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Passive House takes off in the British Isles

Wolfgang Feist visits the UK and learns about the latest Passive House developments

From 21 to 25 March 2012, Wolfgang Feist, founder and director of the Passive House Institute, visited the UK, meeting with representatives of iPHA's British Affiliate, the Passivhaus Trust, and talking to local Passive House architects and property developers. Appointed as a juror for Isover's 2012 Multi-Comfort House Students Contest, Wolfgang Feist travelled to the UK to participate in the jury meeting on 23 March and select the award winners. Three universities had submitted Passive House designs for a Nottingham building, demonstrating just how suitable the Passive House Standard is for this area. The Passive House Institute and iPHA would like to congratulate all participants, and in particular the award winners, on their dedication and outstanding designs.

The Passive House development in the UK can be summed up very simply: "It has been done!" Numerous Passive House projects have been completed over the past few years, with consumption data, comfort parameters and user evaluations providing excellent results. Some of these results will be presented at this year's [International Passive House Conference](#), to be held in Hanover, Germany, from 2 - 6 May 2012. All of these projects demonstrate that

- the Passive House Standard works perfectly in the UK with excellent user satisfaction and outstanding (objective) comfort criteria
- the expected energy consumption values according to PHPP calculations – around 15 kWh/(m²a), i.e. around 20% of „standard“ buildings – are also achieved in practice

Teams of dedicated architects in England, Wales and Scotland have designed very attractive Passive House buildings, thus proving that the

Passive House Standard can be achieved without making architectural concessions.

The following images show examples of Certified Passive House buildings in the UK including a school building in Wolverhampton designed by Jonathan Hines (Architype), a single-family home in London and a community centre refurbished to Passive House Standard (both by bere:architects).



Oak Meadow school in Wolverhampton, Architype, Jonathan Hines (left)



Camden Passive House, bere:architects



Mayville Community Centre, Passive House retrofit, bere:architects

These outstanding results with regard to both energy efficiency and aesthetics confirm: The British Isles are perfectly suited for Passive House buildings. iPHA's British partners are also making great progress in promoting Passive House training throughout the UK. Wolfgang's farewell words: "Excellent work – Keep it up!"