
Press Release

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International Passive House Days – now also in China

Residents of energy-efficient buildings around the world open their doors to the public

Darmstadt, Germany. During the Passive House Days from 7 – 9 November, hundreds of buildings around the world will be open to the public again. For the first time, visits to Passive Houses will also be possible in China this year. A recently completed building in the north-western metropolis of Urumqi will be participating. This project is part of Peking's efforts to reduce energy consumption significantly in the country by applying the Passive House Standard. Those wishing to experience the advantages of this construction method for themselves will have the opportunity to do so in many other countries too: in Europe and North America as well as in New Zealand, Japan and Chile. An overview of the buildings participating in the Passive House Days event can be found on the website www.passivehouse-database.org.



This new building in China will also be open to the public during the international Passive House Days. *Photo: Passive House Institute*

The [Passive House building in Urumqi](#) was certified on 25 September. The semi-arid and continental climate of this region was not the only challenge with this building. Local stakeholders played a pioneering role in many areas; the necessary expertise had to be conveyed to the specialists involved in the construction, and Passive House building components, which are not readily available in China, also had to be obtained. The results are impressive: the heating demand is just 13 % of that required in other new buildings in the city. This was achieved by means of triple-glazed windows, a ventilation system with heat recovery and 30 cm thick XPS insulation, among other things. The authorities want to take advantage of the success of this project to implement further projects of this kind.

The high level of energy efficiency of Passive Houses don't just save costs for building owners and occupants; thermal comfort is also one of the major benefits of this standard. The quality of indoor air is also better than that in conventional buildings; mould growth is practically ruled out. Thousands of people around the world are already enjoying these

benefits – and will be sharing their experiences with others during the international Passive House Days. The list of buildings that can be viewed also demonstrates the diversity of this standard; besides many single-family homes, schools and offices, other buildings such as a Passive House tennis hall in Sweden and several Passive House hotels in the Alps will also be opening their doors. In some places, guided tours of Passive House construction sites are being offered.

Over a third of the total energy consumption in industrialised countries is used for operating buildings. That is why the significance of the Passive House Standard for the low energy revolution and climate protection is being acknowledged in a growing number of countries. The EU has set the course in Europe with corresponding stipulations in the Buildings Directive taking effect in 2020. In the USA, New York City is currently leading the way with a future-oriented [concept](#).

The example of Urumqi illustrates the importance of China in this context. Here, the authorities anticipate that useable building area will double by the year 2034 – with a similar trend in many other cities in the country. This means that a major part of the global construction activities in the coming years will be concentrated in China. A large-scale project which is intended to steer the building boom in a sustainable path is the "[Sino-German-Ecopark](#)" in the eastern seaport of Qingdao. During a state meeting between the German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Premier Li Keqiang in July, it was agreed that the Passive House Standard will also be applied in Qingdao. The services of the renowned Passive House architect Professor Ludwig Rongen were acquired for an initial project.



Agreement for construction of a Passive House in Qingdao by Professor Ludwig Rongen (left) during a state visit by Angela Merkel on 7 July. *Photo: Rongen Architekten*

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The international Passive House Days event has been taking place annually since 2004. Tens of thousands of people have already taken advantage of this opportunity to personally experience the comfort of a Passive House. The Passive House Days event is an initiative of the International Passive House Association (iPHA), in which several national networks for the promotion of the Passive House Standard – such as the newly founded [China Passive House Network](#) in 2014 – have joined together.

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