



UNIONE EUROPEA



REPUBBLICA ITALIANA



REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

Archeological area of Sant'Eulalia

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ Doors and windows

Data available on this aspect can be partly deduced from studying structures found at the site, partly from the archaeological evidence brought to light in different contexts, also not on the island (figs. 1-2).

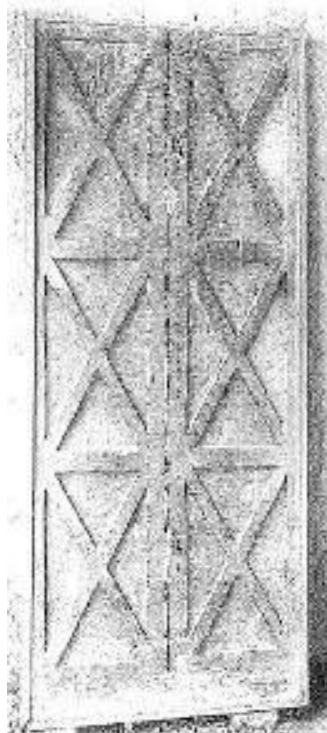


Fig. 1 - Herculaneum: wooden door with two leaves
(from Adam 1989, p. 321, fig. 674).

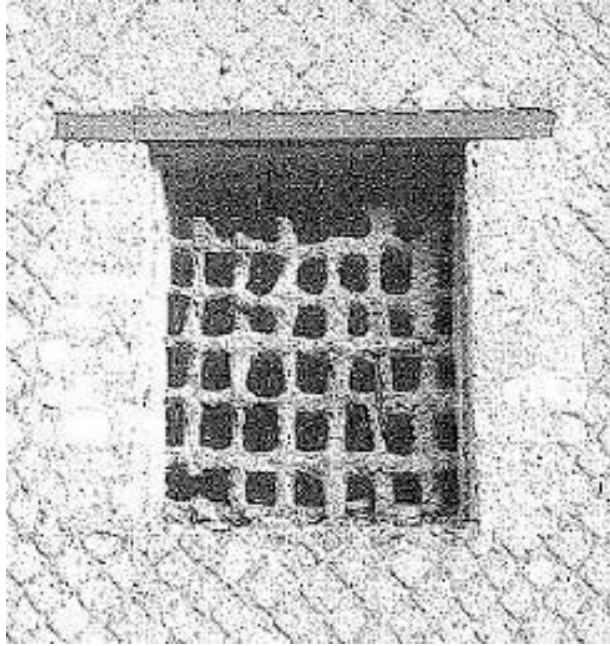


Fig. 2 - Herculaneum: window closed by iron grid
(from Adam 1989, p. 331, fig. 701).

The existence of doors to close of domestic areas is unmistakable due to the presence in situ of doorsteps and thresholds that show the holes for the hinges (fig. 3) also, the width of the opening makes us think door with two leaves were used.



Fig. 3 - Jamb with hole for connecting element of the door in the home to the S-E (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).

The finishings of the windows and doors must have been in metal, while the uscio was made from some perishable material: four lock elements have been recovered, a door hook, a bolt, and two matching hinges¹. Each clue about the presence of windows has been lost as they were usually placed at a height, so they were eliminated when the walls were knocked down. Based on the distribution of the spaces of the various living units, it can be hypothesised that the inner courtyards were a source of light; in spite of the fact they capture solar rays, not all the spaces in the house could be reached, making use of artificial light necessary, using oil lamps in abundance. According to what can be deduced from studying similar residential areas, the solutions adopted to create windows may have varied depending on social level: in the case of building for the wealthy

¹ Scattu 2002, pp. 323-324.

classes. The openings were screened by small, thick opaque rough glass², fixed into bronze frames (also seen in Pompeii and Herculaneum)³ or closed by white sheets impregnated with grease or by small wooden frames with applied various materials, from membranes to animal membranes transformed into parchment. The study of the Sant'Eulalia context revealed a fairly high housing level, give the presence of comforts (such as latrines, private wells, courtyards, etc.) so were probably medium-high level situations. The total lack of elements that lead to windows may be due to the fact the materials were perishable, while for the metal parts, it can be theorised they were recovered in ancient times: when it declined, the area was systematically stripped, even of the limestone⁴.

² Saguì 2010, p. 39, on the processing of window glass see pp. 63-64. For examples of houses with glass panes at the windows, see Cortese 2011 pages 24-25-

³ Adam 1989, pp. 318-323.

⁴MARTORELLI 2003, p. 398; Mureddu 2002a, pp. 59-60; Pinna 2003a, p. 381.

■ Credits

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