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Dwelling in the Cave, the Island, and the World: An Experience of Rootedness in Filicudi

Giuseppe Gallo

Index

- 1 The Island and the Officer**
- 2 Architecture of the Shell:
Morphology and Genius Loci**
- 3 Bioclimatics ad Ethics of the Objects:
Against Non things”**
- 4 The Time of the Muses**
- 5 Vernacular Tectonics: Building as an
Act of Resistance**
- 6 The Cosmopolitan Node: Relations
and Radical Architecture**
- 7 Conclusion**

1 The Island and the Officer

The path towards Siccagni
Filicudi, photo Giuseppe Gallo.

The Ancient Phoenicusa

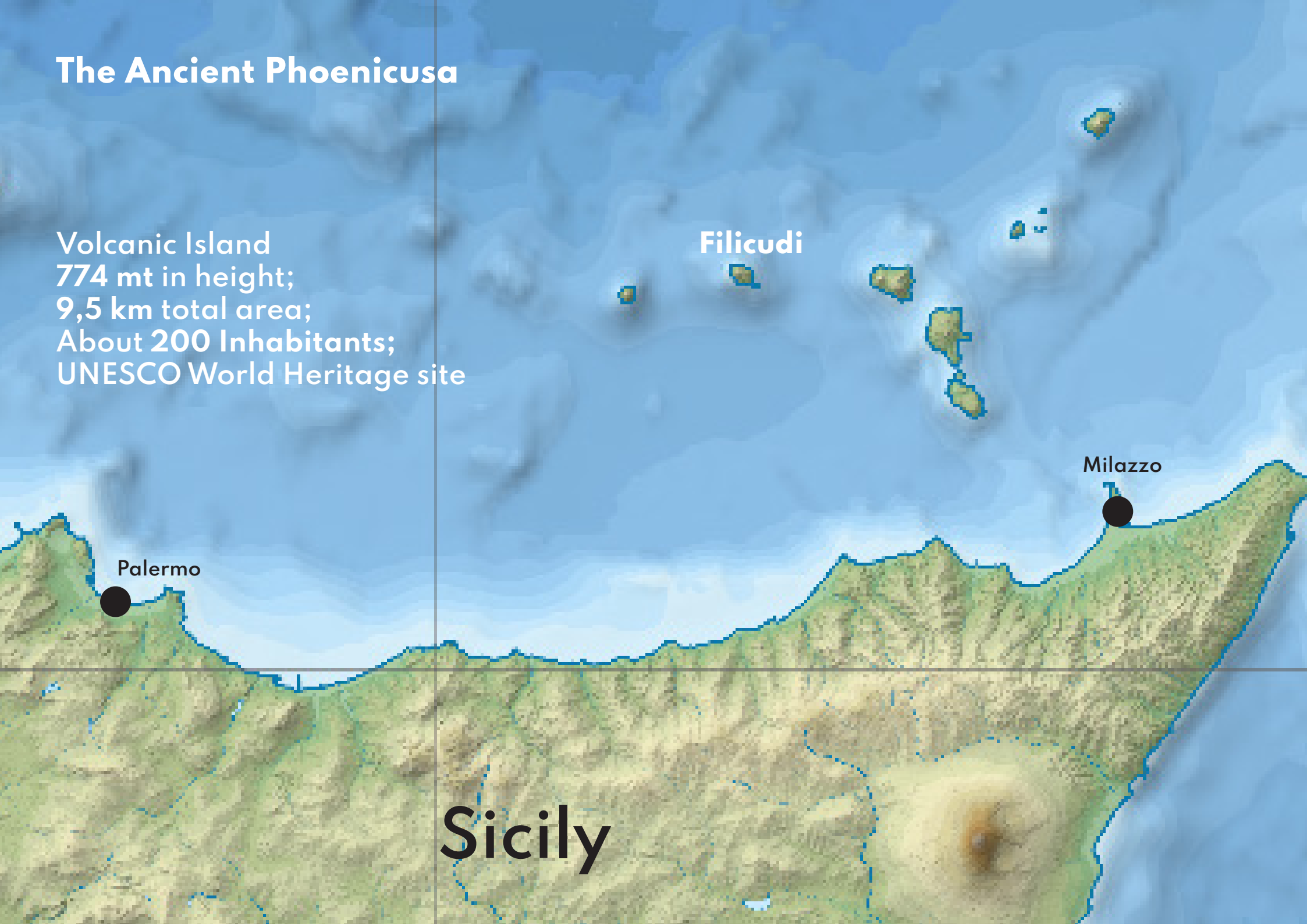
Volcanic Island
774 mt in height;
9,5 km total area;
About 200 Inhabitants;
UNESCO World Heritage site

Filicudi

Milazzo

Palermo

Sicily



Filicudi (*abitanti 1656*) Scario Picorini



E l'olezzo notturno dei monti
E l'odor della lieta marina,

Più che i fari, ti annunzion vicino
Al nocchier che i tuoi flutti soleò.

Filicudi in the 70's, an archaic territory.



Gisbert as merchant marine officer and in his rebirth

2 Architecture of the Shell: Morphology and Genius Loci

Gisbert's terrace Facing Salina.



Genius Loci and Morphology

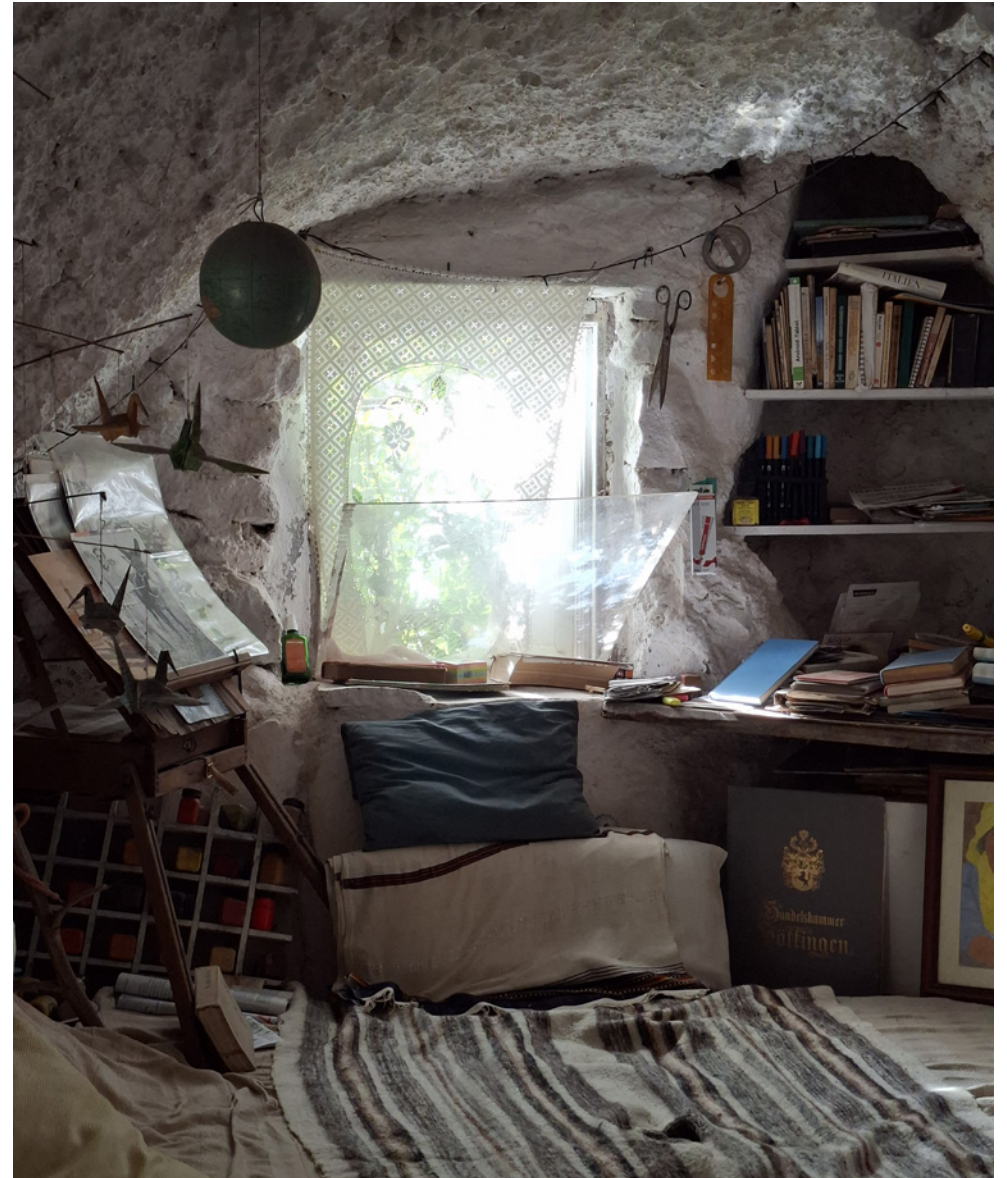
The oral memory of the community reveals the location of the **Cave** and an **old Cistern**;

The space is articulated around a **main room**, and Gisbert intervention happens by **subtraction**;

The opening of a fourth passage transforms the cave from a **chthonic space** to a **passing device**.

Gisbert's Cave in the landscape;
The main room.



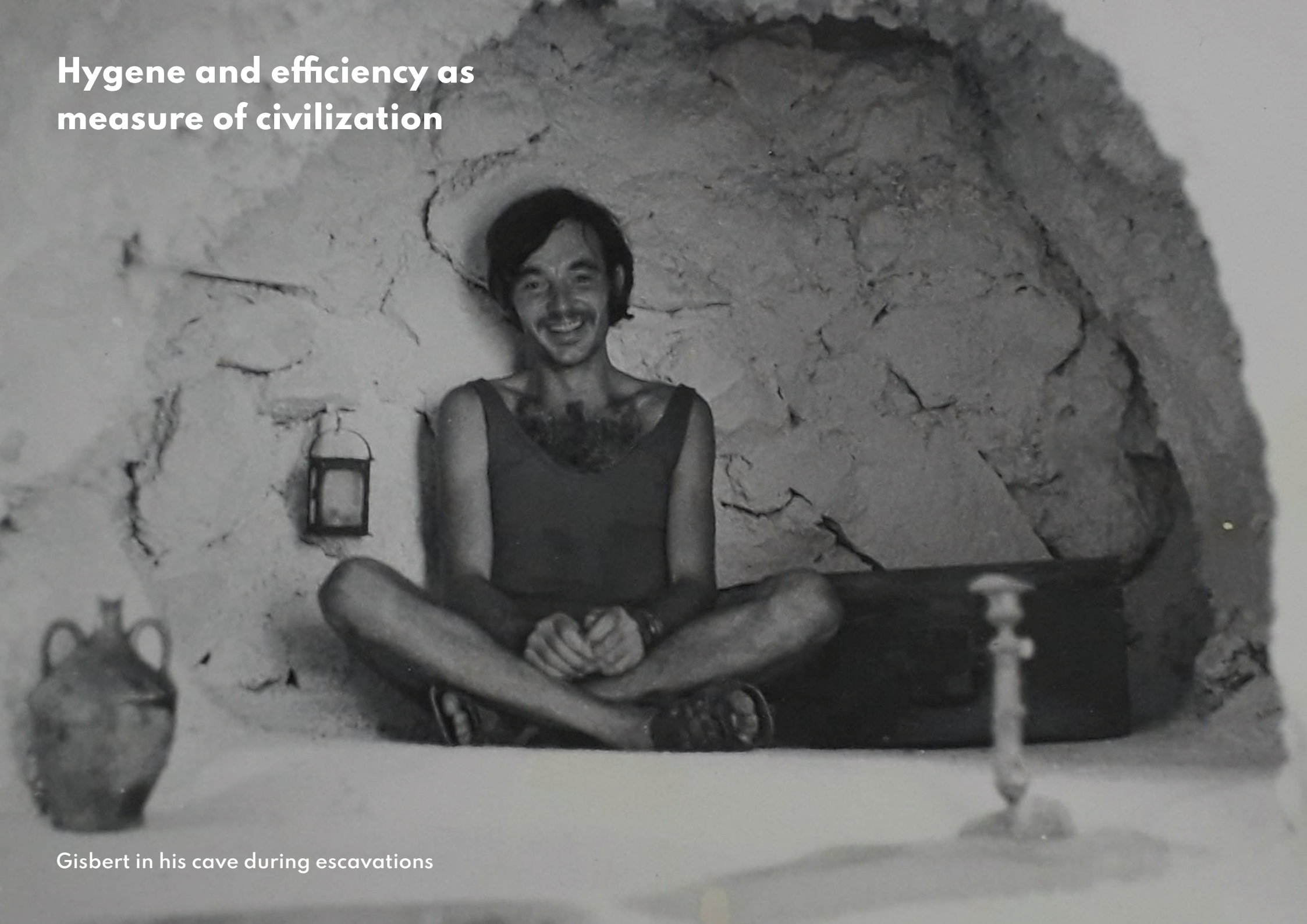


The interventions by subtraction



Cast-iron stove and warehouse wall in local stone, lime mortar and glass bottles.

Hygiene and efficiency as measure of civilization



Gisbert in his cave during excavations

3 Bioclimatics and the Ethics of Objects: Against “Non-Things”

A photograph of a man with grey hair, shirtless, washing his face in a large white enamel bowl. He is standing on a wooden terrace. In the foreground, there is a large, dark, textured rock. To the right of the bowl, there is a large, dark, patterned ceramic pitcher and a small pink box. In the background, there are green bushes, a white cloth hanging on a line, and a building with a white wall. The scene is set in a sunny, outdoor environment.

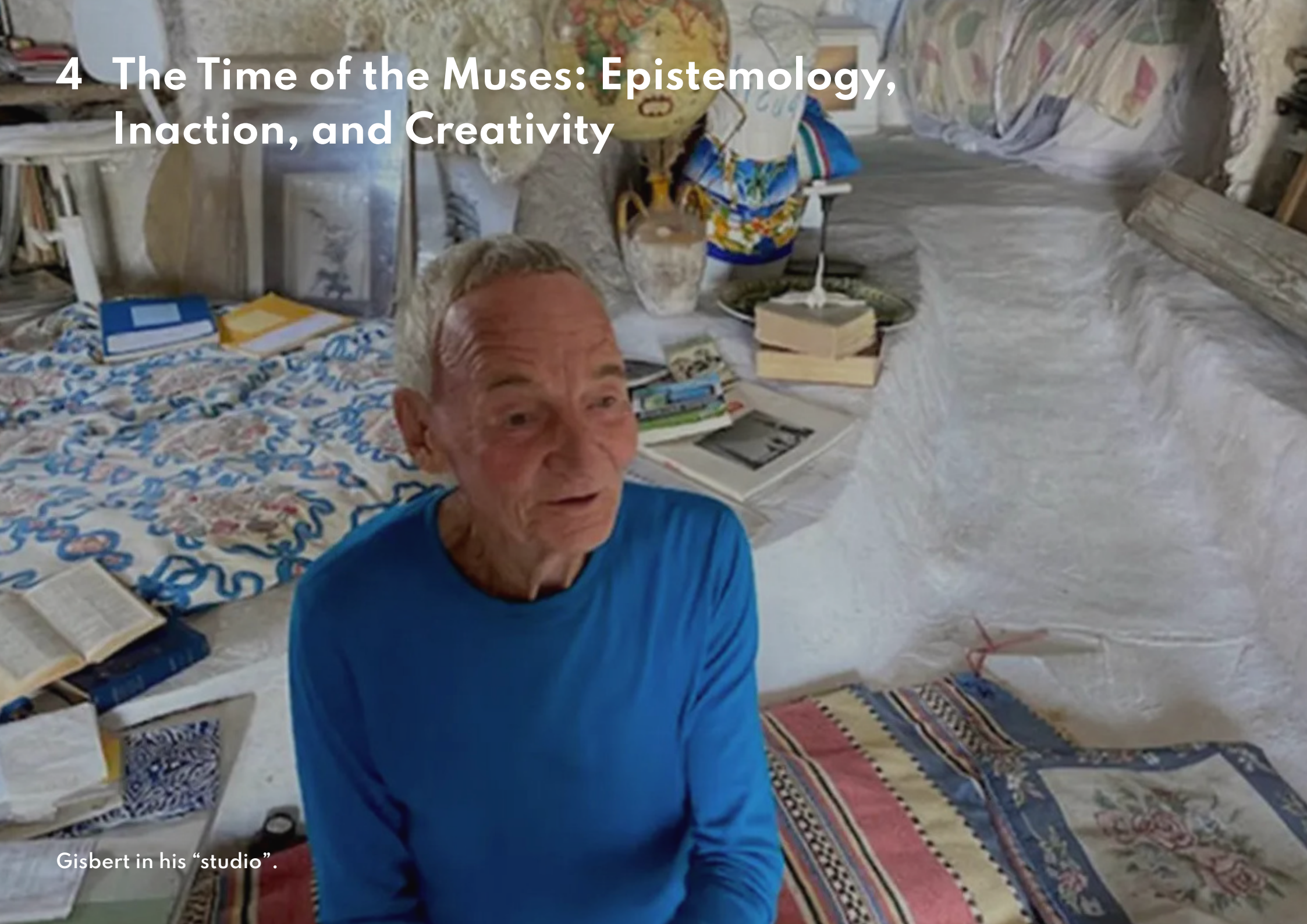
Gisbert on his terrace in the morning. A Simple bowl became a vital infrastructure for water management.

Technology is welcomed only when it supports individual autonomy



Led lights powered by micro photovoltaic panels

4 The Time of the Muses: Epistemology, Inaction, and Creativity



Gisbert in his “studio”.



A plate of sweet and sour prickly pear slices.
The “Aglioporri”, a plant that grows in a particular area of the island.

5 Vernacular Tectonics: Building as an Act of Resistance

A wall made of red mortar made
with lime and local volcanic stone.





A house restoration project in which Gisbert participated as a guarantor of traditional methods

6 The Cosmopolitan Node: Relations and Radical Architecture



The view of the path that leads from Gisbert's cave towards the inhabited area of the island

Fusing nearness and distance

When Aeolian investors
unite to found a shipping
company, they ask
Gisbert's support in ferries
acquisitions;

His decades in the caves
are dotted of global
explorations in other
continents;

The relational density
is confirmed by his
associations with Sottsass
and Deganello.

A Danish hydrofoil from the 70s, a photo
taken by Ettore Sottsass in Filicudi.



7 Conclusions

He is described as a hermit, but Gisbert experience is not a flight from society, rather an investigation in man's primary needs and relationship with space;

His experience demonstrate the feasibility of a settlement based on subtraction and a deep relationship with the environment;

Liberation from the rhythms imposed by the metropolis and technological consumption allows a network of profound human relationships;

His dwelling in the cave testify how physical reappropriation of space and objects offers an alternative to dematerialization of our time, which makes us hermits.

