

1. SPACES OPEN TO ALL CITIZENS

The Neighborhood Houses provide an organized offer of intercultural activities to welcome all citizens, from the children to the elderly, regardless of their gender, nationality, social status, or religious affiliation. **The Houses strive to meet diversified needs**, paying attention to the different social and cultural levels of all the people. They promote popular initiatives, taking care to ensure high quality services combining culture and social life. **The Houses do not subscribe to any ideology** while respecting various cultural orientations. The Houses identify with universal values such as freedom of expression, right to participate in collective and political life, equality among people, social justice, spirit of solidarity, and respect for human rights.

2. SPACES OF ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

The Neighborhood Houses encourage participation of all citizens in the social and cultural life of their neighborhood and city through different forms of active citizenship and volunteering. They are spaces where new ways of providing welfare are sought and tried by developing proximity network and seeking collective solutions to common needs. **The Houses are capable of welcoming and supporting:**

- individuals, by valuing their skills and supporting their involvement;
- informal groups that develop common interests, by promoting their creation, development, and autonomy;
- associations, groups of associations, organizations, and institutions, by strengthening their identity and mission.

3. ACCESSIBLE, WELCOMING AND MEETING-CONDUCTIVE SPACES

The Houses are welcoming, well-maintained, attractive, and easily accessible. **Accessibility is of different types**

- **economic accessibility** - the Houses offer many free and/or paying activities at affordable prices;
- **organizational accessibility** - the Houses are designed as a “light” structure, allowing free access to the premises, direct contact with the operators, and the possibility of obtaining information in an easy, non-bureaucratic way;
- **cultural accessibility** - the Houses have an open vision, respectful of various orientations, and cultural and gender diversity.

The Houses are defined by the will to convey a sense of “homecoming” to users, as places of everyday life in an open social dimension, where it is possible to stay and socialize, and where one can participate in activities or become promoters of projects and initiatives. The Houses intentionally encourage relationships between people, knowledge exchange, encounters, and dialogue between the groups that operate within them, the different programs that are carried out, and diverse ideas, thereby creating the conditions for synergy and collaboration to emerge.

4. SPACES FOR ALL BUT EXCLUSIVE TO NONE

The Houses are open and welcoming places that host numerous organizations, giving them space for activities and meetings, while paying attention to ensure that there is no exclusive use of the space. **The premises and areas are organized and structured to meet the different needs of users. The activities of the various groups are carried out freely and autonomously**, thereby contributing, as a whole, to the overall programming of the Houses and to the construction of a community identity.

5. CONTAINERS OF MULTIPLE PROJECTS

The Houses are containers specifically designed and organized to collect and enhance a set of cultural, artistic, social, and recreational activities and initiatives, information and counselling services, paid courses, free workshops, services for families, shows, conferences, and exhibitions. The Houses support the subjects who intend to promote projects and events at their premises and across their network by **making available internal skills, spaces, tools, and resources**, so that they can be fairly equipped to implement them adequately, satisfactorily, and with an ever-increasing level of autonomy and self-organization. **The Houses are spaces for promotion and artistic and cultural training**, recognizing creativity and artisanal expression as a powerful tool for forging communities and a viable future for their members. The strength of Case del Quartiere lies in both their shared and individual elements, deriving from the specificity of each origin, territory, and set of protagonists.

6. THE OPERATORS: COMPETENT SOCIAL ARTISANS

The Houses are managed by teams that carry out project and **organizational functions**, coordinated by managers who oversee their direction, experimenting with models of participatory management. Each team includes members who are **experienced in cultural, organizational, and administrative fields, as well as in relationship management, and knowledge of local social contexts**. The operators are skilled at welcoming, listening to, accompanying, and supporting citizens, individuals, and groups in becoming protagonists of the socio-cultural life of their own community. They are “social artisans” who exercise and develop their expertise by **learning from experience and evaluation, training courses, and from the initiation of exchanges and experiments.**

7. INTERMEDIATE PLACES BETWEEN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE

The Houses are the result of actions of participatory administration for the regeneration of urban commons, the fruit of collaboration between the Public Administration and active citizens. As privileged places for the development of participation and the creation of social ties, **the Houses serve a major social function**, in which the City and Districts Administrations jointly undertake actions and share working methods. They are therefore a **tool for pioneering new forms of “urban welfare”**, places where personal needs can be satisfied collectively and where participation, relationship, and collaboration are stimulated.

8. SPACES SEARCHING FOR THE RIGHT BALANCE BETWEEN ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE AND PUBLIC SUPPORT

The Neighborhood Houses aim to find a balance between economic self-sustainability and public contribution. They use entrepreneurial skills in managing their resources, developing commercial activities that are instrumental into the project, and involving citizens in achieving a balanced budget through fundraising and collective contributions. **However, the Houses do not long to become fully independent** from an economic standpoint, as this would entail the risk of falling into market logics, thereby distorting their grassroots, social character. The public function served by the Houses implies concrete financial support from public and private entities in the promotion of equality and equal opportunities.

9. PLACES DEEPLY ROOTED IN THE TERRITORY

The Case del Quartiere are part of the territory in which they are born and developed. They promote opportunities for dialogue and trigger new synergies both within themselves and with profit and non-profit organizations they encounter. **The Houses encourage the consolidation of genuine social ties through cooperation, the development of common projects and relationships between people, groups, and actions in a simple and immediate way.** With the aim of expanding their action across the local territory, the Houses seek collaboration with local entities and organizations in each neighborhood in the perspective of a “widespread Neighborhood House” project.

10. ORGANIZATIONS HAVING THEIR OWN FORM OF GOVERNANCE

The Houses are managed by various actors rooted in the territory, first- and second-level associations, foundations, or cooperatives, in some cases because of a real participatory process involving numerous local actors in the initial phase. The management model of the Houses is designed to **learn from experience**, have the adequacy of the various initiatives checked on an ongoing basis, identify and analyze needs and expectations, and **have a constant update of their project** to adjust it to emerging needs. The Houses are **organizations capable of contributing to the redevelopment of each neighborhood** by involving the various local actors in order to enhance their work, initiatives, and capacity to relate to citizens, thereby recognizing it as an actual “heritage” instrumental into fostering a local, shared response to the demand for territorial development and enhancement.

houses) turned into a concrete possibility in April 2014 following the assignment of 100,000 € award to the project named “DI Casa in Casa” (from House to House) as the winner of Che Fare?, national call for tenders for cultural activities. In February 2017, the association was born which brings together the Case del Quartiere in order to describe, support, and promote the Neighborhood house model at a national and international level. To date, there are 8 Case del Quartiere in Turin, each in a different neighborhood, covering almost the entire city, i.e., Cascina Roccafranca (Mirafiori Nord), Casa del Quartiere di San Salvario, Bagno Hub Cecchi Point (Aurora), Casa nel Parco (Mirafiori Sud), Spazio4 (San Donato), Barrio (Nizza Millefonti), and Casa di Quartiere Vallette.

As a result of this journey, the Case del Quartiere Manifesto was drafted to illustrate the key elements that characterize these spaces. The Manifesto is a working tool in ten points that allows the Neighborhood houses both to take stock of their achievements and to trace a path for future growth. At the same time, it is a helpful tool to spread their experience at a regional, national, and European level as well as to contribute to a cultural policy according to which citizens can be the protagonists of social action and territories are the local resource for such action.

The Neighborhood houses are public places open to all members of the community, social and cultural laboratories in which collective thoughts and experiences are expressed. Spaces where experiences of participation, involvement, and self-organization are initiated. They result from a series of innovative urban regeneration policies that have been designed since the late 1990s in response to inputs from the European institutions as well as from the will of the municipal administrations to explore and implement ideas and projects with the contribution of citizens. In 2007, Cascina Roccafranca was the first Neighborhood house to be established in a suburban area of the city, followed by further experiences in other neighborhoods through different paths and stores having all a common ground: the redevelopment of public spaces thanks to the collaboration between public institutions, foundations, social enterprises, associations, and citizens. To reclaim those spaces and give them back to the people. To all the people.

Since May 2012, in collaboration with the Compagnia di San Paolo Foundation, the City of Turin has invited the managers of the Neighborhood houses to sit around a table with the aim of coordinating their activities around a network aimed to pool and strengthen their mutual knowledge, experiences, and projects. The desire to set up a direction for the Rete delle Case del Quartiere (Network of Neighborhood

RETE DELLE CASE DEL QUARTIERE



RETE DELLE CASE
DEL QUARTIERE

MANIFESTO



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in collaboration with



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MANIFESTO

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www.retecasesdelquartiere.org