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The Passivhaus Handbook: A Practical Guide To Constructing And Retrofitting Buildings For Ultra-Low Energy Performance (Sustainable Building)



Synopsis

An essential guide for anyone wanting to realize a supremely comfortable, healthy, and durable home with exceptionally low energy costs, this book brings together current thinking and best practice in Passivhaus design. This type of design focuses on getting the building fabric right, to achieve ultralow energy consumption in the most cost-effective manner. The approach is relevant to a wide range of building types and climates. Whether you are building an extension, retrofitting your house or starting from scratch, and whether you are new to low-energy design or already have some experience, this book will help you navigate around the potential pitfalls and misconceptions. The book includes a clear explanation of the underlying building physics and terminology; detailed information on key elements of Passivhaus: avoiding air leakage, designing out thermal (cold) bridges, moisture management, and ventilation strategy. It offers practical advice on setting up a project, including developing a motivated project team, and a discussion of economic considerations and the policy context in the UK. As pressure on global resources increases and energy prices continue to rise, the Passivhaus approach, proven over 20 years, meets the challenge of ultralow-energy building for the future.

Book Information

Series: Sustainable Building

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: UIT Cambridge Ltd. (July 1, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0857840193

ISBN-13: 978-0857840196

Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.7 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (8 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I waited a while to read it because I thought it might be too technical but it isn't. Easy and informative to read. Gives the basics of Passivhaus so that you can decide whether you want to find

a designer and contractor to help you build one. Some info I skipped because it was directly related to policies in the UK but most of the info applies to any location.

Good book to understand the basic concepts of Passivhaus (air barriers & insulation & air barriers & did I mention insulation). The only thing to note for US readers is that this IS written for the UK, and there are differences between building methods and nomenclature (U-value vs. R-value). That being said, I'd recommend this book to anyone who is curious about Pasivhaus.

For the first full scale English language discussion of the revolutionary Passivhaus technology there really is nothing else out there to compare. Now that the Passivhaus Institute has this year released its own English language guidebook there is some competition or at least additional information for a large part of the world's population. Starting with a summary of Passivhaus history and aims those unfamiliar with this revolutionary approach have a good background to examine the ideas further. Subsequent chapters delve into the foundational elements involved - insulation, windows, air-tightness, mechanical and heat recovery ventilation, and the Passivhaus Planning Software package that helps guide all new builds to meet the standard. A summary of various owners experience of living in a Passivhaus is very helpful. The appendices contain much more useful information. The authors share their experience of their own UK work, sourcing of elements and local building requirements. They also explore the 2016 European Union goal of zero energy houses and how this will impact the demand for buildings like Passivhaus. As a starter to understand the ethos and practicality of this building approach for English speakers it is extremely helpful and well laid out for further review. Such building approaches will become the norm the very near future. Already a number of German cities have adopted this rigorous standard for all new builds.

This book has some good information on what a Passive House is, as well as design strategy/considerations. It does not provide a lot of information on current best practices for construction of a Passive House. I was looking for some more information on how to achieve the very aggressive level of air tightness required to meet the standard. I am guessing this is probably one of the more challenging aspects of this building technique and it would have been nice to see some tricks/tips on how to seal around windows/doors/perforations/rim joists/at the ceiling roof junction/etc.

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