



Press Release

28 October 2013

Insights into buildings of the future

"Passive House Days" from 8 - 10 November 2013

Darmstadt. Active participation in our energy future – experts will demonstrate how this is possible with Passive House while Passive House residents tell of their experiences. From 8 through 10 November 2013, for the 10th year running, the doors of hundreds of Passive House buildings will be opened to the public. Visitors will be able to see for themselves how energy efficiency and extraordinary levels of comfort go hand in hand. Visits and guided tours will take place on this second November weekend in locations around the world. An overview of the buildings participating in this year's Passive House Days event can be found on the website www.passivehouse-database.org.



Visitors to Passive House designer Enikő Sariri-Baffia's Passive House in Seeheim-Jugenheim, Germany. Photo: Passive House Institute

By visiting a Passive House building, it quickly becomes apparent that it is about far more than just that extra bit of insulation. Passive House designers avoid thermal bridges and design intelligent ventilation concepts with heat recovery, resulting not only in minimal heating costs but also in a perceptibly better indoor climate. The temperature and ventilation can be easily adjusted in accordance with the wishes of occupants.

Whether in New York, Frankfurt, London or Brussels, tens of thousands of people have taken advantage of the opportunity to experience Passive House buildings first-hand since the first Passive House Days event was held 10 years ago. Enikő Sariri-Baffia has also participated in the event since the completion of her own Passive House in Seeheim-Jugenheim, Germany. The civil engineer has guided many interested visitors through the rooms of her home as well as her engineering office. "I'm always pleased when visitors



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come and I can give them suggestions on how they can improve their living conditions and plan their new homes. A visit says more than a thousand words in such cases," says Sariri-Baffia. In Seeheim-Jugenheim, as in many other places, prospective building owners, tenants and other interested members of the public can directly experience what it is like to live in a building of the future.

"Passive House is a key component for a successful energy revolution. For the individual house builder however, the most convincing argument is its economic viability," explains Dr. Wolfgang Feist, Director of the Passive House Institute and co-initiator of the Passive House Days. A Passive House building saves up to 90% of the energy used for heating and cooling – any extra capital investment during the construction phase is compensated within just a few years by extremely low running costs. With this level of efficiency, this Standard already fulfils the stipulations of the 2020 European Buildings Directive as well as many other forward-looking regulations world-wide.

The Passive House Days is an international event organised by iPHA, the International Passive House Association, along with partners in a variety of other countries. In many countries, it will also be possible to view refurbishment projects in which energy efficiency has been increased through the application of Passive House principles. Increasing the quality and energy efficiency of the most common type of refurbishment, retrofits conducted gradually, over a period of years, is also the principal objective of the EU-funded project EnerPHit (www.europhit.eu).

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