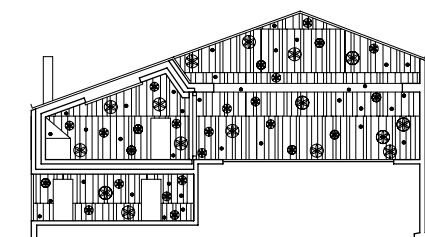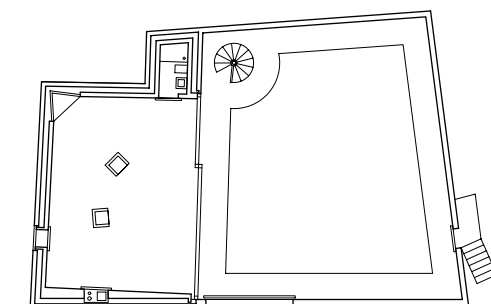SECTION.

GROUND FLOOR.



# HOLLOW HOUSE

**VALERIO OLIGIATTI**
ATELIER
SCHARANS / SWITZERLAND



**VALERIO OLGIATI DESIGNED A STUDIO IN THE MOUNTAINS FOR LINARD BARDILL, SWISS SONGWRITER AND AUTHOR, WHERE HE CAN RETREAT AND DEVELOP HIS ARTISTIC CREATIVITY TO THE FULL.**

**TEXT** KATHARINA MARCHALL
**PHOTOS** DAVID BELLASI

Bardill has realized his dream in Scharans, a mountain village with a population of 800, located at the end of a side valley in Graubünden canton. The artist has been living there with his family for 12 years and recently purchased an old barn for the project. The municipality made a proviso that if it were to be pulled down, the new build would have to have the same cubic content as the barn. That prerequisite inspired the architect, Valerio Olgiati, to perform an architectural trick. The volume of the 'hollow' house, with no roof or windows, pursues the outline of the former barn. The artist's 60 m2 atelier only occupies one-third of the covered surface area. The walled-in patio – that can be used for public performances – makes up the better part of the built area. On the patio side, the atelier is completely glazed, giving it the appearance of a large outdoor space sealed off from the outside world by its high surrounding walls. An elliptic opening resembling an eye frames the patio skywards. The sole window in the wall of the patio façade affords a view of the fantastic mountain décor. If the artist wants peace and quiet, the window is shuttered; if the open space is used as a public stage, it permits a glimpse of the building's interior.
    The municipality was highly critical of the choice of façade material. The reddish-brown colour of the concrete and the hand-made decorations inspired by those on a baroque chest modify the hermetic impression of the monolithic building volume.

**WWW.OLIGIATI.NET**