Press Release

25 January 2017

’Passive House for all’ is the main theme for the 21st International Passive House conference – also apparent with the housing complex in Uttendorfgasse in Vienna, seen above. The Conference also offers workshops and excursions. © PH Austria

Vienna presents energy efficient construction

Passive House Conference on 28 and 29 April 2017 – free workshop for municipalities

Darmstadt, Germany/Innsbruck, Austria. **‘Passive House for all’ is the theme for the 21st International Passive House Conference in Vienna. It’s all about energy efficient construction now and in the future. Vienna has committed itself to the Passive House Standard for many years, whether for kindergartens, student dorms, apartment buildings or offices. The comprehensive conference programme will be rounded off with numerous workshops, a builder’s forum and excursions via bus and underground. The Passive House Conference with the accompanying exhibition takes place on 28 and 29 April 2017 at the Messe Wien Congress Center.**

"At this Conference it will be apparent that a lot has happened since the very first Passive House building was built 25 years ago. Today there are Passive House buildings all over the world in completely different shapes and sizes and for a great variety of uses, as single family homes or multi-unit buildings, for students, families, or senior citizens. There are Passive House buildings in the form of kindergartens, schools and offices. Vienna has several especially good examples“, explains Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Feist, Director of the Passive House Institute. With its two offices in Darmstadt and Innsbruck, the Passive House Institute is hosting the International Passive House Conference.

Vienna sets the standard

The Austrian capital has focused on energy efficient construction for many years. In 2013, Vienna inaugurated the world's first high-rise Passive House building at the time with the 20-storey RHW.2 tower. The first Passive House housing development with 800 residential units known as Eurogate is also located in Vienna. Many Passive House city districts and housing complexes have been developed since then. The city also has experience with retrofitting existing buildings to the Passive House Standard. In the neighbouring region of Lower Austria, public buildings have been constructed as Passive House buildings since 2008, including a Judiciary Centre. Universities and other educational buildings are committed to training for energy efficient construction.

In 2013, the RHW.2 Tower in Vienna with its 20 storeys was the tallest Passive House building in the world. Two buildings are currently being constructed in New York und Bilbao which will be even higher after their completion. Picture: Passivhaus Austria

Temporary housing in PopUp dorms

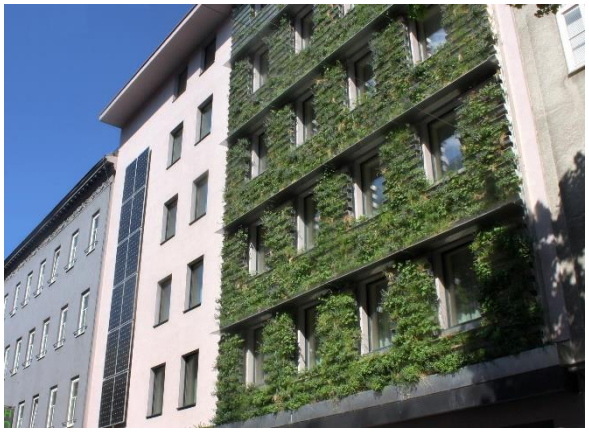
So-called PopUp dorms have recently been built in Seestadt Aspern in Vienna. It is possible to set up and dismantle these attractive Passive House wooden boxes in a flexible way on the city's building plots, which will only be developed after five years at the earliest. Until then, students can be accommodated here - environmentally friendly and economical. “The Passive House concept is a sustainable and cost-optimal solution for the Nearly Zero Energy Building. Because it functions everywhere, it is an opportunity to implement climate protection objectives with a high level of living comfort at the same time”, says Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Feist.

Workshop about high-rise buildings to the Passive House Standard

Over a hundred speakers from around 50 countries will be giving lectures on the two days of the Conference. In a total of 16 working groups, they will be focusing on topics relating to energy efficient construction, such as high-rise buildings to the Passive House Standard, Passive House and renewable energy, Passive House in various climate zones, and retrofits to the Passive House Standard. A big Passive House party will take place on Friday evening in the Natural History Museum in Vienna.

Passive House Exhibition

Leading suppliers of Passive House components will be represented at the accompanying Passive House exhibition during the two days of the Conference. They will present their components for new constructions and retrofits, including windows and doors, thermal insulation and ventilation systems with heat recovery.



Living to the Passive House Standard: Left, a PopUp dorm for students in Seestadt Aspern, which can be dismantled and rebuilt in a different location. Right, the Stadthotel with its green façade. Pictures: PH Austria

Free forum for private building owners

The exhibition at the 21st International Passive House Conference is also intended for private building owners. They and their families can obtain information relating to energy-efficient construction at the buildings owners' forum on Saturday, which everyone can access without charge. In addition to Passive House experts, private building owners will also be available to answer any questions.

Basic and advanced workshops for all levels

A total of nine workshops will take place from Monday till Thursday (24 to 27 April 2017) prior to the Conference. Topics include energy efficient hot water systems, cooling and dehumidification, as well as commissioning and optimised operation. In addition, courses dealing with the Passive House planning tools PHPP and designPH are also on offer.

Excursions via bus and underground railway

Following the Conference on Sunday 30 April 2017, conference visitors can choose to take part in one of six bus excursions to interesting Passive House projects. One tour to Passive House residential buildings and student hostels will be undertaken via the underground; this will also include a visit to the PopUp dorms in Seestadt Aspern in Vienna.
Conference sessions will take place in German and English. Simultaneous translation into English will be provided for all German language sessions. The early booking discount is valid until 20 February 2017.
Further information can be found at www.passivehouse-conference.org

The 21st International Passive House Conference will take place with the kind support of:

General information

Passive House
A Passive House is a building that does not require any conventional building heating on account of its excellent thermal insulation. Such buildings are called "passive houses" because a major part of their heating demand is met through "passive" sources such as solar radiation or the waste heat from occupants and technical appliances. A Passive House thus consumes about 90 percent less heating energy than existing buildings and 75 percent less energy than an average new construction.

Passive House & COP22 in Marrakesh 2016
The United Nations (UN) explicitly mention Passive Houses as a possibility to increase the energy efficiency of buildings and thus reduce global warming,
=> see "The Emissions Gap Report 2016", pages 32 + 35.
https://uneplive.unep.org/media/docs/theme/13/Emissions_Gap_Report_2016.pdf

Pioneer Project
The first Passive House in the world was built in Darmstadt-Kranichstein (Germany) 25 years ago by four private homeowners on their own personal initiative. Ever since the homeowners moved in with their families in 1991, these terraced houses have been regarded as a pioneer project for the Passive House Standard. 25 years later, building physicists have attested to the unimpaired functioning of the first Passive House and its unchanged low heating energy consumption. With its newly installed photovoltaic system, the world's first Passive House now utilises renewable energy and received the Passive House Plus certificate for this reason.

Passive House and renewable energy
The Passive House Standard can be combined well with on-site renewable energy generation. Since April 2015, the new building classes "Passive House Plus" and "Passive House Premium" have been available for this supply concept. The first buildings to be certified in these two categories include both private houses and office buildings.

Passive Houses worldwide
Passive Houses buildings for all types of uses now exist everywhere. In addition to residential and office buildings there are also kindergartens and schools, sports halls, swimming pools and factories built as Passive House buildings. The first Passive House hospital in the world is currently being built in Frankfurt am Main. Since 1991, over 60 000 housing units have been built to the Passive House Standard all over the world. Interest in Passive House is growing. In view of the consumption of resources in industrialised countries and the need to contain global warming, municipalities, businesses and private people are increasingly implementing new constructions or retrofits to the Passive House Standard.

Passive House Institute
The Passive House Institute with its headquarters in Darmstadt (Germany) is an independent research institute for highly efficient use of energy in buildings. Under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Feist, the Institute holds a leading position internationally with regard to research and development in the field of energy efficient construction. The Passive House Institute is the organiser of the International Passive House Conference and the accompanying specialists' exhibition.

Pictures for editorial purposes: www.flickr.com/photos/passive-house-institute
We will gladly provide pictures via e-mail upon request.

To get the latest news relating to Passive House, visit: www.twitter.com/IGPassivhaus

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