



Press Release, 3rd November 2014

Passive House near Wicklow Town will open its doors to the public

O'Leary Family and MosArt Architects participate in Passive House Days event on Sunday 9th November

Wicklow Town. In the O'Leary family home, extreme energy efficiency is not a possibility but a fact: in their Passive House, they consume just around 10 percent of what conventional homes and buildings need for heating and cooling. At the same time, the house offers a high level of comfort, both in terms of air quality and even temperatures. On 9th November, people will be able to see and experience for themselves how this is possible – when the Tomas O'Leary and his family (*Co-Founder of MosArt Architects and the Passive House Academy*) in Wicklow Town take part in the international Passive House Days event this weekend. The doors of their energy-efficient house (the first Certified Passive House in the English speaking world) will be opened to the public from 2pm to 5 p.m.

Since the very first Passive House Days event in 2004, tens of thousands of people around the world have already taken the opportunity to visit a Passive House building. Whilst the O'Leary family has hosted many visitors over the past ten years, this is their first time participating in this international event *"we have had such a positive experience with Passive House that we want to give others the chance to experience it for themselves"* says Tomas. Most questions that people have on this matter can be quickly answered face to face, and misconceptions can also be corrected.



'Out of the Blue' Passive House in Wicklow
Photo: Tomas O'Leary

The Passive House isn't only an active contribution to the energy revolution; it is also a very attractive investment opportunity for building owners and users. Extra capital investment during the construction phase is compensated by the heating and cooling costs saved within just a few years. In addition to low running costs, living comfort is noticeably improved with optimal indoor air quality and comfortable temperatures. The mechanical systems are flexible and easy to operate – as visitors will be able to see for

themselves on 9th November in Wicklow Town.

The Passive House belonging to the O'Leary family was built in 2004. The O'Leary's wanted to build a Passive House after learning about examples of such projects in cold climates such as Germany and Sweden. "The heating and hot water demand is only around €300 for the entire year with a living area of 300m² (3,300 square feet). In a normal house built at the same time, we would probably have to pay at least €3,000", says Tomas O'Leary.

The Passive House Days event is organised by iPHA, the International Passive House Association, established by the Passive House Institute, along with partners in a variety of other countries. An overview of all projects participating in this event can be found online on the Passive House Database at www.passivehouse-database.org, with additional projects visible on www.passivehouse-international.org.

Visiting the Wicklow Passive House is by prior-registration only. Persons interested in visiting need to inform Tomas by email tomas@passivehouseacademy.com and he will send a map and directions by return. Remember, this house is open for viewing only on Sunday 9th November between 2pm and 5pm.



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