Il-Girna

The Corbelled Stone Hut

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Il-girna (1) hi struttura rustika li niltaqgħu magħha l-iktar fin-naħiet ta' fuq ta' Malta. F'dawn l-inħawi nsibu 'l fuq minn 30 girna. Il-girna tinbena mingħajr tikħil b'ġebel mhux maħdum li jitrikkbu waħda fuq l-oħra b'mod li aktar ma jitilgħu 'l fuq, aktar jersqu lejn in-nofs biex jiffurmaw saqaf forma ta' koppla li jingħalaq b'ġebla jew b'ġebliet ċatti (2). Il-maġġoranza tal-giren huma tondi jew ovali, b'xi ftit rettangulari (3). Sa mill-antik, il-giren kienu jaqdu l-ħtiġiet tal-bdiewa u r-rgħajja u wħud għadhom jintużaw sal-lum bħala post tal-ħżin.

The Maltese corbelled stone hut (1) is a widespread feature of the landscape but only so in the north and western regions of Malta. This area is no exception and in fact over 30 such structures can be found here. The corbelling technique is achieved by stacking courses of undressed stone (without mortar) moving upwards from a wide base and ending with a dome-shaped ceiling closed by large flat stones (2). Although most giren are typically circular or elliptical, several follow a rectangular plan (3). The huts served the needs of farmers and herdsmen since ancient times and some are still in use today as storage space.

1

2

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Ritratti / *Photos*: Michael Falzon (1, 2); Annalise Falzon

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Websites:
http://www.majjistral.org
http://www.dinlarthelwa.org
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