

## Casa Rosso

The house is in Schierano, in Montferrat, between Asti and Turin. It is not a big house, and it is rather uncharacteristic compared to how one usually pictures a country house. It is located in the village's main street, squeezed between other buildings, and it has no land or garden, but expands in height almost as if ironically competing with the turrets of the nearby castles.

I always thought that it possessed a certain balance and was well-proportioned, and that though unpretentious and imperfect, it generously offered glimpses of infinity and was funny with its mimicry of an ascension - from the 'infernotto', a typical wine cellar, moving up to the roof and the sky.

On a clear day, from the small porch in the attic, one's gaze moves across the hills and wanders up to the Monviso mountain; on a foggy day, one can barely make out the castles and the churches. Schierano is on the crest of a hill, surrounded by the woods and the vineyards. There are many roadside shrines and the churches are strictly Romanesque in style. Funnily enough, here boredom is nonexistent, and time flies by quickly also when one is unoccupied. I wouldn't define it as a "quiet" place - even the countryside has its own typical noises - but it is most certainly a location that inspires calm and contemplation.

One day, Carlo Fossati visited me, and immediately asked me to realize one of Rolf Julius' Rooms of Stillness. I was happy to accept, because I thought it would be nice to pay homage to an artist who loved nature and the landscape, but mostly because I was struck and touched by Carlo's wish to ideally carry on working with Julius.

At the same time, this occasion gave me the chance to start defining the idea beneath Casa Rosso.

The notion of "creative" space has recently extended from public spaces and galleries to apartments, hotels and private homes.

The idea of a gallery-house is not new, but Casa Rosso isn't a gallery. It's a private home that may host people, events, ideas and projects, and thus, sometimes wishes not to be so intimate and reserved.

Sonia Rosso, October, 2012