

Press Release

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View from Volkspark to Museums and Parliament: the urban heritage of Vienna attracts millions of tourists each year. In 2017 the 21st International Passive House Conference will take place in Vienna. Photo: WienTourismus/Christian Stemper

21st International Passive House Conference

Vienna welcomes Passive House experts

***Darmstadt/Innsbruck/Vienna.* It's been decided: next year's 21st International Passive House Conference will take place in Vienna. The news was announced today by the Passive House Institute in Darmstadt. "We are very much looking forward to Vienna. Not only the beautiful city, but of course Vienna's commitment to Passive House," explains Director Dr. Wolfgang Feist. The International Passive House Conference is the meeting place for experts from around the world on energy efficient construction.**

The centuries-old urban heritage of Vienna attracts millions of tourists each year. The 21st International Passive House Conference shifts the future to the focal point but recognizes its legacy: Vienna's pioneering role constructing energy efficient Passive House buildings.



Some of the many Passive House buildings in Vienna: (f.l.) Building Uttendorfgasse, multi-storey RHW.2 of Raiffeisen-Holding and Building authorities Korneuburg. Photos: G. Lang/Passivhaus Austria

Vienna attracts tourists – and Passive House Pioneers

The Austrian capital is increasingly turning to energy efficient construction. 2013 saw the opening of the 20-storey RHW.2 office tower, at the time the world's tallest Passive House building. Vienna is also home to Eurogate, the first residential Passive House estate consisting of 800 apartments. Since then, numerous Passive House neighbourhoods and settlements have been developed. Since 2008, the neighbouring province of Lower Austria, requires public buildings in Passive House Standard, including a courthouse and a jail. The city also has experience with renovation of Wilhelminian-style buildings to the Passive House Standard.

Passive House Standard for every purpose

The commitment to Passive House can be seen in all of Austria. “The universities and educational institutions teach and train students and tradespersons as Passive House experts. For the past 20 years Austria has intensively supported the development of Passive House buildings. Due to this, many of the larger pioneer projects can be found in Vienna,” says Günter Lang of Passivhaus Austria.



“Passive House for all” is the theme for the 21st International Passive House Conference next year. Passive House buildings in Vienna: (f.l.) Building Esslinger Straße, Building SoWieSo, Building Mühlweg. Photos: G. Lang/Passivhaus Austria

Passive House for all

The theme of the 21st International Passive House Conference is "Passive House for all". The conference will therefore highlight the increasing prevalence of Passive House worldwide. The world's first Passive House, built in 1991 in Darmstadt, was a terraced row house. Meanwhile, there are Passive House buildings for all types of use, varying construction methods, for all climates and for all budgets.

2016 attracted over 1,000 participants to the 20th International Conference in Darmstadt. Also in 2017 in Vienna, one of the four major United Nations office sites, many participants from around the world are expected, especially from all of Europe, North America and China. Numerous workshops and excursions will take place around the conference.

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Passive House:

A Passive House is a building that due to its excellent design and construction, stays at a comfortable temperature year round with minimal energy inputs, no matter the climate or geographical region. Passive House buildings make efficient use of “passive” sources, such as sun and heat recovery to cover remaining needs, and use similar techniques such as shading to keep them comfortably cool. A Passive House therefore consumes around 90 percent less heating energy than existing buildings and about 75 percent less than an average new build.

Pioneer project

The first Passive House was built 25 years ago in Darmstadt-Kranichstein, Germany. Since the first families moved in in 1991, it has stood as the global pioneer project for the Passive House Standard. In the spring of 2016, building physicists undertook intensive studies on this first building to find the building was still performing as designed and that the low heating energy demand remained.

Passive Houses worldwide

Meanwhile, there are Passive Houses buildings of all types. In addition to residential - and office buildings there are also kindergartens and schools, hospitals, sports halls, swimming pools and factories as Passive House buildings. Worldwide, since 1991 over 60,000 Passive House projects have been built. The interest in Passive House is increasing. Considering the resource consumption of the industrialized countries and the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, a new building or retrofit to the Passive House Standard appears increasingly as an attractive alternative for municipalities, business and private individuals.

Passive House Institute:

The Passive House Institute is an independent research institute that has played an especially crucial role in the development of the Passive House concept - the only internationally recognised, performance-based energy standard in construction. The Passive House Institute is the organizer of the International Passive House Conference and the related exhibition,