

structure is made almost entirely from wood, with cork insulation. The particularly clever part is that the dome can be rotated, allowing a glazed panel to follow the sun, which in turn, provides solar energy and light.

"I've lived in a Domespace home for fifteen years," says Marsilli. "It's a bit like living in a ship, because of the curves." Now he can't imagine wanting to live anywhere else. "You don't want to go back to living in a square house after living in a dome. Everyone who tries it says exactly the same thing."

The Domespace is not just better for the environment. It is earthquake proof and can resist winds of up to 240km per hour. As Marsilli can't resist pointing out, "there's no place like dome!"

Location

The homes can be built-to-order anywhere.

USP

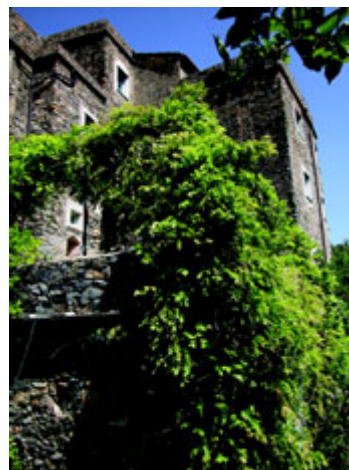
The domes come in 18 different sizes from 55m to 600m. Domespace has won a number of environmental awards.

PRICE

≈1,100 per square metre.

Colletta di Castelbianco northern Italy

For a property in touch with the past as well as the future, buyers might consider a home in the restored Italian medieval village of Colletta di Castelbianco, near the coastal resort of Albenga. The picturesque settlement, dating from the 12th-century, has become one of the first high-tech e-villages in Europe, with all sixty apartments linked to an HDSL high-speed internet connection.



"It has been very special to bring the village back to life," says Luca Catalano, Managing Director of Realinvest, which is handling the commercial side of the project. "The village had been abandoned. Now it's a lovely combination of old and new."

The project to restore the ancient properties was masterminded by respected Italian architect Giancarlo De Carlo. He has ensured that the traditional features of the homes and the character of the village with its narrow streets have been preserved.

Location

9km from the coast.

The nearest small town with facilities such as banks is 4km away. Approximately one hour's drive from Nice and one and a half hour's drive from Turin.



USP

As increasing numbers of people opt to work from home, this development allows you to be fully connected from an oasis of historic calm.

There are a number of communal areas and services, including swimming pool, sauna and open-air theatre.

A planning application has been submitted for a spa and fitness facility

to be added to the development.

Close to the 18-hole championship Garlenda Golf course.

Price

Prices start from ≈192,601 (plus 10% VAT) for a one-bedroom apartment with a patio, up to ≈497,473 (plus 10% VAT) for a three-bedroom apartment with two terraces.

Each apartment must be purchased with either a parking space (≈11,500 plus 10% VAT) or a garage (≈22,500 plus 10% VAT).

