

## Press Release 1 March 2012

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### **First thermal bridge free balcony detail certified – Thermal bridges resulting from protruding balconies are now a thing of the past**

*In Innsbruck, Austria, Wolfgang Feist awards Schöck the first Thermal Bridge Free Construction certificate for a balcony connection.*



**Martin Lamprecht, Schöck Bauteile GmbH (on the left) receives the certificate from Wolfgang Feist. © Passive House Institute**

Darmstadt/Innsbruck, 1 March 2012  
– As the first and until now only load bearing insulation element, several balcony connections in Schöck's QXT series have met the thermal bridge free connection criterion. This means greater freedom of design during planning and optimisation of construction costs since it allows the balcony to be connected to the building facade

in a self-supporting and thermal bridge free manner using only two supports instead of four.

The certification is based on the "Thermal bridge reduced construction" certificate, but has more stringent requirements: a connection is considered thermal bridge free if the sum of a wall's thermal bridges ultimately do not worsen the U-value of that wall by

anything more than a negligible amount. "Delta U" is used to describe this deterioration. For a thermal bridge reduced construction, delta U may not exceed 0.025 W/(m<sup>2</sup>K); for a thermal bridge free connection delta U must remain ≤ 0.010 W/(m<sup>2</sup>K). These values must be achieved for at least one of two reference models: a terraced house and a non-residential building, or an apartment block.

Until now, only two certificates have been awarded for a thermal bridge free connection: one for the curtain wall facade anchoring system by the company m-Con, and one for the Schöck Isokörbe, also in the QXT series. A further product is being processed for certification.

The certificate was officially handed over in the Lodenareal in Innsbruck, Austria, the largest certified Passive House multi-storey construction in the world.

Further information about certified products can be found on [www.passivehouse.com](http://www.passivehouse.com) where the certification criteria for thermal bridge free connections are also given.

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