Press Release

23 May 2019

Two panel discussions were held in the ballroom of the historic Heidelberg Town Hall. The interactive format was well-received by those in attendance. Pictures (20): Passive House Institute

"Time to think of the national economy"

Taking action for climate change - participants praise "Achieve Better Buildings!"

Darmstadt, Germany. **The measuring device showed more than 84 decibels! It was clear that the story about the improvised Blower-Door test in Kazakhstan was the winner of the first-ever Passive House Slam at the Passive House Conference in Heidelberg. The mayor of Walldorf received the most applause during an earlier panel discussion. This was apparent even without a measuring device. Mayor Christiane Staab demanded that for climate protection and society in general it was necessary to think in terms of the national economy rather than business economics. At the conclusion, Dr Wolfgang Feist invited the participants to the 23rd International Passive House Conference in China in October. He also revealed the city that will host the 2020 Conference.**

Walldorf with its population of around 16 000 is not only a fair trade city but is also actively involved in climate protection measures. For this reason, communal buildings in Walldorf are built to a highly energy efficient standard, as Mayor Staab mentioned during the panel discussion on the demand for the Passive House Standard. She is already looking forward to another kindergarten built to the Passive House Standard. As a mother, she attached great value to sustainable construction. Therefore, she urged that in view of the consequences of climate change, it is necessary to think in terms of the national interest and economy rather than just simplistic business terms. Mayor Staab also called for a stronger commitment to energy efficient construction: "Actually I wish that people would do that of their own free will, but climate change is forcing us to impose regulations."

Mayor Staab called for the focus to be put on the national economy.

Minister Untersteller demanded tax relief for building refurbishment.

No incentives

During this lively panel discussion the information that the subsequent costs for CO2 emissions of a building should be calculated into the construction costs was contributed by the audience. Architect Georg Zielke of Darmstadt pointed out that Passive House buildings do not have to be more expensive than conventionally built houses. He criticised the fact that current policies do not provide enough incentives for extremely energy efficient construction.

Heidelberg's Lord Mayor Eckart Würzner presented the Bahnstadt as the largest Passive House district currently, which has zero emissions. Würzner also elucidated the Master Plan for Climate Protection for the city of Heidelberg.

Praise for the new format

The participants of the conference praised this form of discussion that allowed active exchange with the audience. Though, the first round saw the panellists consisting of architects on the one hand, and the audience with experts for energy efficient construction on the other hand, largely divided on the compatibility of building culture and energy efficiency. However, architect Achim Söder declared with support from the audience that requirements for fire protection and legionella prevention restricted creativity far more than measures for higher energy efficiency.

During excursions to the Bahnstadt the participants were able to experience the world's largest Passive House settlement.

Energy efficiency, of course

One of the opening presentations in Heidelberg's Town Hall was delivered by the Environment Minister of the German state of Baden-Württemberg, Franz Untersteller. "Make energy efficient construction a self-evident fact already during the planning process", said Minister Untersteller. He also called for tax concessions for building modernisations. The Lord Mayor of Heidelberg, Eckart Würzner highlighted the fast-growing city's commitment to climate protection. This commitment does not only include the new Passive House Bahnstadt district, also a zero-emissions district, but other public buildings, such as a new large sports hall being built to the Passive House Standard. Mayor Würzner also stated that Heidelberg had reduced the energy consumption of all communal properties by half and is implementing its Master Plan for Climate Protection 2050.

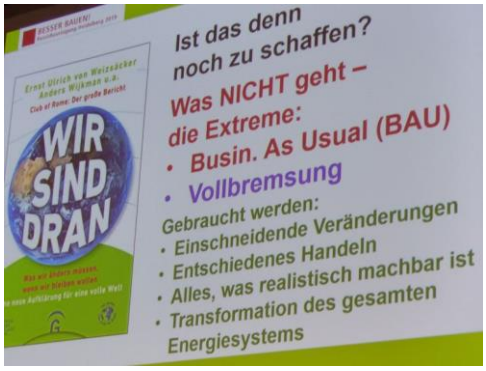
Dr Wolfgang Feist urged sustainable economic activity through improvements to building efficiency.

Civilised coexistence will soon be at risk

In his opening speech, IBA Director Professor Michael Braum made the case for societal rethinking in regards to reasonable and sensible levels of consumption. He also advanced that it was necessary to "bring together sectoral optimisations" in the building sector. The founder of the Passive House Institute, Dr Wolfgang Feist once again urged that society must commence immediately the serious measures required to address the climate emergency, otherwise civilised coexistence would soon be at risk. The previously adopted route of "business as usual" was no longer sustainable. However, drastic measures also hold risks for the stability of society, explained Feist.

Intensify energy turnaround

Improving energy efficiency through the Passive House concept, is a pathbreaking solution for sustainable economic activity and will enhance climate protection, Dr Feist explained. With a Passive House building, the energy required for a good level of insulation and further improvements is already saved within one and a half years at the most, and CO2 emissions are then drastically reduced as a result. Feist insisted: "The energy revolution has been much maligned by many sides, but that's not right. We must build on this and intensify our efforts!"



Neither "Business as usual" nor full brakes! Dr Wolfgang Feist called for serious measures for climate protection.

The winner of the German Passive House Slam (left).

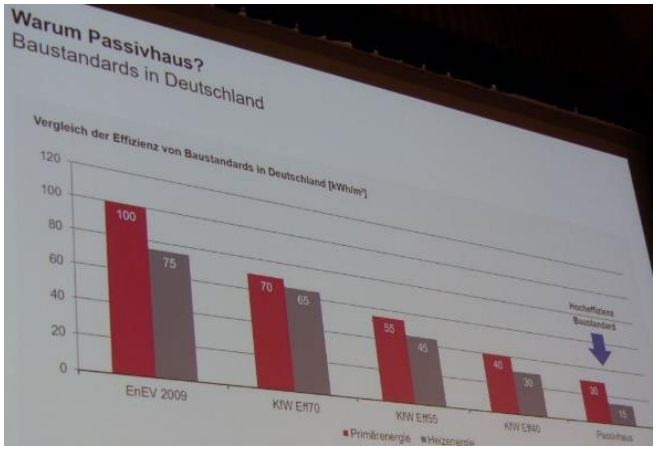
Smoke with an e-cigarette

Michael Meyer-Olbersleben stood at the airport in Kazakhstan in front of an empty baggage reclaim belt. The engineer went straight to a local DIY store and put together new apparatus for the planned Blower-Door test. To generate the smoke required to identify the non-airtight places, he obtained the help of the smoker of an e-cigarette. With this entertaining story, Meyer-Olbersleben won the first Passive House Slam contest (German version), held by the Passive House Institute. The award for the English Slam went to engineer Marius Soflete of Romania. He amused the audience with a tail from a construction site where a chainsaw made life very difficult for him.

The Specialists Exhibition with components for energy efficient construction.

Specialists Exhibition

After the Passive House Slam, the big networking party took place amongst the impressive surroundings of the Town Hall itself. The participants of the Specialists Exhibition were thus also included in the event. During the "Achieve Better Buildings!" conference the exhibitors presented their products for energy efficient construction and retrofitting. The party ended an intensive day of expert talks and workshops demonstrating how better buildings and retrofits can be achieved today. Compatible with this, Helmut Schöberl presented the retrofit of a historical building in Vienna to the EnerPHit Standard, in which building culture and energy efficiency were combined.



The efficiency of the Passive House Standard compared to other building standards is apparent in the presentation by Eckart Würzner, the Lord Mayor of Heidelberg.

Achieve Better Buildings!

Karsten Valentin of the ZEG (Central Building Association) held a presentation on the first Passive House hospital currently being built in Frankfurt. The programme also contained lectures on summer comfort in Passive House buildings, combining sustainability with renewable energy supply, and ventilation technology. English language lectures included presentations on cooling and dehumidification and on airtightness. The workshops on curtain wall façades, new features in the planning tool PHPP, and on BIM and PHPP were fully booked.

Full house in Heidelberg's Town Hall during the "Achieve Better Buildings!" conference. The Passive House Institute will host the second conference in October 2019 in China.

Europe supports climate protection

In the lecture by Ronald Meyer it was all about emotions rather than the technical content when it came to the question of how potential building owners can be convinced of the Passive House Standard. Meyer suggested that the positive characteristics of a Passive House should be conveyed emotively with music, stories and claims. The European programme for Affordable Zero Energy Buildings (AZEB) was presented by the project coordinator, Joyce van den Hoek Ostende. Mario Dionisio, Programme Assistant of the European Commission, explained the climate policy of the European Union in Heidelberg. Another European project that received lots of attention is Sinfonia in which 37 partners in eight countries cooperate. Projects facilitated by Sinfonia were introduced in lectures and include the retrofits of schools in Innsbruck. A workshop was dedicated to the districtPH tool for district level energy balance calculations.

Rainer Pfluger of the University of Innsbruck describes the retrofitting of schools in Innsbruck which was supported by the EU project Sinfonia.

Growing internationally

The number of Passive House experts is also growing internationally. Sergio Rossi of Finland and Osvaldo Carvajal Rondanelli and Rodrigo Gonzalez of Chile signed the contracts for member organisations on behalf of Suomen Passivitaloyhdistys of Finland and the Passive House Institute Foundation of Chile respectively. Thus, nine years after it was first established, iPHA now has 23 member organisations in 19 countries. Many of the international visitors to the conference also took part in the "Achieve Better Buildings!" excursions on Sunday. Besides visits to the internationally renowned Bahnstadt Passive House district, the participants were given guided tours of Heidelberg Village and other interesting Passive House projects in the vicinity.

The popular Passive House party ended an intensive conference day in Heidelberg.

Peter Li invited everyone to the 23rd International Passive House Conference in China.

Second Conference in China

The second conference for this year will also be international: the **23rd International Passive House Conference** will take place in China this autumn; the first time outside of Europe. The Passive House Institute and its partners are inviting everyone to Gaobeidian, located approximately 80 kilometres south of Beijing, from **9 to 11 October 2019**. A district built to the Passive House Standard is currently under construction in Gaobeidian and it is called 'Bahnstadt' after the Heidelberg example. In his closing address Dr Wolfgang Feist explained, that there are many other large Passive House projects in China. Peter Li, of the Chinese partner Windoor City, spoke about the growth of Passive House industry in China and invited participants to attend the conference. Some of the living spaces in the Bahnstadt Gaobeidian can be viewed during the Conference in October. Li noted that there are already a guest house and a museum built to the Passive House Standard. https://passivhaustagung.de/en/

2020 in Berlin

At the end of the Heidelberg Conference, Dr Feist revealed next year's city: The Passive House Institute is inviting everyone to **Berlin** for the **24th International Passive House Conference** in the autumn of 2020. This conference will be held under the aegis of the Federal Ministry of Economics. Abstracts may be submitted until March 2020.

Slam winner Marius Soflete (left).

Panel discussion on the demand for Passive House buildings (left), versatile Passive House sports hall (right).

The attendees were very impressed by the Town Hall in Heidelberg (left). Many certificates relating to the certification of persons and Passive House components were also awarded by the Passive House Institute.

Patronage: **Organisers:**

"Achieve Better Buildings!" was supported by

SINFONIA stands for „Smart INitiative of cities Fully cOmmitted to iNvest In Advanced large-scaled energy solutions". This project has received funding from European Union's Seventh Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement No 609019.

AZEB stands for "Affordable Zero Energy Buildings". This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 754174.

The sole responsibility for the content of this publication lies with the authors. It does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Commission are responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

General Information

Passive House buildings

In Passive House buildings, heat loss is drastically reduced - by means of high-quality thermal insulation, an airtight building envelope and windows with triple glazing. In winter, preheated air is introduced into the building by a heat recovery ventilation system. In summer, the excellent level of insulation ensures that the heat stays outside. Altogether five basic Passive House principles allow these highly efficient buildings to dispense with *classic* building heating. 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. 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 & NZEB

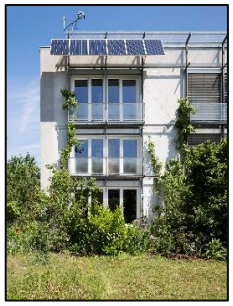
The Passive House Standard already meets the EU requirements for Nearly Zero Energy Buildings. According to the European Buildings Directive *EPBD*, all member states must specify requirements for so-called nZEBs in their national building regulations. These came into effect in January 2019 for public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

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. The first buildings in these two categories have already been certified, including private houses as well as office buildings.

Passive House Conference

The Passive House Institute will host the 23rd International Passive House Conference from 9 to 11 October 2019 in Gaobeidian, China.
https://passivhaustagung.de/en/



The world's first Passive House building in Darmstadt.

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