

# Cascina Roccafranca

1. OVERVIEW	
Title of the Practice:	Cascina Roccafranca
Location:	Turin
Country:	<input type="checkbox"/> Italy
Scale:	<input type="checkbox"/> City level
Website / Contact:	<a href="https://www.cascinaroccafranca.it/">https://www.cascinaroccafranca.it/</a>
Status (as of 2026):	<input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing
<b>Context:</b>	
Cascina Roccafranca is a multifunctional socio-cultural center located in the Mirafiori Nord neighborhood of Turin. It was founded in the 17th century as a farmhouse in the rural area of Turin. With urban expansion and the end of agricultural activity, it was abandoned until public redevelopment transformed it into a Neighbourhood House (Casa del Quartiere).	
<b>Fundamental rights and freedoms addressed: (from the EU Charter)</b>	
Relevant families of fundamental rights and freedoms (max 3):	<input type="checkbox"/> Access to services of general economic interest <input type="checkbox"/> Freedom of assembly and association <input type="checkbox"/> Non-discrimination
<b>Keywords:</b>	
Typologies of participation (max 3):	
<input type="checkbox"/> PARTICIPATION: Inclusive	
<input type="checkbox"/> PARTICIPATION: Collective cultural expression	
<input type="checkbox"/> PARTICIPATION: Community empowerment	
Details: --	
Governance model (max 1):	
<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNANCE: Public-community partnership	
Details: --	
Field(s) of activity (max 3):	
<input type="checkbox"/> ACTIVITY: Welfare	
<input type="checkbox"/> ACTIVITY: Solidarity work	
<input type="checkbox"/> ACTIVITY: Relational work	
Details: --	
Typology of space (max 3):	
<input type="checkbox"/> TYPE: Physical space	
<input type="checkbox"/> TYPE: Reused/repurposed building	
<input type="checkbox"/> TYPE: Permanent	
Details: --	
<b>Network of participating actors:</b>	
Promoter(s) or initiator(s):	Municipality
Target group(s):	All residents/citizens (primary) Elderly people (secondary) Families (secondary)
Contributor(s)...	
<b>Role(s)</b>	<b>Details</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Co-owner (co-managing, sharing power and responsibility)	Local public authority
<input type="checkbox"/> Co-owner (co-managing, sharing power and responsibility)	45 Associations
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributors (adding content/value/resources)	80 Local associations
<input type="checkbox"/> Active users (living the civic space actively)	Residents of the neighbourhood/Citizens
Funding entity(ies)...	
<b>Nature/features</b>	<b>Details</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Public	Local public authority
<input type="checkbox"/> Public	Eu funds/National funds (occasionally, through projects)
<input type="checkbox"/> Private/entities	Bank foundation (Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo)

<input type="checkbox"/> Private/entities	<b>Restaurant / Cafeteria</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Private/citizens	<b>Services</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Private/citizens	<b>Donations</b>

## 2. NARRATIVE

<b>Why / How it started</b>	As part of the European Union's <b>URBAN II programme</b> , the City of Turin used EU funds to acquire Cascina Roccafranca—originally a 17th-century farmhouse—and convert it into a <b>multifunctional neighborhood hub through a collaboration between public institutions and civic actors</b> . The property is owned by the municipality, which entrusted its management to the Cascina Roccafranca Foundation, jointly run with municipal and district representatives. As a public asset, its use is restricted to social and cultural aims, excluding commercial activities. Conceived as an inclusive space, it promotes social interaction, civic participation, cultural initiatives, and an ethical lifestyle, while supporting the dignity and diversity of ethnic, religious, gender, and physically challenged communities.
<b>How it is managed</b>	Cascina's governance is organized as an <b>"atypical participating foundation," a public-private entity created to manage a municipal building</b> . Its structure includes a five-member Board of Directors: three are appointed by the City of Turin (the Councillor for Integration Policies, the President of the 2nd District, and one member designated by the District), while the remaining two are chosen by the "College of Participants," which is composed of 45 associations and groups active within Cascina. They collaborate with 80 associations and informal groups, along with individuals who promote activities at Cascina. Their work is supported by volunteers, and the organization employs 11 staff members (3 hired by the Municipality and 8 by the Foundation). The public-private foundation model is an ongoing experiment, an effort to foster close cooperation with the Municipality of Turin. As an engine of its social economy model, <b>Cascina includes a restaurant and a cafeteria, which bring a significant part of the general income necessary to sustain main costs</b> . The rest of the costs are covered through <b>philanthropic funds</b> (Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo), and other fundraising activities (projects, private events, ecc...), <b>The Municipality of Turin contributes directly as it employs 3 persons of the staff</b> .
<b>Links to Civic Space Dimensions</b>	<b>Participatory planning meetings and places:</b> Cascina fosters and hosts practices of <b>"participatory design" about daily matters</b> , as well as places of participation, that means <b>freely accessible spaces</b> where people gather, share information and plan projects for the citizens together. These meetings and places are conceived as informal and self-organized "civic spaces" where participants can raise awareness and can also give the opportunity to share opinions about themes of general interest (like Consumo Consapevole and Spazio Donne, or projects like Leggermente, Mirafiori Quartieri Solidali and other multicultural and integration projects) <b>"Incubator" of ideas and projects:</b> Cascina gives everyone the possibility to submit their ideas, wishes and proposals receiving support through the whole process of their realisation. This is a place where <b>anyone can find advice</b> , consultations and all the instruments <b>to make ideas into concrete projects</b> . <b>Associations area:</b> Local groups and associations play an essential role at Cascina: <b>local civic organizations contribute directly to the daily calendar of activities and initiatives</b> , bringing value to the overall project of Cascina as a Neighbourhood House.
<b>Other information:</b>	The Cascina Roccafranca is part of the Rete delle Case del Quartiere (Network of Neighborhood Houses), an organisation formally founded in 2017 (but whose coordination process started in 2012), which measures and evaluates the social impact generated by the eight Neighborhood Houses of the City of Turin. The last Social Impact Assessment has been recently published and its accessible here: <a href="https://www.retecasedelquartiere.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Report-VIS2024.pdf">https://www.retecasedelquartiere.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Report-VIS2024.pdf</a>
<b>3. REFERENCES</b>	
<b>Media profiles of the Practice:</b>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/cascinaroccafranca/">https://www.facebook.com/cascinaroccafranca/</a> <a href="https://www.instagram.com/cascinaroccafranca/">https://www.instagram.com/cascinaroccafranca/</a>
<b>Publications, articles, media posts about the Practice:</b>	La Cascina Roccafranca a Torino: <a href="https://www.labsus.org/2014/02/la-cascina-roccafranca/">https://www.labsus.org/2014/02/la-cascina-roccafranca/</a> Recalling the Past, Suggesting Modernity (Cascina Roccafranca, Turin): <a href="https://wonderland.cx/project/recalling-the-past-suggesting-modernity/">https://wonderland.cx/project/recalling-the-past-suggesting-modernity/</a> Cascina Roccafranca: the journey from a farmhouse to a community center: <a href="https://cooperativecity.org/cascina-roccafranca-the-journey-from-farmhouse-to-community-centre/">https://cooperativecity.org/cascina-roccafranca-the-journey-from-farmhouse-to-community-centre/</a>



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