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Visible Quality for Passive Houses

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.

Media contact:
Ana Krause, tel: +49 (0) 6151 82699 25, fax: +49 (0) 6151 82699 11, e-mail: ana.krause@passiv.de