra can be clearly seen in the Giants’ tombs in Pascareda near Calangianus (fig. 2). The body of the tomb, with the exception of the twelve granite cover slabs, also had the burial chamber covered by a mound of earth and stones.



**Fig. 2** - Giants' tomb of Pascaredda-Calangianus  
(from <http://www.sardegnaigitallibrary.it/mmt/480/97427.jpg>).

The two Giants' tombs in Seleni, in the area of Lanusei (fig. 3) were built in a large terracing projects to support the overlying structures, hidden on the outside by a part mound. In particular, the remains of a peristalite are still evident on the left of tomb II, whose purpose was precisely that of restraining a mound consisting of earth and small pebbles.



**Fig. 3** - Lanusei, the giants' tomb of Gennacili Seleni-I  
(from <http://www.sardegnaiturismo.it/sites/default/files/Lanusei,%20Parco%20Archeologico%20del%20bosco%20Selene.jpg?u=%2Fit%2Fpunto-di-interesse%2Flanusei>).

## ■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Emanuela Atzeni

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