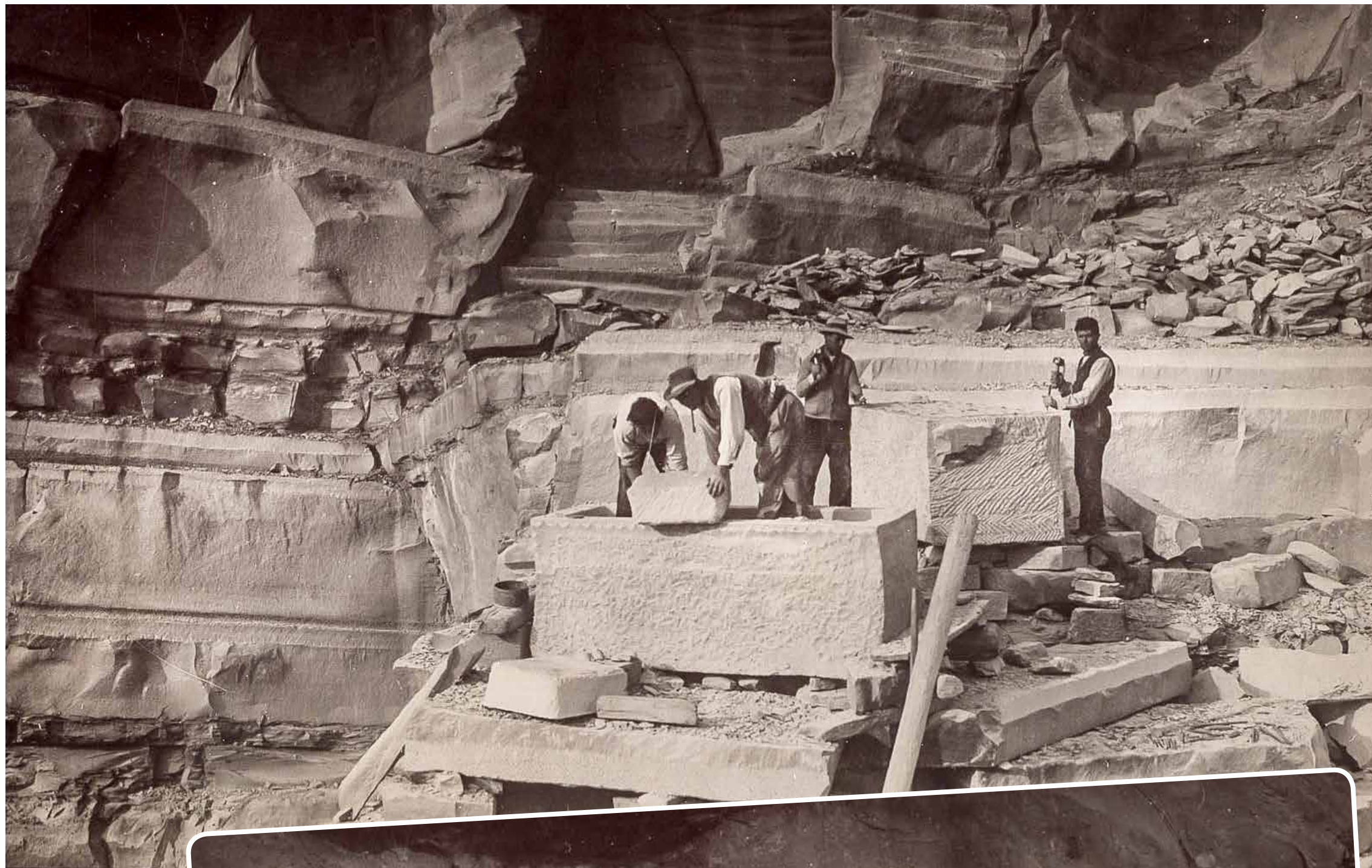


## How did a quarry work?

Graphics by Arts & Altro PROJECT - Fabrizio Darmanin

The opening of a quarry began with the removal, using shovels and pickaxes, of the surface material that had accumulated on the layers of good, workable stone... The stones that were suitable for use in construction (of a good size and strong enough) were recovered and refined to give them roughly the required characteristics ... The dead stone, a yellowish floury sandstone that crumbles with a slight tap, was commonly used as a refractory material (for use at high temperatures)... Another type of stone used for slabs was the liscioni, that were pieces of stone strung with a layer of galestro (a shale-like rock)... The rest of the material had to be removed from the worksite ... away from the rock face, taking care to leave enough space for the carts to transport it away. The layout consisted of: the large square, the loading floor, the heaps, the stores, the cut or the dense, the well and the forge.

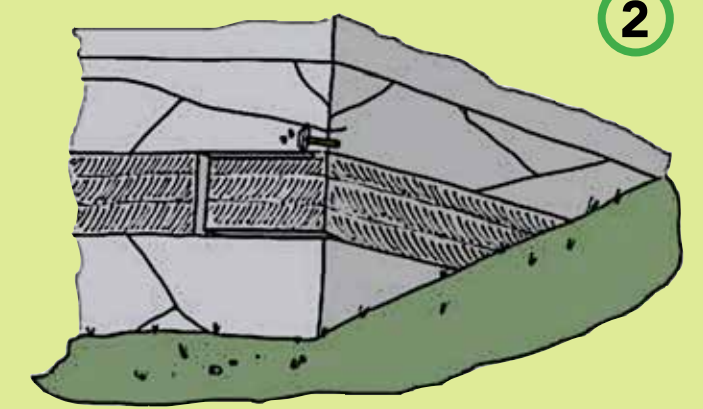
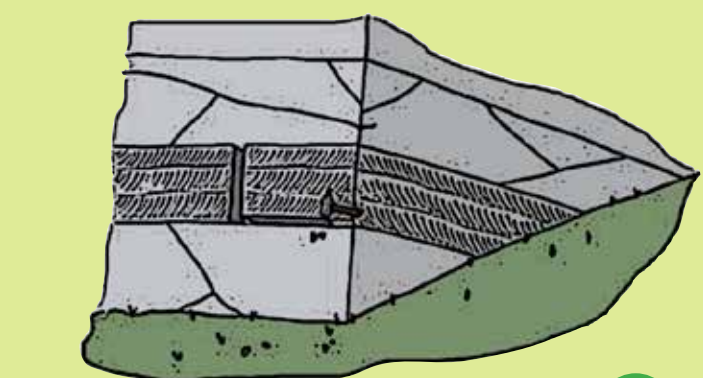
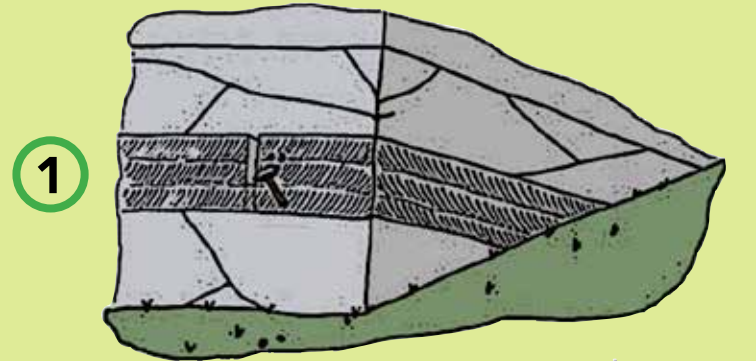
Excerpt from "La pietra color del cielo" – 2001  
text by Carlo Salvianti and Mauro Latini



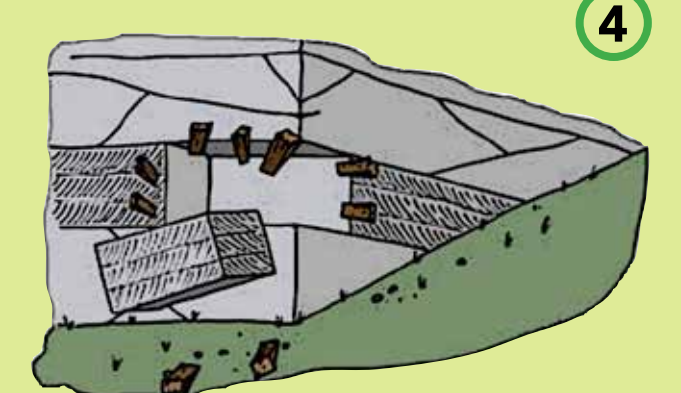
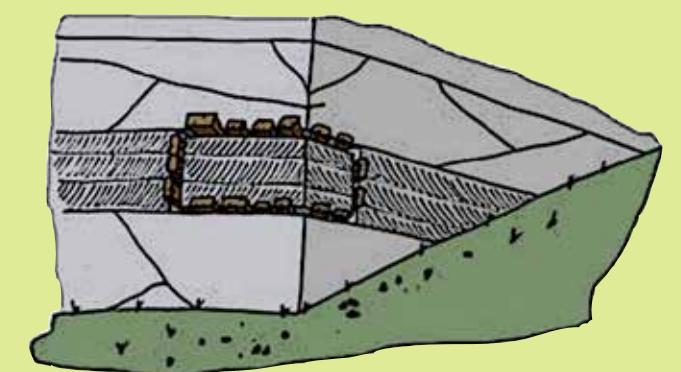
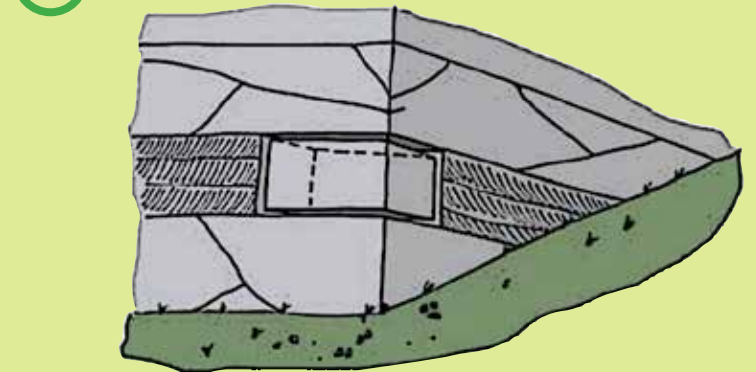
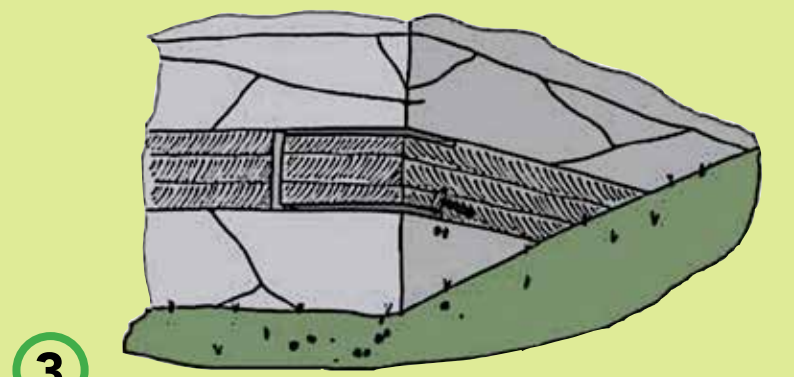
Historical Images  
Municipal Archive of Fiesole, Ranfagni Fund.

## How a block was extracted

Serena stone is found in veins of sedimentary of rock.



To pull out a block, a "cut" was made in the mountain using a hammer and a special type of chisel. Using increasingly long chisels, it was possible to get into the stone.



The cut is one of the three fundamental lines of stone; the direction is perpendicular to the surface on the SO side with respect to the alignment of the run.

The block, held at the base, was detached by means of wood wedges that were forced around the block. These wedges were then drenched in water, causing them to expand and allowing the block to be extracted.

From "Convenzione con Università degli studi di Firenze, Dipartimento di scienze della Terra, responsabile Prof. Geol. Massimo Coli. Anno 2001.

