



# Basilica of San Saturnino

Patrimonio culturale  
**SARDEGNA** Virtual Archaeology



## ■ Fragments of liturgical furnishings

Seven fragments of ciborium arches (fig. 2) were found in the basilica (fig. 1) in the 1950s. These were the architectural structure that stands over and covers the altar, similar to a canopy (figs. 3-4). They are made of white marble slabs decorated with slatted cornices, peacocks, crosses, leaves and other parts of plants. They have been compared with several sculpted elements from church architecture from all over southern Sardinia, and attributed to middle-Hellenistic production, also found in southern Italy, especially in Campania. They have been dated to the second half of the 10th century and are a sign of life and importance of the church furnishings, perhaps related to a recovered Christian use, if one believes the hypothesis of a Muslim presence on the site, as stated in some documents, such as a kufic graffiti and an inscription (see finding no. 6). Following the discovery and restoration of the church, they were inserted in the buffer wall of the northern arch of the domed part of the building - which now no longer exists and has been replaced by windows - and can no longer be found.



**Fig. 1** - The basilica of San Saturnino (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).



**Fig. 2** - Fragment of ciborium arch (photo Labord).



**Fig. 3** - Ciborium from the 9th century of the basilica of Sant'Apollinare in Classe, Ravenna (from <http://www.medioevo.org/artemedievale/Pages/EmiliaRomagna/SApollinareinClasseaRavenna.html>).



**Fig. 4** - Marble fragments from the Byzantine age (second half of the 10th century), Nuraminis, church of San Pietro (from CORRIAS, COSENTINO 2002, fig. 37, p. 271).

## ■ Credits

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