

## Press Release

29 March 2021



This apartment block in the Spanish town of Pamplona has been certified as a Passive House building and can be submitted for the Passive House Award 2021. The Award will be presented at the 25th International Passive House Conference. The ceremony will be broadcast live via the internet. © Varquitectos

# Course of action: Passive House

The Passive House Award for exemplary energy efficient buildings – ceremony in September

**Darmstadt, Germany.** The Passive House Institute has announced the **Passive House Award 2021** which highlights pioneering projects of energy efficient construction. Special consideration will be given to the renewable energy supply of the buildings by an international panel of judges. Quality assurance of the building through certification is a prerequisite for participation in the **Passive House Award 2021**. The award will be presented during the **25th International Passive House Conference** in **September** which will be held in **Wuppertal** and online.

2021

Passive House  
Award



Effective climate protection is only possible with energy efficiency: the buildings in which we live and work must become far more energy

efficient. To demonstrate that Passive House buildings with their extremely low energy demand are not only sustainable but can also be implemented in projects living up to a high architectural standard, the Passive House Institute has organised the **Passive House Award 2021**. "With this architecture competition, we intend to show that Passive House buildings constitute an active contribution to climate protection and that at the same time, the projects are sophisticatedly designed," explains Professor Wolfgang Feist, founder of the Passive House Institute.

## Certification is a prerequisite

All buildings constructed to the Passive House standard as well as low energy and EnerPHit standard can be submitted for the **Passive House Award 2021**. The EnerPHit standard is the Passive House standard for retrofits. A prerequisite for participation in the competition is that the buildings are certified. Entire districts can also participate even if they are still in the development phase; for this, certification of one of the buildings in the district must have been completed. What matters is an overall concept for energy supply with a focus on energy efficiency. Only buildings that have already received an award in previous architecture competitions of the Passive House Institute are excluded from this competition. Entries may be submitted until **1 June 2021**.

## Criterion: Sustainability

An international panel of judges will consider aspects such as design, economic efficiency, energy supply and sustainability of the buildings, among other things. The committee includes the architects Deborah Moelis from the USA and Ana Sánchez-Ostiz from Spain. Moelis managed the Passive House high-rise project Cornell Tech in New York; Sánchez-Ostiz is the director of

the Master's degree course in Environmental Design and Building Management at the University of Navarra.



The certified Passive House district in Prinz-Eugen-Park in Munich can also participate in the Passive House Award. © Architekturwerkstatt Vallentin

## International jury

Another member of the jury is the architect Tom Wright from Great Britain. Wright designed one of the most famous buildings in the United Arab

Emirates: the Burj Al Arab in Dubai, the tower of the Arabs. Jury member Professor Song Yehau from China is the Director of the Institute for Architecture at Tsinghua University in Beijing. He has received numerous distinctions for his projects. Architect Burkhard Schulze Darup from Berlin, who is also an advisor to the German Environment Agency, advocated the use of energy efficient Passive House components for the reconstruction of the historic city center in Frankfurt am Main.

## Award ceremony

The award ceremony for the Passive House Award 2021 will take place during the **25th International Passive House Conference** and is planned as a live stream. The Passive House Institute and the EnergyAgency.NRW of the German State of North Rhine-Westphalia, as co-organisers of the event, are inviting everyone to attend the conference on **10 and 11 September 2021** in the Historic Town Hall of the city of Wuppertal as well as the online events taking place in parallel. Further information relating to the **Passive House Award 2021** can be found at [www.passivehouse-award.org](http://www.passivehouse-award.org).

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## General Information

### Passive House buildings

With the Passive House concept the heat loss that typically takes place in buildings through the walls, roof and windows is drastically reduced. With the five basic principles – high-quality thermal insulation, windows with triple glazing, avoidance of thermal bridges, an airtight building envelope, and a ventilation system with heat recovery – a Passive House building needs very little energy. Passive House buildings can therefore dispense with *classic* building heating systems. Such buildings are called "passive houses" because a major part of their heating demand is met through "passive" sources such as solar radiation or the heat emitted by occupants and technical appliances.

In a Passive House building, the heat is retained for a long time because it escapes very slowly. For this reason, active heating is needed only during extremely cold days and only a small amount of energy is required for this. A Passive House building also offers an advantage in the summer: the excellent level of insulation ensures that the heat stays outside, therefore active cooling usually isn't necessary in residential buildings. A Passive House building consumes about 90 percent less heating energy than an existing building and 75 percent less energy than an average new construction.



The world's first Passive House building in Darmstadt.

### Passive House & NZEB

The Passive House standard meets the EU requirements for Nearly Zero Energy Buildings. According to the European Buildings Directive *EPBD*, all member states must specify requirements for so-called NZEBs in their national building regulations. These came into effect in January 2019 for public buildings and apply for all other buildings since this year 2021.

### Pioneer project

The first Passive House in the world was built in Darmstadt-Kranichstein (Germany) 30 years ago by four private homeowners. Prof Wolfgang Feist was one of them. Ever since the homeowners moved in with their families in 1991, these terraced houses have been regarded as a pioneer project for the Passive House standard.



Prof Wolfgang Feist.  
© Peter Cook

### Passive House and renewable energy

The Passive House standard can be combined well with on-site renewable energy generation. Since April 2015, the new building classes "Passive House Plus" and "Passive House Premium" have been available for this supply concept.

### Passive House Institute

The Passive House Institute with its headquarters in Darmstadt (Germany) is an independent research institute for highly efficient use of energy in buildings. The Institute founded by Prof Wolfgang Feist holds a leading position internationally with regard to research and development in the field of energy efficient construction. Among other things, Prof Wolfgang Feist was awarded the DBU Environmental Prize in 2001 for developing the Passive House concept.

### International Passive House Conference

The 25<sup>th</sup> International Passive House Conference takes place in the German city of Wuppertal on 10-11 September 2021, accompanied by online events. [www.passivehouseconference.org](http://www.passivehouseconference.org)



**Contact:** Passive House Institute - Katrin Krämer / Press Officer / Passive House Institute / [www.passiv.de](http://www.passiv.de) Email: [presse@passiv.de](mailto:presse@passiv.de) / Tel: +49 (0)6151 / 826 99-25