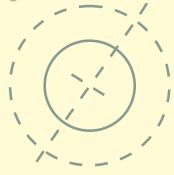


Concealment monumentalisation in a Neolithic burial mound



Megalithic constructions resulted from social action

- > **creation of spaces:** uses a given reality to create a new reality; the built space that is therefore social, which is given a significance, and so is symbolic.
- > the same **spatial concept** is repeated, the same 'idea' that is intrinsically linked to the pattern of rationality of a given society.
- ↳ **model of Megalithic spatiality** in the NW Iberian Peninsula
 - > circular
 - > enclosed
 - > dominant central area
 - > organised axially
 - > dissymmetrical
 - > appropriation and signification of natural elements
- > These are not static backdrops, but instead are constituted as a social and imaginary construction, in movement and deeply rooted in the culture, closely related to thought processes, social organisation, subsistence, conception and the use of space.
- > The monuments are the result of the accumulation of a series of actions: built in phases.
- > Architectonic oppositions from the Megalithic age, between the exhibition/monumentalisation and the concealment of each of



The generalisation of the stratigraphic analysis and datings for this type of site makes it possible for us to state that the lengthy period of activity identified for this site is not unique. We have to consider the **Megalithic phenomenon as a series of 'breaks'** (periods of construction followed by inactivity), more than a continuous process of construction.

This is an example.

Stage 1 (4.400 cal BC)



Excavating the land and building the free-standing funerary chamber



View of the chamber from the E

Stage 2

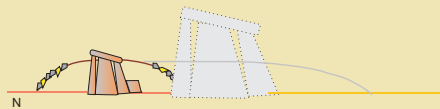


The chamber was sealed: first the entrance was sealed with stone slabs, finally with the mound.



View of the chamber sealed with stone slabs from the E

Stage 3 (3.000 cal B.C.)

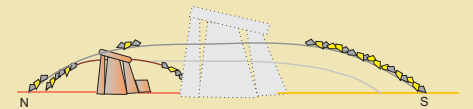


A second tumulus was built over the first. A corridor still remains between the walls to the south-east of the monument which proves the existence of this Megalithic structure.



View of the corridor from the NW

Stage 4



The tumulus was enclosed with construction of an interesting protective structure, which concealed all of the previous structures and gave it its final, monumental appearance.



When the funerary chamber was in use (Stage 1 and 3)

- ↳ Creating a space closed off to the outside.
- ↳ Restricted use and access: functional predominance of the interior, involving the concealment of the burial itself.
- ↳ Monumentalisation of this space by creating a stone construction, occasionally with spectacular dimensions.

When the tumulus is the main volume in view (Stage 2 and 4)

- ↳ The chamber was sealed, covered by stone blocks and the tumulus constructed.
- ↳ The monument enclosed the chamber. In some way the chamber was 'condemned' and 'concealed', by the construction of the tumulus. This monumentalised the burial site but not the burial space, now essentially functioning towards the exterior.

The monument itself must be considered as an unfinished project, no continuous, in which its use and function may have varied throughout time, with the interplay of concealment and monumentalisation playing an important role in the different architectonic spaces of the monument.

For further references visit our web or write me an e-mail.

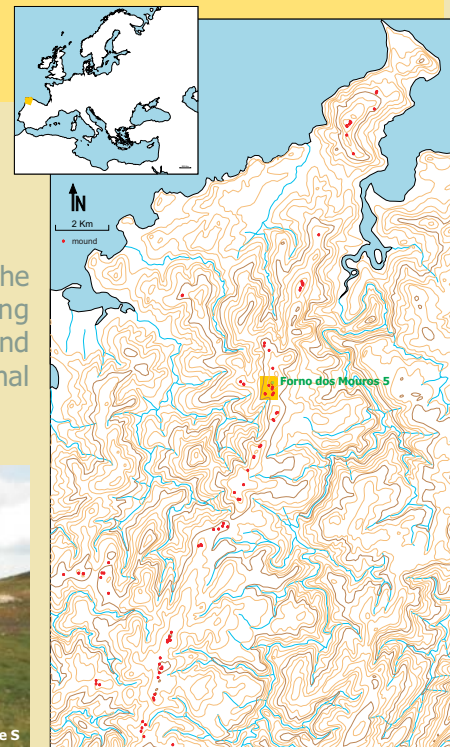
Archaeological Methodology

The aim is to arrive at a description of this architectonic phenomenon according to its own logic. Method = Structural Analysis.

Landscape Archaeology

- > **Formal analysis** = must define the form and organisation of the element analysed.
 - ↳ Stratigraphic configuration (Harris method) = TEMPORALITY
 - ↳ Spatial configuration = pattern of organisation = SPATIALITY
- > **Perceptual analysis** = how each of the different spaces and volumes of the construction are organised, the visibility strategies of the different spaces (**inhibition, concealment, exhibition, monumentalisation**).

Forno dos Mouros 5 (Ortigueira, A Coruña, Spain)



The most surprising result from this excavation was the tumulus was built over a previously-existing monument. Thanks to the construction of the second monument, the archaeological deposits and original stratigraphy of the first were perfectly preserved.



View of the mounds from the S