

15TH INTERNATIONAL PASSIVE HOUSE CONFERENCE 2011

Press Release: 8 March 2011

80 preeminent speakers to present at the 15th International Passive House Conference

Innsbruck conference programme released

A trendsetter for energy efficient construction, the Passive House already forms the basis for the ambitious Nearly Zero Energy Building, the European construction standard as of 2020. At the world's largest and most important conference for energy efficient construction to be held from 27 – 28 May 2011, 80 speakers from around the world will present sustainable building solutions to more than 1,000 participants. In its 15 year history, this will be the Conference's fourth time in Austria and first in Innsbruck. In the world's largest Passive House exhibition accompanying the Conference, visitors will also be offered free presentations by Passive House experts.

Darmstadt/Innsbruck/Vienna, 08.03.2011 The flow of oil coming from Libya has been put to a halt and many, with the all too fresh memories of this winter's low temperatures, are increasingly nervous about constantly rising energy prices. Meanwhile, the speakers of the 15th International Passive House Conference are set to demonstrate, yet again, that residents can save upwards of 90% in energy costs in virtually all buildings. According to Prof. Wolfgang Feist, founder of the Passive House Institute and head of the Department of Energy Efficient Construction at the University of Innsbruck, the newly released conference programme reveals the dimensions of this unique conference where "over 1,000 participants will get the chance to hear 80 top presentations from around the world – from Korea to Chile and from Russia to the USA." The internationality of the conference only goes to show that Passive House works in all regions of the globe.

The world meets in Innsbruck to discuss Passive House regionalisation

The global scope of the Passive House concept combined with varying local building traditions, climates and cultural contexts calls for creative solutions. The minimal space heating and cooling demand is therefore just as important as well-designed domestic hot water systems, efficient electricity use and tailored renewable energy supply concepts. Thinking globally and acting locally, the motto of the 15th International Passive House Conference, will be shown in practice with regions such as Vorarlberg in Austria taking stock of 15 years of Passive House experience.

In the Austrian context, vast experience with large Passive House building complexes will be highlighted, especially considering that Innsbruck is home to the world's two largest Passive House apartment complexes, both of which may be visited during the excursions offered after the conference itself on Sunday, 29 May 2011. This year as in the past, however, the majority of the presentations will come from Germany – the starting point of the Passive House movement.

From renovations to non-residential buildings

Those who say that Passive House is only about new builds and single-family homes are sadly mistaken. Indeed, the first indoor swimming pools and gymnasiums in the Passive House Standard will be presented at the Conference, as will the renovation of a historical building dating back to 1733. A multitude of exemplary, state of the art renovations to Passive House Standard including schools, apartment buildings and even a brewery inn will also be presented. "At this conference, the most cost-effective retrofits will be highlighted" stressed Günter Lang, Press Officer of the 15th International Passive House Conference, adding that, " If you want to improve the energy performance of a house, you should do it well from the start. For most buildings, the energy demand can be brought down by another 80% on top of the average 75kWh/ m²a typically achievable with standard retrofits, and this, most importantly, can be achieved with a noticeable improvement in comfort."

Sieze the opportunity

While many sectors have suffered heavy losses during the financial crisis, Passive House has continued gaining momentum. With the coming recovery in sight, it is imperative that the construction sector uphold this long established building standard. In light of the European Buildings Directive, it is certainly not only in the name of the global climate and energy independence that Passive House is being established across Europe. The reduction of building damage, the sustained value and the greatly enhanced comfort offered by the Standard are also decisive factors. At this conference, participants can learn from experts about Passive House benefits in step with actual practice. This year's conference will not only serve as an industry meeting of Passive House pioneers, but is a must for all forward-thinking construction professionals and decision makers.

15th International Passive House Conference with Exhibition

Date: Friday, 27 May and Saturday, 28 May 2011

Venue: Congress Innsbruck, Innsbruck, Austria

<http://www.passivehouseconference.org>

**The organisers of the 15th International Passive House Conference are:
The Passive House Institute, the Federal State of Tyrol and the University of Innsbruck**

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Please don't hesitate to approach the contacts provided above for conference-related press material, logos, photos and graphics.