



A room with a view: Andrew Michler and his family built the first certified Passive House in Colorado, USA. MARTaK was built off-grid and without foam to explore how nature and architecture can work in harmony. © Andrew Michler

## It's definitely worth it!

**Experience energy efficiency for yourself – Passive House buildings open to public**

***Darmstadt, Germany.* Passive House buildings are particularly efficient buildings and are always a theme in any discussion relating to energy efficiency. What this building standard specifically entails can be experienced first-hand by everyone during the International Passive House Open Days in November. How low are the heating costs in a Passive House? And what does better living comfort feel like? From 10 - 12 November 2017, residents of Passive House buildings throughout the world will open their doors to the public. A list of buildings that are open for viewing can be found on the Internet.**

### **Virtually non-existent heating costs**

For a period of three days residents will be inviting the public to visit their Passive House buildings and learn more about this extremely energy-efficient building standard. Characteristic features of the Passive House Standard include an excellent level of thermal insulation, triple-glazed windows and a ventilation system with heat recovery, among other things. Due to these components, building owners can dispense of traditional heating systems even in Central European regions.



MARTaK in the snow: The Passive House building can be viewed during the International Passive House Days in November. [www.passivhausprojekte.de](http://www.passivhausprojekte.de), ID 4497 © Andrew Michler



Tasteful interior design matched with Passive House's high standard of living comfort: The occupants of this single family home in Bolgare, Italy, invite you to experience Passive House for yourself. Information can be found at [www.passivhausprojekte.de](http://www.passivhausprojekte.de), ID 4666.

© Marlegno

### Building today for the future

For this reason, the costs for heating energy are negligibly small. Residents of Passive House buildings pay only a fraction of normal heating costs. Due to the low energy demand, Passive House buildings can also be combined well with renewable energy generation. With the Passive House Standard, buildings owners can meet the stipulations of the European Buildings Directive today, which specifies the nearly-zero energy standard for all new buildings from the year 2020.



Joining the list of participants in the International Passive House Days this November is this Passive House in Canberra, Australia. Information can be found at [www.passivhausprojekte.de](http://www.passivhausprojekte.de), ID 4438.

© Harley Truong

### Opening windows possible at any time

*"Especially for those who want to build or renovate their homes, the Passive House Open Days are a good opportunity to gain valuable knowledge and to experience for themselves the high level of living comfort offered by these buildings. And occupants can demonstrate to other people that opening the windows is also possible in a Passive House building",* explains Sabine Stillfried of the Passivhaus Informations-Gemeinschaft, which is organising the Passive House Open Days in cooperation with Passivhaus Austria and the International Passive House Association (iPHA).



**International Passive House Days**

PASSIVE HOUSE RESIDENTS WORLDWIDE OPEN THEIR HOMES

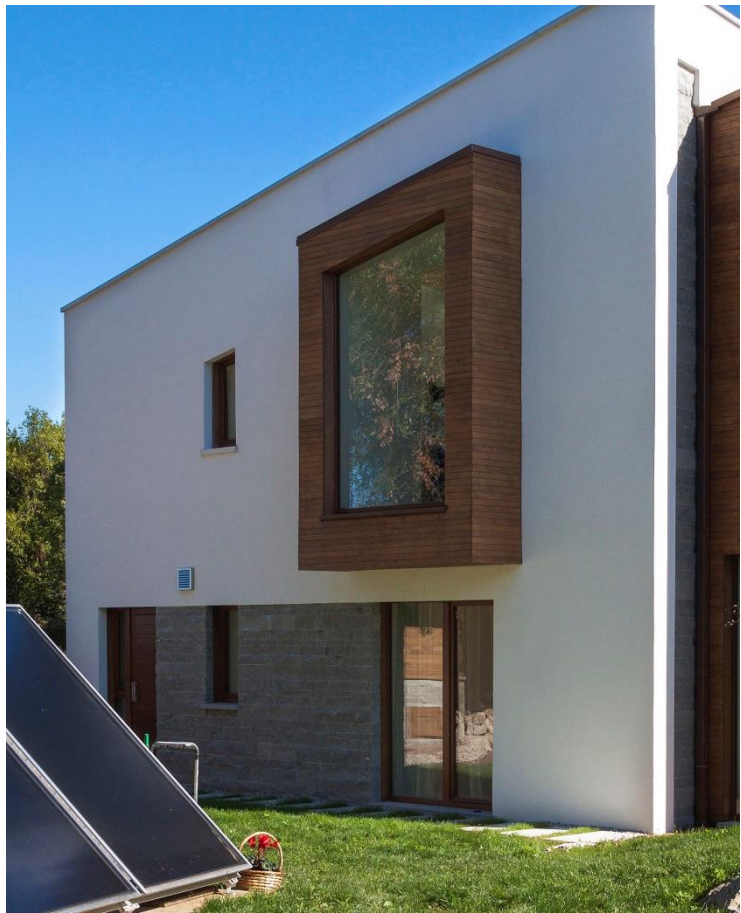
10 - 12  
November  
2017

## Viewing a Passive House is easy

Viewing a Passive House building during the Open Days is easy: if you enter the name of your region or city in the database [www.passivehouse-database.org](http://www.passivehouse-database.org), a list of buildings which can be viewed from 10 to 12 November 2017 will appear. Most privately owned houses will be open to the public, including those in the categories Passive House Plus and Passive House Premium, which produce renewable energy directly near the building itself. To some extent, other buildings such as schools, offices and even a student hostel will also be open to the public.

## Chance to win - #iPHopendays

All those visiting a Passive House during the Passive House Open Days in November have the chance to win an overnight stay in a Passive House hotel at Lake Garda or in the Alps. To take part in the prize draw, simply post a picture of your visit to a Passive House building on Facebook or Twitter using the hashtag #iPHopendays. For further information, visit <https://passivehouse-international.org>.



This Passive House in Asturia, Spain comes with some nifty features: Its roof is covered in greenery, it uses solar power to generate electricity, and it also recycles rainwater. ID 2413. © Carmen Delgado



This Passive House in Huddersfield, UK, was the winner of the UK Passivhaus Awards in the category "Retrofit Project". ID 5070 © Morgan O'Driscoll



Centre for Renewable Energy and Sustainable Technologies (CREST) in Enniskillen, Northern Ireland: The large areas of glazing at the south of the building assist with solar gain and provide natural light to the exhibition spaces. Information can be found at [www.passivhausprojekte.de](http://www.passivhausprojekte.de), ID 5185. © CREST

## General information

### Passive House

A Passive House is a building that does not require any conventional building heating on account of its excellent thermal insulation. 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 waste heat from occupants and technical appliances. A Passive House thus consumes about 90 percent less heating energy than existing buildings and 75 percent less energy than an average new construction.

### Passive House & COP23 in Bonn

The United Nations (UN) explicitly mention Passive Houses as a possibility to increase the energy efficiency of buildings and thus reduce global warming in "The Emissions Gap Report 2016".

### Pioneer Project

The first Passive House in the world was built in Darmstadt-Kranichstein (Germany) 25 years ago by four private homeowners on their own personal initiative. 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. 25 years later, building physicists have attested to the unimpaired functioning of the first Passive House and its unchanged low heating energy consumption. With its newly installed photovoltaic system, the world's first Passive House now utilises renewable energy and received the Passive House Plus certificate for this reason.

### 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 Houses worldwide

Passive Houses buildings for all types of uses now exist everywhere. In addition to residential and office buildings there are also kindergartens and schools, sports halls, swimming pools and factories built as Passive House buildings. The first Passive House hospital in the world is currently being built in Frankfurt am Main. Interest in Passive House is growing. In view of the consumption of resources in industrialised countries and the need to contain global warming, municipalities, businesses and private people are increasingly implementing new constructions or retrofits to the Passive House Standard.

### 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. Under the leadership of Dr. Wolfgang Feist, the Institute holds a leading position internationally with regard to research and development in the field of energy efficient construction.

The Passive House Institute is the organizer of the International Passive House Conference and the related exhibition. The next Passive House Conference takes place 9 - 10 March 2018 in Munich, Germany.

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Pictures for editorial purposes: [www.flickr.com/photos/passive-house-institute](http://www.flickr.com/photos/passive-house-institute)

To get the latest news relating to Passive House, visit: [www.twitter.com/the\\_iPHA](http://www.twitter.com/the_iPHA)

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### Contact:

Katrin Krämer

Press officer, Passive House Institute Dr. Wolfgang Feist | Rheinstr. 44/46 | D- 64283 Darmstadt

Phone: +49 (0) 6151/826 99 - 0 | E-mail: [presse@passiv.de](mailto:presse@passiv.de)