

# EARLY PUBLIC ARCHITECTURE IN SOUTHERN CHILE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND PEDOLOGICAL RESULTS FROM THE MOCHA ISLAND MOUNDS-AND-PLATFORM COMPLEX

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LATIN AMERICAN ANTIQUITY

Volumen: 28

Número: 4

Páginas: 495-514

DOI: 10.1017/laq.2017.42

Fecha de publicación: DEC 2017

Tipo de documento: Article

## Resumen

Public architecture emerged in conjunction with the development of early complex societies and is therefore a key feature for understanding them. Anthropogenic mounds and platforms in southern Chile dated to the Late Ceramic Period (AD 1000-1550), and historic indigenous inhabitants (AD 1550-present) are the southernmost manifestation of public architecture in the Americas. We report the results from excavation of an architectural complex on Mocha Island that covers an area of 9.2 ha and a volume of 43,000 m<sup>3</sup>. This paper describes its construction dynamics, placing its origin at around AD 1000, a moment of significant sociopolitical and economic changes in southern Chile. We then associate information obtained from this site with similar complexes on mainland southern Chile to locate this phenomenon within a more regional comparative context.

## Palabras clave

KeyWords Plus: [CAL BP](#); [LANDSCAPE](#); [EARTHQUAKES](#)

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## Financiación

Entidad financiadora	Número de concesión
Consejo de Monumentos Nacionales	0248
	NSF-BCS 0956229
	FONDECYT 3130515
	FONDECYT 11150397

[Ver texto de financiación](#)

### Editorial

CAMBRIDGE UNIV PRESS, 32 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS, NEW YORK, NY 10013-2473  
USA

### Categorías / Clasificación

Áreas de investigación: Archaeology

Categorías de Web of Science: Archaeology

### Información del documento

Idioma: English

Número de acceso: WOS:000416413900003

ISSN: 1045-6635

eISSN: 2325-5080