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Federico Delrosso Villa Alce in Biella: contemporary spaces surrounded by greenery

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On the hills outside Biella, Italy, architect Federico Delrosso planned the renovation of a family home built about fifty years ago to plans by architect Boffa Ballaran. The new project features contemporary spaces profoundly linked with the outdoors: a 10,000 square metre park with luxuriant vegetation, including tall trees, the sporting facilities and the distant hills.

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Villa Alce is a family home built about fifty years ago in Cerreto Castello, in the beautiful setting of the hills outside Biella. The single-family home stands in a 10,000 square metre park with tall trees and sporting facilities, including a tennis court and a building containing a swimming pool with all the necessary associated facilities. Architect Federico Delrosso transformed the original building designed by architect Boffa Ballaran into a contemporary space with a profound visual connection with the park outside and the hilly landscape in the distance. Architect **Federico Delrosso** worked with the same landscape in his **Teca House** project, already presented in [Floornature](#).

The complete renovation of **Villa Alce** demonstrated great respect for the existing building and its surroundings. The original project's structural layout was preserved, with the two existing patios and the gabled roof consisting of traditional wooden beams with terra cotta roof tiles: a choice dictated by the need not to alter the balance of the landscape, and to preserve the image of a complex made up of simple shapes. A number of expansions were made while maintaining continuity with the original layout, by closing and adjusting the existing arcade. The architect also designed an extension on the kitchen, which now extends out toward the garden in a glass and metal structure.

The house has a single floor above ground, with the exception of the basement utility rooms and a little studio loft, connected to the living area by a metal staircase that appears suspended in mid-air. The distribution of functions has been completely reorganised around the main patio, which becomes the central courtyard of the home, surrounded by the corridor, which is connected with it through big windows that open up completely. The living area is located on the southern and eastern sides, while the bedrooms are on the eastern and northern sides of the building; to the west is the big arcade, which used to be open but has now been closed in to create a wellness room with sporting equipment and a sauna. Consistently with the main building, architect **Federico Delrosso** completely redesigned the volume in the park containing the swimming pool and related service areas.

Glass is definitely a key element in the renovation of the home. By replacing whole walls with clear glass, Federico Delrosso has done away with the boundaries between inside and outside, creating a profound visual link between interior and exterior and making the boundaries permeable to the light and to views of the park. Tailored finishes, installations and insulation ensure optimal comfort in the home, with perfect thermal insulation at all times of year and maximum energy-efficiency and sustainability.

(Agnese Bifulco)

Images courtesy of [Federico Delrosso architects](#), photo by Matteo Piazza

Project Name: Villa Alce

Location: Cerreto Castello, BI – Italy

Architectural: [Federico Delrosso architects](#)

Structure: Enrico Pelosini Ing.

Heating/cooling and insulation: Studio Bonomi

Green: Anna Scaravella

Surface areas

Surface area villa 700mq plus porches and patio + 600 mq underground for services

Park 10.000 mq

Covered pool 300 mq + 130 mq basement

Photos: Matteo Piazza