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*Passive House Institute  
Rheinstraße 44/46  
64283 Darmstadt, Germany  
Tel. +49 (0) 6151/826 99-0  
Fax. +49 (0) 6151/826 99-11*

*mail@passiv.de  
www.passivehouse.com*

## **Maximum comfort through active environmental protection The International Passive House Days provide insight into energy efficient homes**



*Photo: Ingo Worm*

*Darmstadt, 2 November 2012* – This is what active environmental protection looks like today: the warmth of timber as well as the elegance of steel and exposed concrete not only draw attention for their aesthetics, but contribute to the creation of a tangible, inhabitable energy revolution for all through Passive House. During the International Passive House Days from 9 - 11 November 2012, residents of Passive House buildings around the world will open their doors (and

their windows) to demonstrate their advantages to potential property owners and developers. Step into comfortable living of the future, already a reality today!

Passive House has proved to be an extraordinarily energy-efficient construction standard for more than 20 years, saving 75% compared with today's low-energy buildings. A Passive House requires just one tenth of the heating energy needed by a conventional buildings – an ever more appealing fact in these times of steadily increasing fossil fuel costs. Vast savings have also been demonstrated in warm climates, where buildings typically require active cooling throughout the summer.

Passive House occupants needn't give up comfort for efficiency. Instead, they enjoy the additional benefits of a draught free, mould free indoor environment with even temperatures year round. Large windows, where desired, provide for plenty of light and cleverly designed ventilation systems ensure a constant supply of fresh air. There are almost no limits to the architect's imagination; from classic state-of-the-art detached houses to well-planned kindergartens or indoor tennis halls, almost any building type is possible. While the higher quality required results in minimal increases in investment costs, these are offset by the savings in energy costs over the long term. Passive House also forms the basis for legislation on energy efficiency in buildings around the world, such as the European Union's target to have nearly zero energy buildings by 2020 and the State of California's call for zero net energy buildings by the same year.

Many potential builders or property owners planning refurbishments are nonetheless reluctant to consider this sustainable construction standard, expecting to find some sort of catch. During the Passive House Days in November, sceptics as well as enthusiasts will have the opportunity to clarify any such questions in direct exchange with owners and architects, listen to residents' experiences of life in a Passive House, or simply let the comfortable ambience of the building leave its own impression.

Participating properties can be found online [www.passivehouse-database.org](http://www.passivehouse-database.org) as well as on the International Passive House Association website at [www.passivehouse-international.org](http://www.passivehouse-international.org).

(Author: Ulrike Assmann)

**Contact:**

International Passive House Association  
Rheinstraße 44/46, 64283 Darmstadt, Germany  
Phone +49 (0)6151/826 99-55  
[info@passivehouse-international.org](mailto:info@passivehouse-international.org)  
[www.passivehouse-international.org](http://www.passivehouse-international.org)

