

PRO MON TORIO

PATIO HOUSE

GRÂNDOLA, PORTUGAL

2014–2004

A Private villa in the Alentejo coast
devised as a cluster of volumes
around a patio

The house is located in a large field of mature cork oaks and stone pines in Grândola, Alentejo, near the Atlantic coast. Typologically, it is inspired by the Portuguese rural settlements known as *montes*, which were usually located at dominant spots in the landscape and formed by clusters of volumes informally positioned around a courtyard. In much the same way, the concept for this house springs from the idea of a central courtyard, forming the main source of light and shade. Around and against this cut-off space, attached volumes aggregate the more private or service functions of the house — bedrooms, toilets, kitchen, pantry and storage — while the interstitial spaces between them generate the social areas, namely the living room, the dining room and the study.

In this sense, the house works as a dialogue of opposites: on the one hand, the attached volumes are thick and enclosed whitewashed cells with few openings, suggesting privacy and seclusion; and on the other, the common areas are shaped as organic and visually linked spaces, free-flowing through the serenity of the internal glazed patio. The patio offers crisscrossing views over the stunning landscape of oak trees — a contemplative frame that, once again, creates an emphatic contrast to the tectonic presence of the white volumes. At first glance the building has a seeming massiveness, an impression that dissolves once the large sliding windows vanish into the walls, releasing an unexpected transparency across the whole building.





Location: Grândola (Alentejo), Portugal

Client: Private

Scope of services: Architecture
and landscape architecture

Project brief: 3-bedroom house

Plot area: 14 ha

Gross floor area: 436 sq. m

Project status: 2004 (concept design) – 2014 (built)

Photography: Fernando Guerra

