

14th INTERNATIONAL PASSIVE HOUSE CONFERENCE 2010

Press release

EnerPHit

New Passive House Institute certificate for the modernisation of old buildings



Dresden, 28.05.2010 – The Passive House Institute will present its new certificate at the 14th International Passive House Conference: the "**EnerPHit Quality-Approved Modernisation with Passive House Components**" stands for quality assurance and serves as a proof of the specific values achieved for buildings that have been refurbished using Passive House components. The new certificate will be granted for the first time by Professor Dr. Wolfgang Feist, the scientific Director of the Passive House Institute and Professor at the University of Innsbruck, to the property development companies GAG (Ludwigshafen) and ABG Frankfurt Holding GmbH at the Passive House Component Exhibition.

"Usually the energy consumption of old buildings cannot be brought to the level of new Passive House Standard buildings, because, among other reasons, some unavoidable thermal bridges still remain at the transition of the basement walls after refurbishment of old buildings", explains Professor Feist. "But the same components as for new Passive House buildings can be used, and the building substance can thus be protected and sustainability can be improved significantly. In numerous projects, a reduction of 90 % in the heating demand could be achieved. With forward-thinking overall planning, each building can achieve a significantly better standard. In these special circumstances, the redevelopment of existing buildings justifies the new certificate for old buildings by the PHI."

What is required is: either a heating demand of 25 kWh/(m²a) at most, using a controlled ventilation system with heat recovery and triple-glazing with insulated window frames, or alternatively, the application of Passive House components all throughout, according to the building component certification criteria as set by the Passive House Institute. The heating demand calculated using the PHPP and the quality of thermal protection of the individual components will be documented in the Certificate.

Nothing will change for modernised old buildings which meet the original Passive House criteria, however. They may be certified as usual according to the same method as for new Passive House buildings.

The pilot phase with the first selected projects will start in May. During this phase, the certification will only be carried out by the PHI. In a second step this will be extended to all other authorised certifiers. The certification criteria are published on the PHI website at www.passiv.de.

Media contact:

Ana Krause
Passive House Institute
Rheinstraße 44/46 D-64283 Darmstadt
Telephone: +49 6151 / 82699-25 Fax +49 6151 / 82699-11
E-mail: ana.krause@passiv.de