

Press Release

11 February 2011

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Quality assurance for Passive Houses

Over 1,000 certified Passive House Designers thus far

Darmstadt, 11 February 2011 – the number of Certified Passive House Designers has exceeded 1,000. Introduced four years ago, the Passive House Designer certification, awarded by the Passive House Institute, has proven to be a much sought after success.

Since the scheme's introduction, the number of Certified Passive House Designers has doubled annually. The first forty designers received their Passive House Designer credentials in early 2008. By the end of that year, the total number had reached 160. In 2009, another 300 designers were certified and 600 more passed the exam in 2010. At the beginning of 2011, the 1,000th designer was awarded the certification.

Thus far, 46 course providers around the world have been licensed by the Passive House Institute to offer preparatory Certified Passive House Designer seminars.

“The courses help designers improve the quality of their buildings so that today's buildings will meet the future requirements established in the 2020 European Energy Performance of Buildings Directive,” says Dr. Wolfgang Feist, director of the Passive House Institute.

Such courses cover the key Passive House design principles such as an airtight building envelope, the use of a ventilation system with heat recovery and the PHPP design tool, Passive House design software that calculates energy balances and produces reliable information on how a given building will perform in summer conditions, thus guiding architects towards an optimised design.

Passing an exam, however, is not the only way to achieve the Certified Passive House Designer certification: the designation can also be obtained by presenting and thoroughly documenting a certified Passive House construction project. Proof of real-world experience is emphasised in the scheme, which requires that all Certified Passive House Designers present and document a certified Passive House construction project every 5 years in order to maintain their status. The project documentation must describe the key aspects that qualify the certified project as a Passive House. Here, building certification serves as an independent and competent verification of the building's quality, and can be carried out by either the Passive House Institute itself or a variety of Passive House Institute authorised building certifiers (please see Building Certifiers at www.passivehouse-international.org for more information).

The current list of Certified Passive House Designers as well as further information on the exam regulations and course offerings worldwide can be found at www.passivhausplaner.eu.

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