Archaeological studies and architectural conservation, combined with close documentary and art historical analysis, here offer useful exploration of the sub-rectangular (c 100 × 120 m) island of San Giacomo in Paludo. Sited north of Venice and north east of nearby Murano, the island has well documented medieval to modern presences, from convent (from the early 13th century) to Franciscan priory (second half of the 15th), decay and transformation to enclosed cultivated/orchard space (late 17th), Austrian military stronghold (mid-19th-century, with a detailed plan of 1849), and Italian base (with new barracks and munitions stores) which saw demilitarisation in 1961. The island was likely first enclosed and protected by a wall in the 16th century; collapses and erosion have required new and restored brick perimeter walls in 2011 (The book’s cover photo depicts children playing near these walls — pleasant enough, but why no aerial view of the island instead? In fact, even inside the volume we only ever get rather unclear thumbnails of such). The archaeology has been affected by the late-medieval and early modern transformations, notably demolitions under the Italian military along with importations of soil (finds of pre-Roman and Roman ceramics, and Roman and Byzantine coins gave rise to hypotheses of a Roman or late antique origin). Five trenches in 2002–06 all encountered medieval to modern layers and traced components of the monastic complexes depicted in 17th- and 18th-century engravings and paintings; specialists work hard to generate stories from the ceramic, glass and faunal data (notable are the discussion and contextualisation in Chapter 14 of the graffiti on various of the convent-period ceramics and the commentary on the island’s ecology in terms of medieval rubbish disposal and modern residuality issues). The documentary data (Chapter 13) provide many insights into the convent community (including a scandal in 1363) and the staff and workings of the priory, while historic photographs help populate the island in the 20th century.