



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Materiality and Symbolism in the Megaliths of Menjez: A Geoarchaeological Study of Cultural Practices in the Akkar Region (Lebanon) during the 4th and 3rd Millennium BCE.

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Abstract

This presentation shows the results of a geoarchaeological study applied to the monoliths used in the construction of the megalithic monuments of Menjez, in the Akkar region of Lebanon. Our research involves a detailed examination of the geological and geomorphological features of the monoliths. By applying specific criteria—including geological identification, top morphology, type of exposed face, and the morphology of these faces—we have identified and reconstructed the underlying codes and standards that guided the design and realisation of these monuments. This analysis highlights rhythms, mirror effects, and aesthetic considerations in the arrangement of monoliths within the funerary chambers. Our approach facilitates an exploration of the symbolic and aesthetic dimensions inherent in the layout of these monuments. The findings indicate that choices related to materials and building techniques are deeply intertwined with cultural, social, and aesthetic meanings. This research enhances our understanding of the architectural practices of megalithic societies and their environmental interactions. It reveals that the monuments of Menjez are not only testimonies of technical know-how but also expressions of collective identity and shared beliefs. Our study paves the way for future research into the social, cultural, and aesthetic dynamics underlying the construction of these megalithic funerary tombs.

Keywords

Megalithic architecture, Geoarchaeology, Cultural practices, Early Bronze Age, Lebanon

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