



## Press Release

16 July 2013

### World's first Passive House office tower certified

#### International Passive House experts visit project in Vienna

*Vienna.* High levels of energy efficiency are all the more important when it comes to high-rise buildings. For the first time ever, an office tower in Vienna has achieved the Passive House Standard. The certificate was presented by Susanne Theumer of the Passive House Institute on the 20th floor of the building with a prime view of the old city. The glazed facade of the building on the bank of the Donaukanal ("Danube Canal") rises almost 80 metres high. The building, characterised by superior indoor air quality and minimal energy consumption, is home to 900 employees of the Austrian Raiffeisen-Holding Group.



High-rise building with Passive House Certificate: the new office of the Raiffeisen-Holding NÖ-Wien.  
Image: IBO

"This building proves once again that the Passive House Standard and good architecture are perfectly compatible", says Professor Dr. Wolfgang Feist, director of the Passive House Institute. On Tuesday, an international group of Passive House experts who had travelled to Vienna for a Passive House Summer Academy, came to see the high-rise. The building is strictly in line with the Raiffeisen climate protection objectives, explained Wolfgang

Pundy as he received the certificate. "This certification proves that the path we have chosen to take for our new office building is the right one," continued the project manager of the "RHW.2" tower.

The building's energy concept is compelling: energy is provided by a photovoltaic system as well as a combined heat, cooling and power plant. Even the waste heat from the data centre is re-used; cooling partly takes place via the Donaukanal. The decisive factor for achieving the Passive House Standard was the radically increased efficiency of the facade, the building component connections, the mechanical systems – and even

the coffee machine. In combination with optimised shading equipment, the heating and cooling demand was reduced by 80% compared with conventional high-rise buildings. For quality assurance reasons, certification of buildings takes place in accordance with the criteria set out by the Passive House Institute. The globally recognised seal indicates compliance with the Passive House Standard. The Passive House Institute has been represented in Austria with its branch office in Innsbruck since 2010.

After the awarding ceremony in the "RHW.2" tower, the international experts moved on to see other outstanding projects in the region. In Korneuburg, just north of Vienna, the group visited the new Regional and District Court with its adjacent correctional facilities. The building complex built to the Passive House Standard demonstrates how smart planning can accommodate the high levels of energy efficiency and comfort required in such buildings.

The Vienna Region is setting the pace, not only with its beacon projects but also with the number of completed buildings. The "Eurogate" district, an area entirely consisting of Passive House buildings, stands as a shining example. Upon completion of the first construction phase, 7,000 occupants in 800 apartments will be able to benefit from the advantages of this energy efficient construction method. The international guests also viewed one of five Passive House student hostels, developed by the Viennese company OeAD-GmbH. A total of 15,000 students from all over the world have already had the opportunity to experience what modern and sustainable living means during their stays in Austria.

The excursion was part of a six-day Summer Academy, organised in Slovakia by the *International Passive House Association* (iPHA). The visit to Vienna followed an invitation by Austrian Passive House expert Günter Lang of *LANG consulting*. iPHA is a global network of Passive House stakeholders including building owners, architects, scientists and component manufacturers – membership is open to all.

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**Further information on the Passive House Standard can be found here:**

[www.passivehouse.com](http://www.passivehouse.com) | [www.langconsulting.at](http://www.langconsulting.at) | [www.passivehouse-international.org](http://www.passivehouse-international.org) | [www.passipedia.org](http://www.passipedia.org)