

# Make your own judgement!

Passive House Open Days will take place for the 20th time: 10 - 12 November

**Darmstadt/Germany.** Residents are opening their Passive House buildings for the 20th time. Interested parties can see the benefits of high energy efficiency for themselves. The



Today a gem, previously uninhabited for 10 years: this former farmhouse in Tyrol, Austria, was renovated with Passive House components and can now be visited. Further information under [ID 7349](#) © M. Flach

own experiences with highly energy-efficient construction and refurbishment directly to the visitors.

## Better buildings!

Over the past 20 years, many people have used this opportunity to find out more about Passive House buildings and buildings that were retrofitted to the EnerPHit standard using Passive House components. In addition to the low demand for heating energy in winter, good thermal insulation is also an advantage in summer, when it helps to keep the heat outside.

Passive House Open Days will again take place on the second weekend in November. From 10 to 12 November 2023, many buildings around the world will be open to the public. Residents also present their homes in a video. In Germany, among other activities, there is a workshop on highly energy-efficient school buildings. These were predominantly realised with prefabricated building elements and therefore also promise a shorter construction time.

It is still worthwhile focussing on high energy efficiency: These buildings offer a high level of living comfort while keeping energy costs low. Climate protection also benefits from the significantly reduced energy consumption of the buildings. The tried and tested concept of open days in Passive House buildings makes it easy to see the benefits. Residents are inviting to their homes and pass on their



Just 30 minutes from Madrid, Spain, visitors are invited to this timber Passive House building with a cork façade. [ID 7366](#) © Estudio Albar

## "The advantages are obvious!"

"The fact that the Passive House Open Days have been inspiring people for 20 years now is impressive. We very often receive feedback that this event in particular has persuaded building families to construct or retrofit their own building even more efficiently than originally planned, simply because the advantages are so obvious," explains Sabine Stillfried from the International Passive House Association (iPHA). While in conventional buildings the heating system is usually already running at the beginning of November, in most highly energy-efficient buildings it is not yet necessary to switch it on at this time, Stillfried continues. In addition, a ventilation system with heat recovery ensures consistently fresh air in the house.



On two days, the residents of this newly built Passive House building in the West Midlands, UK, invite visitors to their home. **ID 7263**  
© Colin Gardiner



This Passive House building with solar thermal energy and PV system is open for viewing in Nagano, Japan. **ID 7158**  
© Key Architects

## Schools as modular timber construction

Together with the Passive House Institute, the district of Groß-Gerau, Germany, is organising a workshop regarding experiences with highly energy-efficient school buildings realised with prefabricated elements in modular timber construction. Among other things, this promises a shorter construction time.

## World map and video tours

The Passive House Institute's **project database** lists all viewing options for the period from **10 to 12 November 2023**. The list is updated on an ongoing basis. The **website of the network iPHA** lists all information and activities, including a world map with viewing options. Video tours in which owners guide through their Passive House buildings are offered **here**.



This press release is available in various formats together with images **here**.



## General information

**27th International Passive House Conference:** The #27intPHC will take place 5 & 6 April 2024 in Innsbruck, Austria. All information [here](#).



**Passive House Award:** That's how diverse Passive House is! Finalists and winners of the international architecture competition are presented in this [Flipbook](#). Click and see!



**#EfficiencyNOW!** The call of the hour is to save fossil energy. To achieve this, the Passive House Institute has started the [#EfficiencyNOW](#) campaign. All information on [Passipedia](#).

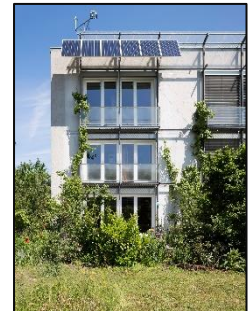


Socially compatible and highly energy efficient apartment blocks built to the Passive House standard. © Neue Heimat Tirol

**Passive House buildings:** With the Passive House concept, the heat loss that typically takes place in buildings through the walls, windows and roof is drastically reduced. By applying the following five basic principles **1. Excellent thermal insulation, 2. Windows with triple glazing, 3. A ventilation system with heat recovery, 4. Avoidance of thermal bridges, 5. An airtight building envelope,** a Passive House building needs very little energy for heating and cooling. A major part of its heating demand is met through "passive" sources such as solar radiation or the heat emitted by occupants and technical appliances. The Passive House concept works well also in deep retrofits. The Passive House Institute has developed the EnerPHit standard for this purpose.

**Other advantages of the Passive House & EnerPHit standard:** **1. Increased thermal comfort. 2. In winter the heating demand is very low; the heat escapes out of the house very slowly. 3. The cooling demand of Passive House buildings in the summer is low. 4. The utility costs are predictable due to the low energy costs – which is the basis for affordable homes and social housing.**

**Passive House and renewable energy:** The Passive House standard and the generation of renewable energy is an excellent combination. The Passive House Institute has also introduced the building classes *Passive House Plus* and *Passive House Premium*. The pioneer project in Darmstadt was equipped with a photovoltaic system in 2015 and therefore received the *Passive House Plus* certificate.



In 2021, the world's first Passive House building in Darmstadt celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

**Building uses:** There are now Passive House buildings for all types of building uses. In addition to residential-use and office buildings, there are also kindergartens, schools, sports halls swimming pools and production facilities built to the Passive House standard. The certificate for the first Passive House hospital in the world was presented in Frankfurt am Main. The hospital started operations in the new highly efficient building in February 2023.

**PHPP:** The planning tool PHPP (Passive House Planning Package) is available for realistic and reliable energy balance calculation and planning of highly energy efficient buildings. This Excel-based tool is routinely used worldwide for planning and quality assurance of Passive House buildings and EnerPHit deep retrofits.

**Passive House Institute:** The Passive House Institute in Darmstadt was founded by Professor Wolfgang Feist in 1996; since 2010, the Institute has also had a branch in Innsbruck. The Passive House Institute is an independent organisation holding a leading position in research and development relating to highly energy efficient construction and building retrofits.



Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Feist  
© Peter Cook

**iPHA:** The International Passive House Association (iPHA) is engaged in the dissemination of knowledge as well as networking.

## Social Media:



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