

Press Release, 14 November 2012

*Passivhaus Institut
Dr. Wolfgang Feist
Rheinstraße 44/46
64283 Darmstadt*

*Tel. +49 (0) 6151/826 99-0
Fax. +49 (0) 6151/826 99-11*

*mail@passiv.de
www.passivehouse.com*

Refurbished former post office building in Bozen receives Passive House Certificate

South Tyrolean administrative building demonstrates new approaches for sustainable construction



© Michael Tribus Architecture

Darmstadt/Innsbruck, 14 November 2012 – The Passive House Certificate awarded today (Wednesday) for the public administration building number 11 in Bozen represents a significant milestone for energy efficient construction in Italy. The pioneer character of this project in the field of high performance refurbishment has been acknowledged with this internationally recognised distinction from the Passive House Institute in Darmstadt. A plain old 1950s building near the Main Station of the South Tyrolean capital has been transformed into a real eye-catcher while offering impressive energy savings despite a limited budget.

"With this Passive House administrative building, South Tyrol has achieved an outstanding demonstration project", says Professor Dr. Wolfgang Feist, Director of the Passive House Institute and building physicist at the University of Innsbruck.

"This is the first public administration building in this efficiency category worldwide, and since 2006 it has been complying with the EU Buildings Directive that will come into effect as of 2020."

The former post office building in Bozen combines a high standard of energy efficiency with outstanding architectural features. The playful window make for a great visual effect while allowing more light to enter the rooms at the lower levels and providing pleasant shading for the upper levels. In terms of energy efficiency, the architect Dr. Michael Tribus and the building owners decided to undercut the legal values significantly. A generously insulated building envelope and a ventilation system with heat recovery provide for heating energy savings of around 90%.

The official awarding ceremony took place at 10am this morning inside the building located near Bozen's main station. The "Certified Passive House" Certificate was handed over by Jan Steiger from the Passive House Institute.

The building, which was originally built in 1954, was extensively refurbished between 2004 and 2006 and two more floors were added. The ground floor now offers rooms for meetings and exhibitions; the remaining four storeys contain office spaces used by Bozen's Regional Authority. The accessible roof garden can be used for recreation purposes and blends harmoniously into the landscape.

Press contact:

Benjamin Wunsch
Rheinstr. 44/46, 64283 Darmstadt, Germany
Tel +49 (0)6151/826 99-25
Fax +49 (0)6151/826 99-34
Email: presse@passiv.de
Internet: www.passivehouse.com