

Press Release 4 May 2010

Visible Quality for Passive Houses



Architect Georg Zielke (on the left) receives the Passive House plate from Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Feist in front of the terraced house which was built by him in 2007 in Darmstadt. The property was granted the "Quality Approved Passive House Dr. Wolfgang Feist" Certificate. Further information about the project (ID 1049) can be found on the following website: www.passivhausprojekte.de

(Photograph: Passive House Institute)

May 2010, Darmstadt: Quality that speaks for itself – from now on, owners of certified buildings can display the Passive House plate, designed by the Passive House Institute, on their properties. The quality assurance carried out for the certification of Passive Houses can thus be represented.

Passive Houses are buildings in which a comfortable temperature can be maintained all the year round with extremely small energy expenditure. A building that has been certified according to the Passive House standard meets the increased requirements for design, planning and execution.

Worldwide availability

"The Passive House is an energy standard that is available all over the world - the same laws of physics apply everywhere", emphasises Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Feist of the Building Physics Unit of the University of Innsbruck and Director of the Passive House Institute in Darmstadt. Nevertheless, sustainability aspects do require consideration of the regional conditions. "By

means of a proven planning method this building standard results in comfortable solutions which are optimally adjusted with regard to the climatic conditions and require very little energy, and therefore are sustainable. They can be oriented towards the respective regional traditions and require such minimal heating energy that conventional heating or cooling systems are no longer worthwhile. Instead, small and optimally adjusted compact systems are used, thereby reducing the energy consumption to a tenth of the consumption of existing houses. This is mainly achieved by the engineers and craftsmen applying their knowledge and skills," adds Prof. Dr. Feist.

Architect Georg Zielke of Darmstadt sees certain advantages in the Passive House certification: "Independent quality assurance is provided for the correct planning during the construction phase. This is of considerable interest for the client as well as the architect and guarantees successful implementation. The certification also increases the value of the property in the event of resale. As it isn't possible to 'see' the Passive House quality of the building, using the Passive house plate effectively draws the attention of the public to this fact, thereby making it 'visible'," explains Zielke.

The Passive House plate including the stainless steel fixtures can be obtained from the Passive House Institute (www.passiv.de), in English as well as in German.

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