

Article forthcoming in *Archaeologies of Cult: Essays on Ritual and Cult in Crete*, ed. A.L. D'Agata, A. Van de Moortel, and M.B. Richardson (Hesperia Supplement 42), Princeton.

**From Vronda to Dreros:
Architecture and Display in Cretan Cult Buildings 1200-700 B.C.**

Nancy L. Klein and Kevin T. Glowacki

Abstract

This paper surveys the architectural context for the dedication and display of cult statues, ritual equipment, and votive offerings in religious architecture on the island of Crete (Greece) c. 1200-700 BCE. It explores how architecture plays an important role in facilitating religious practices as well as conditioning the experience of the participants in rituals at the sites of Vronda, Halasmenos, Karphi, Kephala Vasilikis, Kommos, Pachlitzani Agriada, Sta Lenika, and Dreros. Despite significant differences in building form, date, and probably cult, the temples and shrines at these sites clearly functioned as places where a deity was believed to reside and where humans could interact with the divine through prayer, sacrifice, and dedication. At all sites and periods, architectural focal points such as benches, platforms, or hearths provided fixed spatial components of the ritual process and became desirable locations for the placement of votive offerings, a practice that is also well documented in later Greek cult practice.

<http://www.oxbowbooks.com/bookinfo.cfm/ID/62611//Location/DBBC>