



## Casa Kimiyà, a refuge overlooking Modica

**Kimiyà**, from the Arab word for alchemy, is a fascinating artist's abode dating back to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, with an enchanting view over Modica, a jewel of the sicilian baroque.

The house, set on two levels, sizes 90 mq in total (70 mq interiors and 20 mq exterior): during the 60s and the 70s the building had undergone to some transformations which had totally cancelled its authentic character, so that the renovation project aimed at restoring some original features and improving the peculiarities of the space, first of all the spectacular view which amazingly awaits anyone going in and makes him feel as magically suspended over the town.

To achieve this goal the narrow interior corridor which prevented from gazing at the panorama was eliminated and a unique living-kitchen space was realized and connected to the balcony, which is furnished with a plexiglass small table for aperitifs with view in front of the baroque town, where the gaze spreads from the cathedral of S. Giorgio to the old jewish quarter of Cartellone.

The other part of the house was restored to create 2 bedrooms with 2 bathrooms, linked by a former staircase tiled with ancient "pece" black stone, which was partially replaced to enlarge the upper bedroom. This room connects to a secluded panoramic rooftop terrace, furnished with dining table and relax chairs, where to admire the lights of the town.

The floor tiles, dating back to the 70s, were totally replaced by a solvent-free cement resin floor, the color of which harmonizes with the local limestone.

The eclectic interior design, marked by the combination of warm white and earth tones with red elements and the dark brown of the pitch-stone, features a mix of contemporary materials, artworks, re-used furniture and memorabilia (such as the bookcase made of wood pallets, the bedside tables made of cornices salvaged from aristocratic palaces, the ancient Sicilian polychrome-maiolica for the headboard of the bed, the 19<sup>th</sup> century chest of drawers, the carpets from Oman).

The result is an harmonious environment where sicilian influences blend with original features telling the affinity between my soul and that one of a place which had been accustomed to wind and light for a long time.

### **Luca Giannini**

*Anima a Sud - founder and manager*

### **Credits**

Architectural project and interior design: Luca Giannini ([www.lucagiannini.it](http://www.lucagiannini.it))

Engineering and work supervision: Ing. Giampiccolo, Ragusa

Civil works: Giovanni Bonomo, Modica

Year of renovation: 2008