

Form Follows Energy: Achieving the Passive House Standard for Habitat for Humanity

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Course Description

This webinar focuses the design and construction of a Passive House in northern Vermont. This house was the first Certified Passive House in the U.S. for Habitat for Humanity, the first Passive House in Vermont and the first to be built modular.

The webinar will discuss the principles of Passive House design: Envelope specifications; insulation, air sealing, and thermal bridge free details; mechanical systems; and modeling in the PHPP. The webinar will then walk you through the construction of the Passive House. The webinar will also review the monitored data on energy consumption, temperature and indoor air quality. Lastly we will review lessons learned and think about what is to come.

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Learning Objectives

1. Participants will be able to identify the core principles and design techniques of the Passive House energy standard.
2. Participants will be able to evaluate the benefits of low load homes including: reduced operating costs; increased comfort, durability, and health; and as the best path to net zero.
3. Participants will review the design and construction of Vermont's first Passive House.
4. Participants will review measured data and reflect on the design and specification choices made.

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J.B. Clancy, AIA
Albert, Righter & Tittman
Architects, Inc.

Submit a question to the moderator
via the Chat box. They will be
answered as time allows.



Stephen Schreiber FAIA
Professor and Architecture+Design Program Director
Department of Art, Architecture, and Art History
University of Massachusetts Amherst
Moderator

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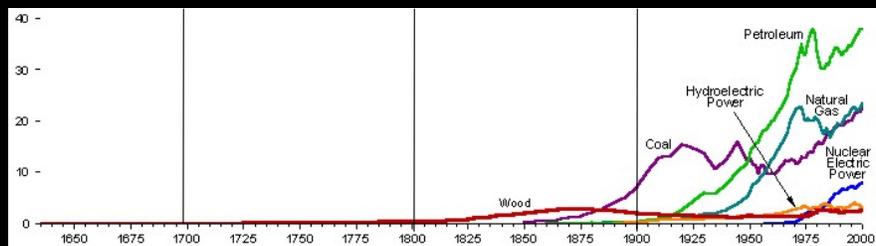
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FORM FOLLOWS ENERGY

J.B. Clancy, AIA
CERTIFIED PASSIVE HOUSE CONSULTANT
ALBERT, RIGHTER & TITTMANN ARCHITECTS

AIA Webinar
June 4, 2012

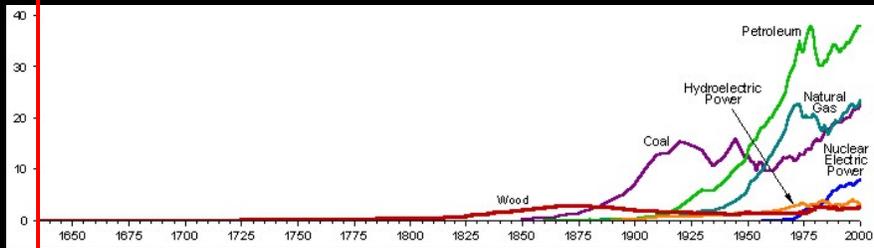
History of Energy Consumption by Source in USA 1630 to Present



E.I.A. Annual Energy Review 2003

FORM FOLLOWS ENERGY

House 1630

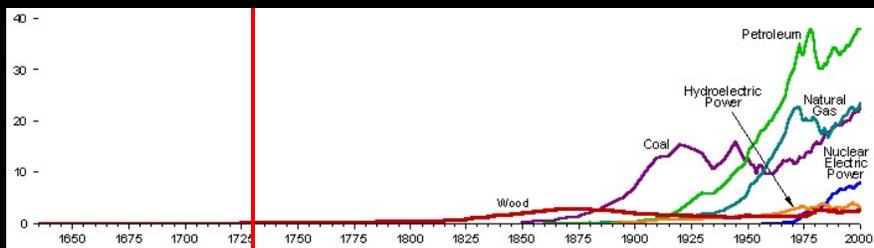


E.I.A. Annual Energy Review 2003



George Soule House, Plymouth, MA 1630s

House 1732

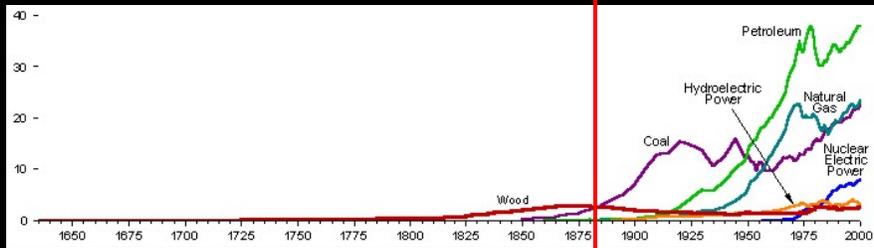


E.I.A. Annual Energy Review 2003



Hartwell Tavern, Concord, MA 1732

House 1882

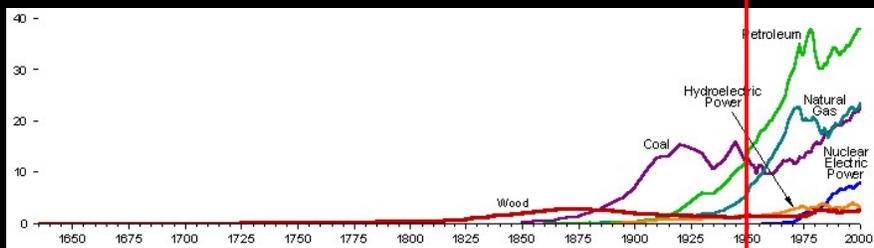


E.I.A. Annual Energy Review 2003



Drew House , Sandwich MA 1882

House 1951

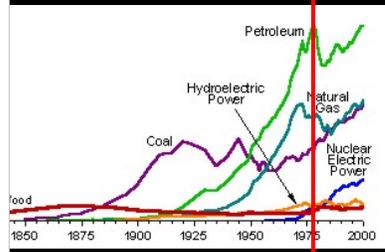
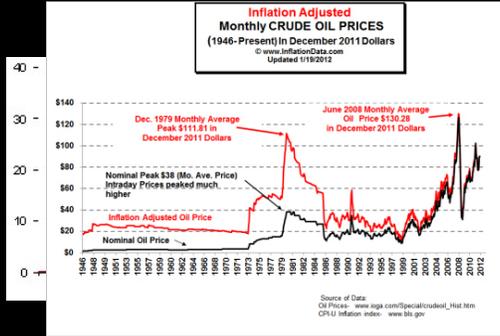


E.I.A. Annual Energy Review 2003

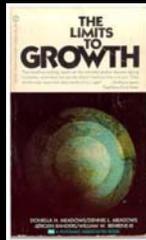


Farnsworth House, Mies van der Rohe , Plano, IL 1951

House 1976

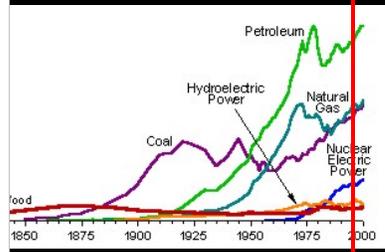
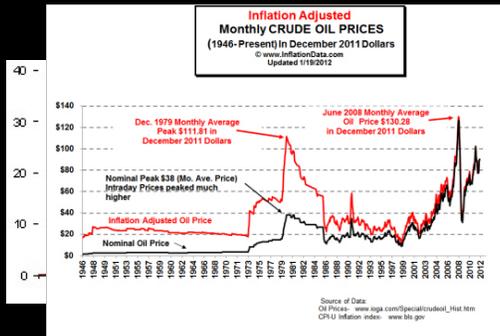


E.I.A. Annual Energy Review 2003



Lo-Cal House, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 1976
Wayne Schick

House 1995



E.I.A. Annual Energy Review 2003



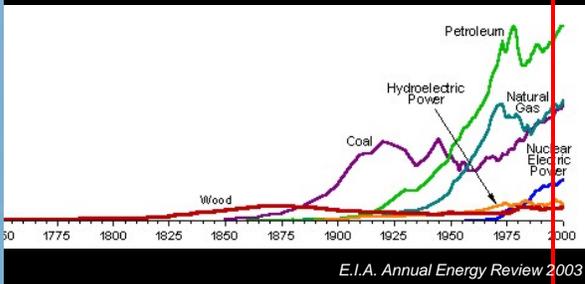
Anywhere USA

House 1995

From Modest to McMansion
The average square footage of a new single-family home

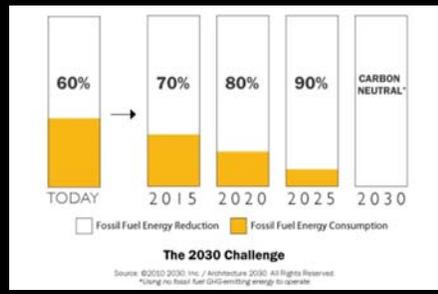
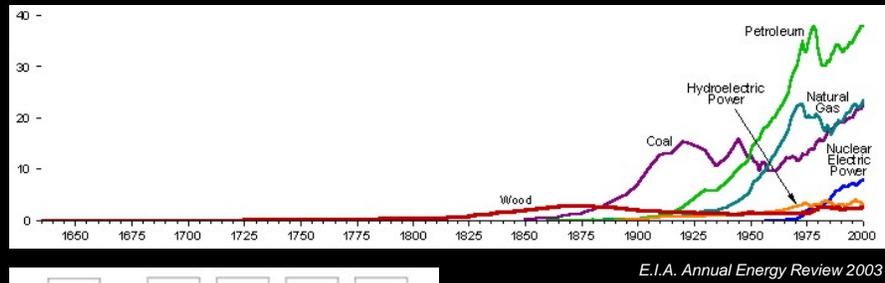
1950		983 sq. ft.
1970		1,500 sq. ft.
1990		2,080 sq. ft.
2004		2,349 sq. ft.

Source: National Association of Home Builders (Housing Facts, Figures and Trends for March 2006)



Anywhere USA

House 21st Century



Architecture 2030

Passive House Energy Standard

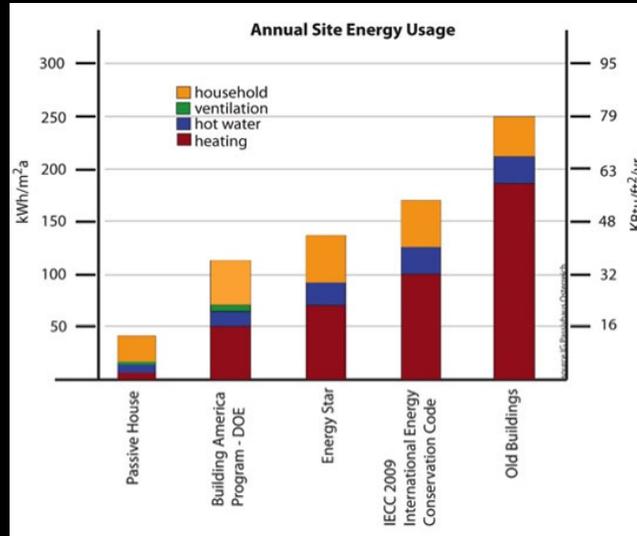
A Green Building Standard
built on an
Energy Budget
for the 21st Century

Passive House Energy Standard

Heating Demand (Site):	4.75
kBTU/SF/YR	
Cooling Demand (Site):	4.75
kBTU/SF/YR	
Total Energy Demand (Source):	38
kBTU/SF/YR	
Air Tightness:	.6 ACH @
50pa	

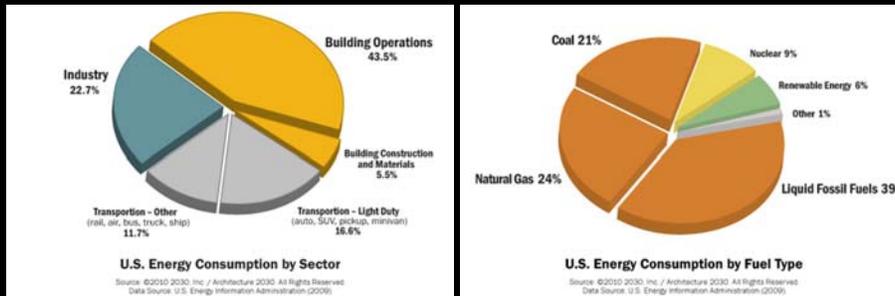
As modeled in the PHPP
(Passive House Planning Package)

Standards Comparison



Passive House Energy Standard

Why an Energy Budget?



Architecture 2030

THE PASSIVE HOUSE CONCEPT

Passive House History North American Roots



Leger House, Pepperell, MA



Lovins House, Snowmass, CO

A whole series of North American developments ("super-insulated houses") in the 70s and 80s were very close to the Passive House. William A. Shurcliff (1981) authored many publications on this subject.

This work was an important basis for low-energy houses and Passive Houses in Europe.

A. B. Lovins visited the Passive House in Darmstadt Kranichstein in 1995. It was he who suggested that the Passive House should be considered not just as a research project, but also as the energy standard of the future.

PASSIVE HOUSE INSTITUTE

Passive House Concept

Functional Definition

The Passive House: The Functional Definition

Although the designs of Passive Houses may appear quite different, the principle remains the same. The principle behind a Passive House is based on the concept by Amory Lovins of reducing investment through energy efficient design. By dramatically increasing the energy efficiency of a building, the HVAC systems can be radically simplified upon reaching a certain level of efficiency.

Consider the example of building a house for a cold climate. The heat demand for heating the house in the cold season is the major energy consuming service. If the heat demand is reduced by means of insulation, heat recovery, superwindows, passive solar gains and other measures, the heating system can be simplified step-by-step. But the most significant threshold appears when the peak heating load reaches

10 W/m².

When the peak heating load is less than 10 W/m², independent of climate, the ventilation system can easily be used for space heating, and a separate heating system is no longer required.

The primary function of the ventilation system is to maintain excellent indoor air quality.

If the maximum load is lower than 10 W/m², the ventilation system can distribute all heat needed throughout the building as well. **The definition of a Passive House is therefore that the peak heating load should be projected to a lower level than 10 W/m².** In warmer climates, this value may be easy to achieve, however in colder climates, careful planning is required.

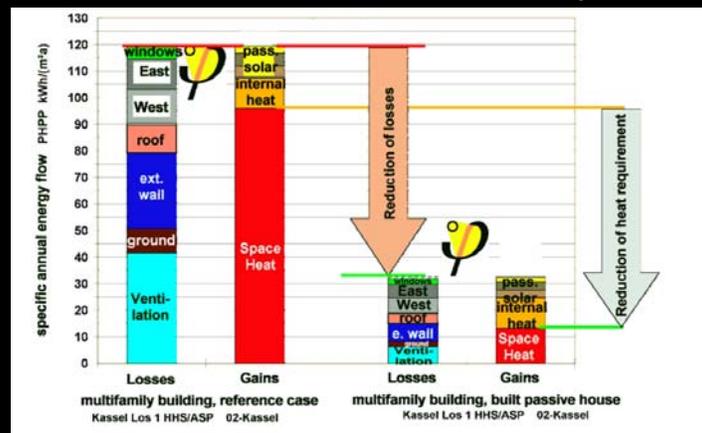


First Steps: What Can be a Passive House in Your Region with Your Climate?
Dr. Wolfgang Feist

Passive House Concept

ENERGY BALANCE

Reduce Losses – Reduce Heat Requirement

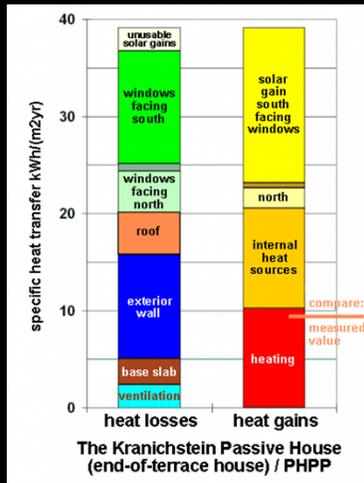


First Steps: What Can be a Passive House in Your Region with Your Climate?
Dr. Wolfgang Feist

Passive House Concept

ENERGY BALANCE

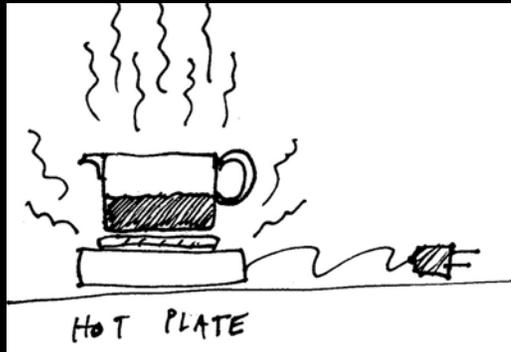
Minimize Losses and Maximize Gains



PASSIVE HOUSE INSTITUTE

Passive House Concept

Maintain temperature using the envelope, rather than by using energy.



Passive House (Passivhaus)



Passivhaus Institut
Darmstadt, Germany

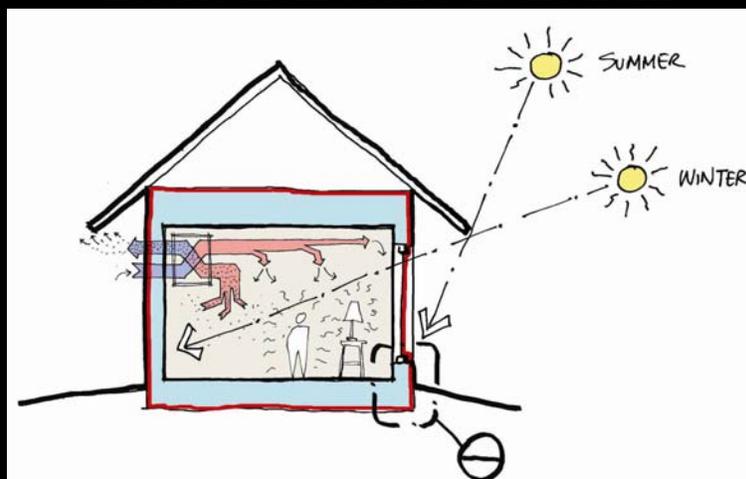


Passive House Institute US
Urbana, Illinois

Passive House Concept

INTEGRATED

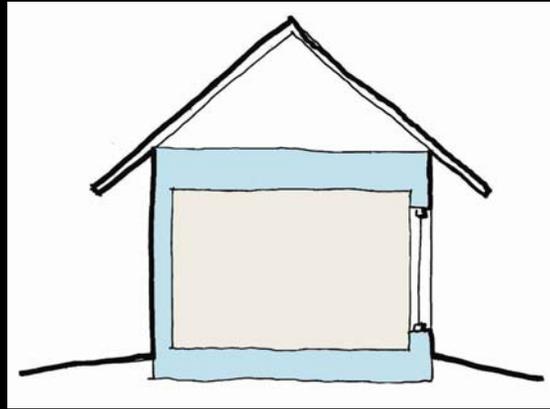
“Let the architecture do the work”



Albert, Richter & Tittmann Architects

Passive House Concept

Controlling Heat Loss... INSULATION

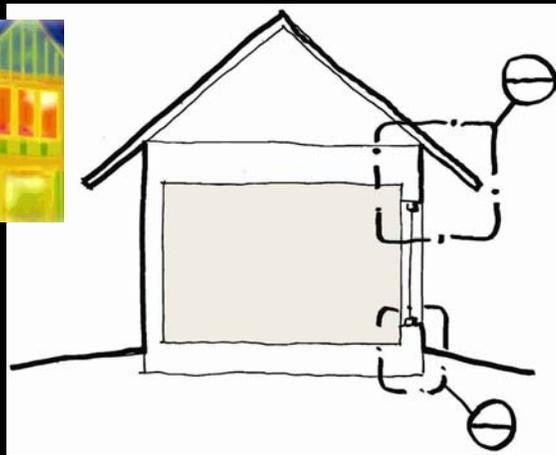


R58 WALLS: R90 CEILING: R60 SLAB
High Performance WINDOWS U value 0.16

Albert, Richter & Tittmann Architects

Passive House Concept

Controlling Heat Loss... ELIMINATE THERMAL BRIDGES

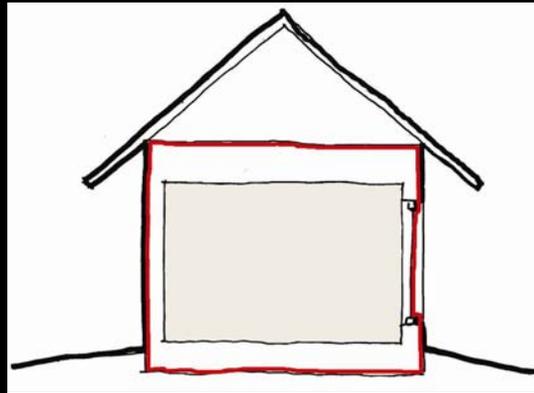


$\Psi \leq 0.01 \text{ W/(mK)}$

Albert, Richter & Tittmann Architects

Passive House Concept

Controlling Heat Loss... **REDUCE AIR INFILTRATION**

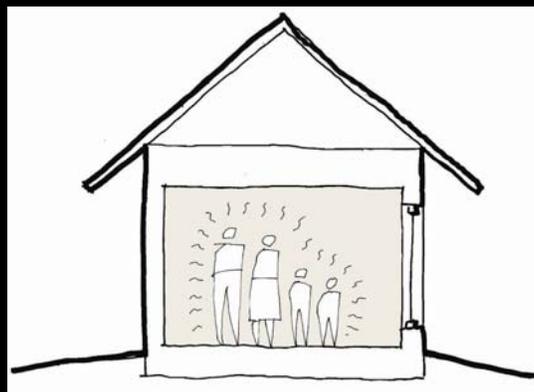


.6 ACH @ 50 PA

Albert, Richter & Tittmann Architects

Passive House Concept

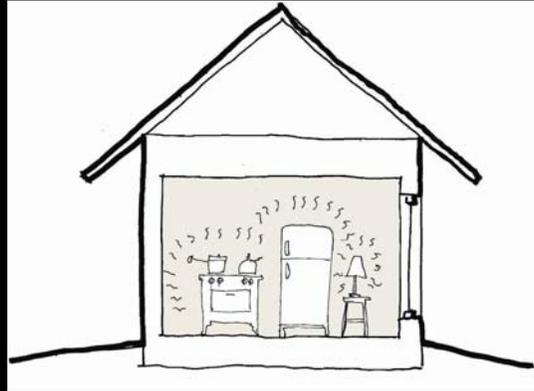
Capturing Heat Gains... **PEOPLE**



Albert, Richter & Tittmann Architects

Passive House Concept

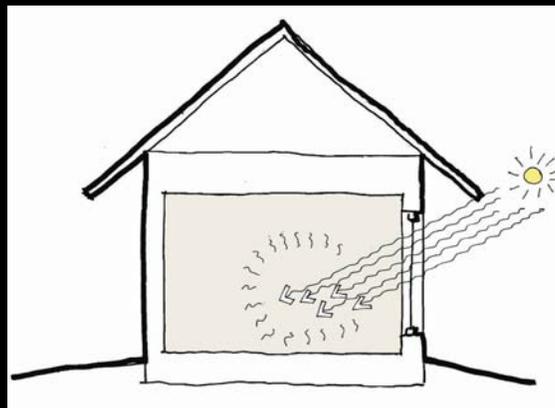
Capturing Heat Gains... EQUIPMENT



Albert, Richter & Tittmann Architects

Passive House Concept

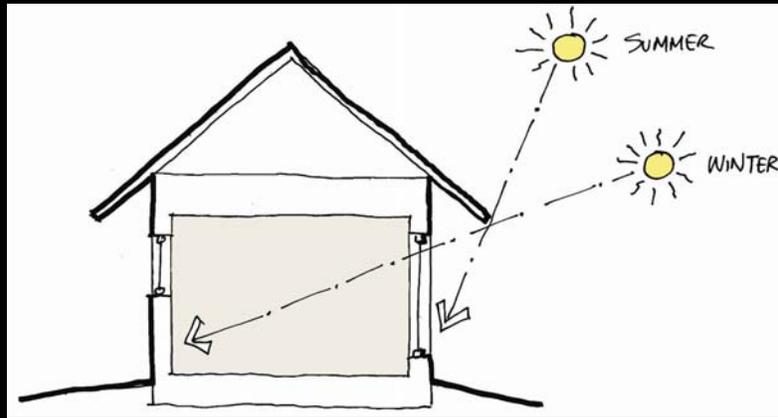
Capturing Heat Gains... SOLAR ENERGY



Albert, Richter & Tittmann Architects

Passive House Concept

Controlling Gains Seasonally... **WINDOWS & ORIENTATION**



TRIPLE GLAZED: $>.5$ SHGC ON SOUTH WINDOWS

Albert, Richter & Tittmann Architects

Passive House Concept

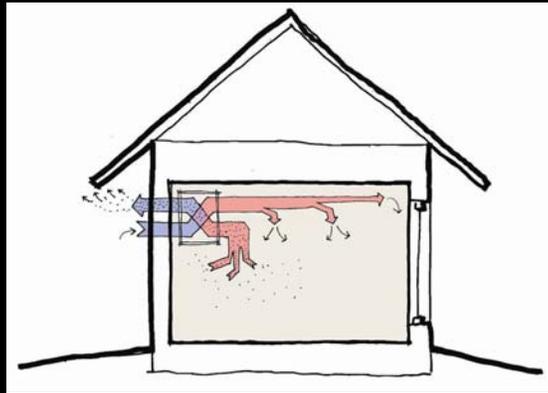
SOLAR THERMAL



Albert, Richter & Tittmann Architects

Passive House Concept

Providing Fresh Air... **HEAT RECOVERY VENTILATION**

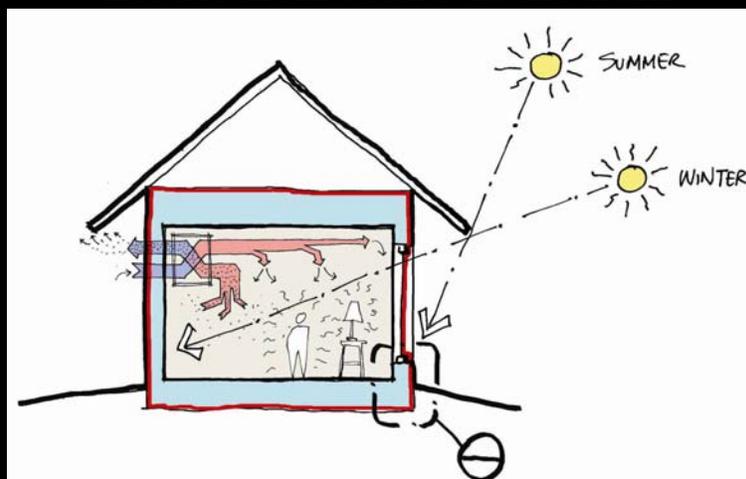


MINIMUM .30 ACH

Albert, Richter & Tittmann Architects

Passive House Concept

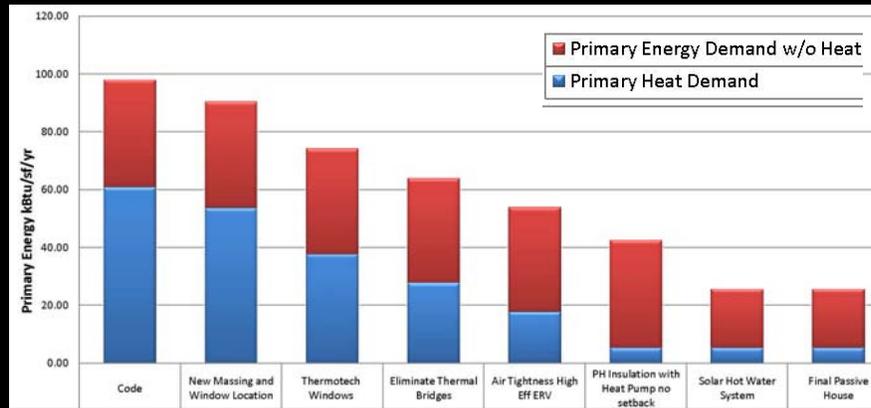
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"Let the architecture do the work"



Albert, Richter & Tittmann Architects

Passive House Concept

TO GET FROM CODE TO PASSIVE HOUSE



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Passive House Concept

PHPP SOFTWARE

The PASSIVE HOUSE PLANNING PACKAGE (PHPP) is an important tool for designing Passive Houses consisting of a spreadsheet workbook and a manual.

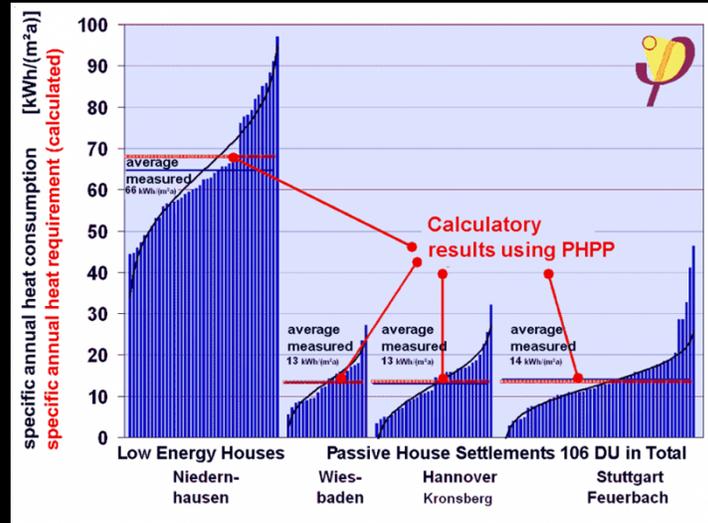
The Passive House Planning Package (PHPP) provides everything needed to design a properly functioning Passive House including tools for:

- Calculating energy balances (including U-value calculation)
- Planning the windows
- Designing the comfort ventilation system
- Determining the heating load
- Estimating the summer comfort
- Design the heating and hot water supply

PASSIVE HOUSE INSTITUTE

Passive House Concept

PHPP SOFTWARE



PASSIVE HOUSE INSTITUTE

Passive House Concept

RESULTS

- Dramatic reduction in energy consumption
- Superior indoor air quality
- Exceptional occupant comfort
- Lower annual energy costs
- Smaller carbon footprint
- More durable construction details

Passive House Concept

SUMMARY

- Envelope focused: super insulation, high performance windows, no thermal bridging, air tight
- Ventilation with heat recovery
- Optimized through integrated design using energy modeling

Passive House Concept

SUMMARY

- Focus on ENERGY conservation
- Do more with less ENERGY
- Minimize losses – Maximize gains
- Simple is better than complex
- Passive better than active
- Moving parts fail

THE FIRST CERTIFIED PASSIVE HOUSE IN VERMONT

This building has been awarded the **Quality Approved Passive House Certificate** by the Passive House Institute issued by Passive House Institute US

This certification is based entirely on the design documentation and specifications provided by the client to the Passive House Institute US for the purpose of certification to the Passive House Standard. The Passive House Institute US has verified and approved the building's energy balances according to the provided building data.

This certification does not cover quality assurance of the construction or design implementations. The Passive House Institute US cannot be held responsible for faulty implementations. Means and methods and appropriate building science are the responsibility of the architect/builder.

Specific Demands with Reference to the Trapped Floor Area	
Applied	Monthly Method
Trapped Floor Area	1487 sq
Specific Space Heat Demand	4.22 kBtu/(ft ² ·yr)
Pressurization Test Result	0.4 ACH ₅₀
Specific Primary Energy Demand (HW, Heating, Cooling, Auxiliary and Recirculated Electricity)	28.2 kBtu/(ft ² ·yr)
Specific Primary Energy Demand (HW, Heating and Auxiliary Electricity)	11 kBtu/(ft ² ·yr)
Specific Primary Energy Demand Energy Conservation by Solar Electricity	0 kBtu/(ft ² ·yr)
Heating Load	4 BTU/(ft ² ·hr)
Frequency of Overheating	%
Specific Useful Cooling Energy Demand	3 kBtu/(ft ² ·yr)
Cooling Load	4 BTU/(ft ² ·hr)



Philip Jensen-Carter

PROJECT TEAM
CLIENT: Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity, David Mullin
ARCHITECT: J.B. Clancy, Albert, Righter & Tittmann Architects
ENERGY CONSULTANT: Peter Schneider, VEIC
STRUCTURAL ENGINEER: John Higgins, Artisan Engineering

Habitat for Humanity Passive House

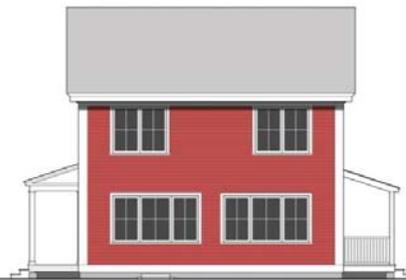


Albert, Righter & Tittmann Architects

Habitat for Humanity Passive House



WEST ELEVATION



SOUTH ELEVATION

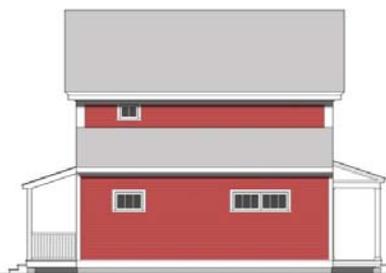
Glazing percentage % TFA: 1:1:8:2 (N:E:S:W)

Albert, Righter & Tittmann Architects

Habitat for Humanity Passive House



EAST ELEVATION



NORTH ELEVATION

Glazing percentage % TFA: 1:1:8:2 (N:E:S:W)

Albert, Righter & Tittmann Architects

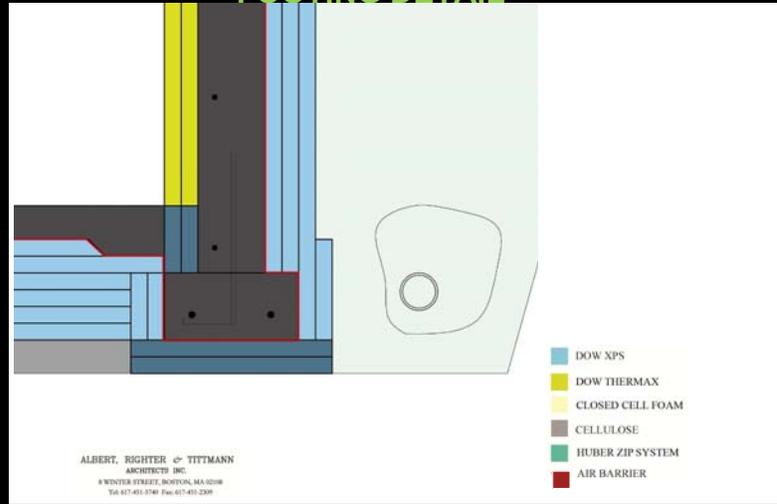
Habitat for Humanity Passive House



Albert, Richter & Tittmann Architects

Habitat for Humanity Passive House

FOOTING DETAIL

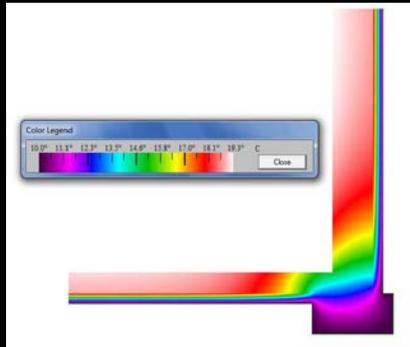


SLAB: R61

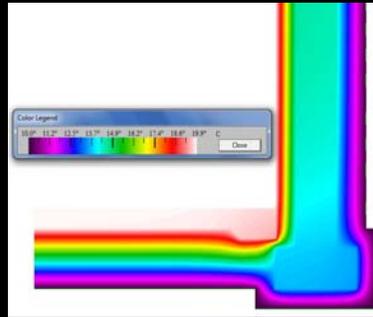
FDN WALLS: R57

Habitat for Humanity Passive House

FOOTING DETAIL



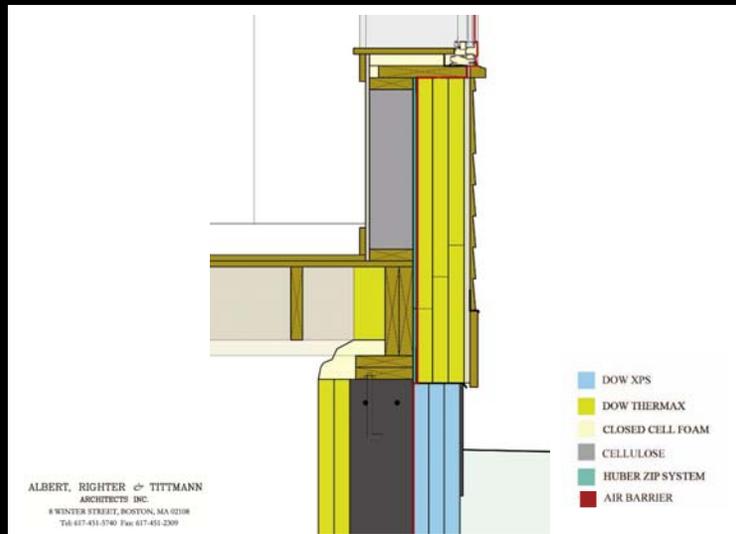
CODE INSULATION—
2" XPS Under Slab & on Wall



PASSIVE HOUSE INSULATION— 12" XPS Under Slab & 10" on Wall

THERM MODELS OF FOUNDATION DETAILS

Habitat for Humanity Passive House



EXTERIOR WALL: R59

Habitat for Humanity Passive House

WALL SECTION



EXTERIOR WALL: R59

Habitat for Humanity Passive House

SECOND FLOOR PLATFORM DETAIL



EXTERIOR WALL: R59

Habitat for Humanity Passive House

EAVE DETAIL



ROOF: R90

Habitat for Humanity Passive House

WINDOWS

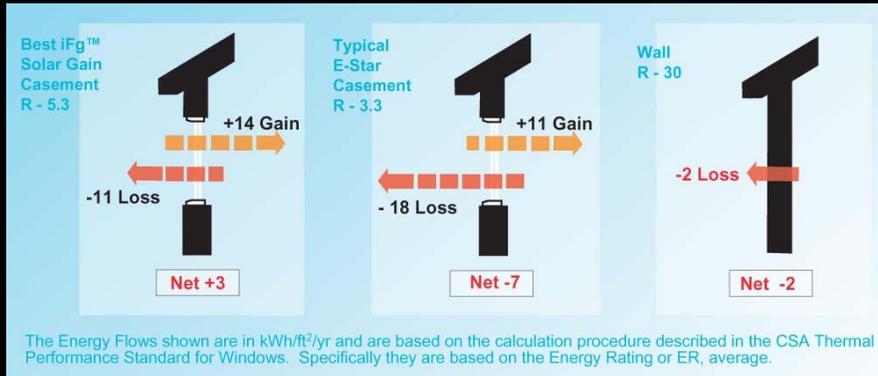
Thermotech
322 Gain+

.64 SHGC (solar heat gain coefficient)
COG U .16

NFRC whole window U .19 (R5.3)

Habitat for Humanity Passive House

THERMOTECH WINDOWS



Thermotech Windows

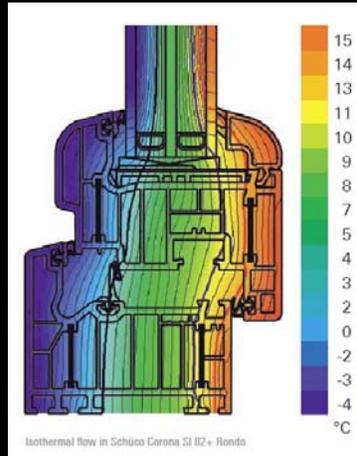
Habitat for Humanity Passive House

WINDOWS – NORTH AMERICAN CASEMENT



Habitat for Humanity Passive House

WINDOWS – EUROPEAN TILT-TURN



Habitat for Humanity Passive House

HVAC SYSTEM

Air Source Heat Pump

Mitsubishi Hyper-heat MSZ-MUZ FE 12

HRV

Zender ComfoAir 350 HRV

Soil heat exchange system

Two 125' loops of 1" pex around the base of the footings filled with water/glycol mix & tied to Zehnder ComfoFond (~30F Temp Rise and 80% efficiency)

Solar Hot Water

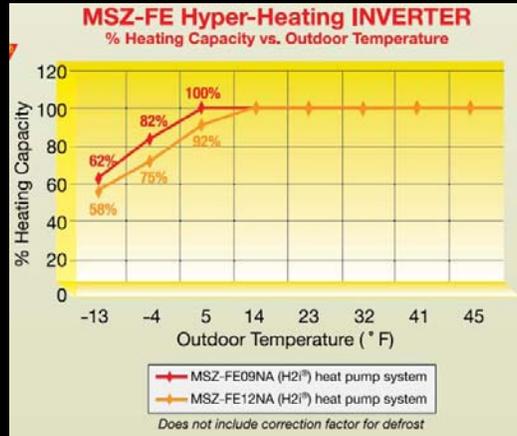
Sunward Solar water heating system mounted on roof with 40g electric hot water heater as back-up

Habitat for Humanity Passive House

HVAC SYSTEM

Air Source Heat Pump

Mitsubishi Hyper-heat MSZ-MUZ FE 12

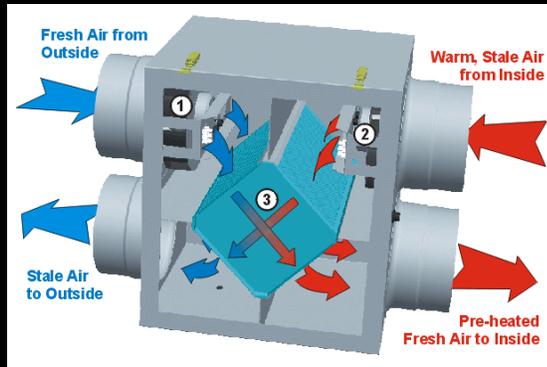


Habitat for Humanity Passive House

HVAC SYSTEM

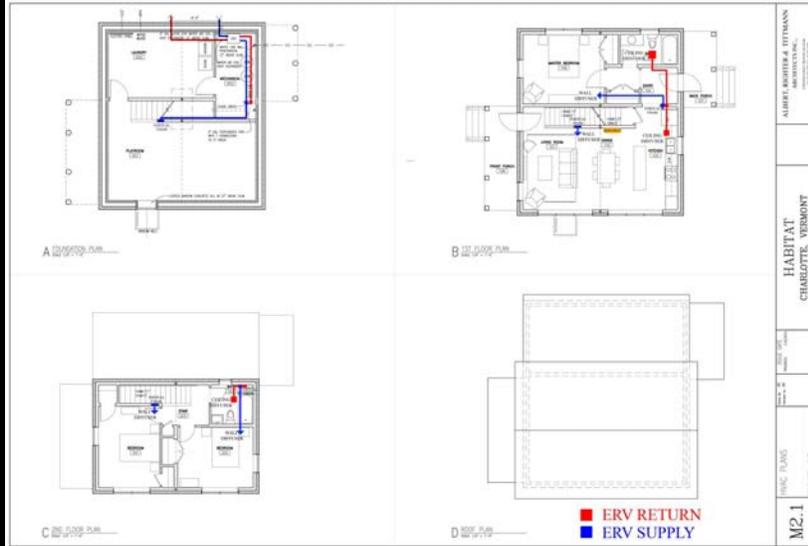
HRV

Zender ComfoAir 350 HRV



Habitat for Humanity Passive House

HVAC SYSTEM - DUCT LAYOUT



Albert, Righter & Tittmann Architects

Habitat for Humanity Passive House

ENERGY STAR - TIER III APPLIANCES



Refrigerator

Brand	Model	KWH/Year	% Less Energy
Whirlpool	W9RXXMF2*0	343	30%



Dishwasher

Brand	Model	KWH/Year	Energy Factor
Whirlpool	GU3100XTV*	270	0.82



Washer
Dryer

Brand	Model	KWH/Year	MEF Energy
Bosch	WFVC844*UC	130	2.55

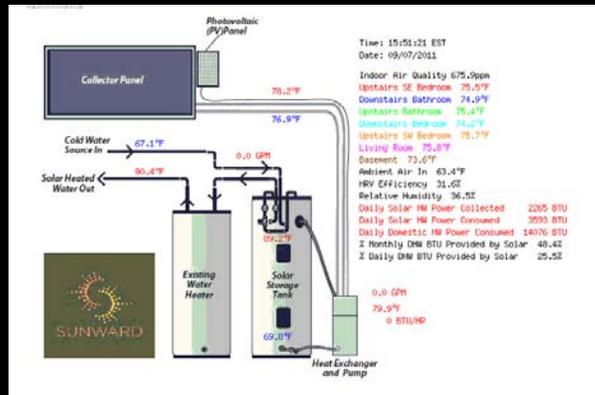
Post-Construction Performance Testing



Airflow at 50 Pascals	
102 cfm50 (+/- 3.4 %)	50 Pa
0.41 ACH50	
0.0685 cfm50/ft² Floor Area	
0.0257 cfm50/ft² Surface Area	
Leakage Areas	
7.6 in² (+/- 12.5 %) Canadian EqLA @ 10 Pa or 0.0019 in²/ft² Surface Area	
3.4 in² (+/- 19.7 %) LBL ELA @ 4 Pa or 0.0009 in²/ft² Surface Area	
Building Leakage Curve	
Flow Coefficient (C) = 3.7 (+/- 30.7 %)	
Exponent (n) = 0.849 (+/- 0.080)	
Correlation Coefficient = 0.99107	



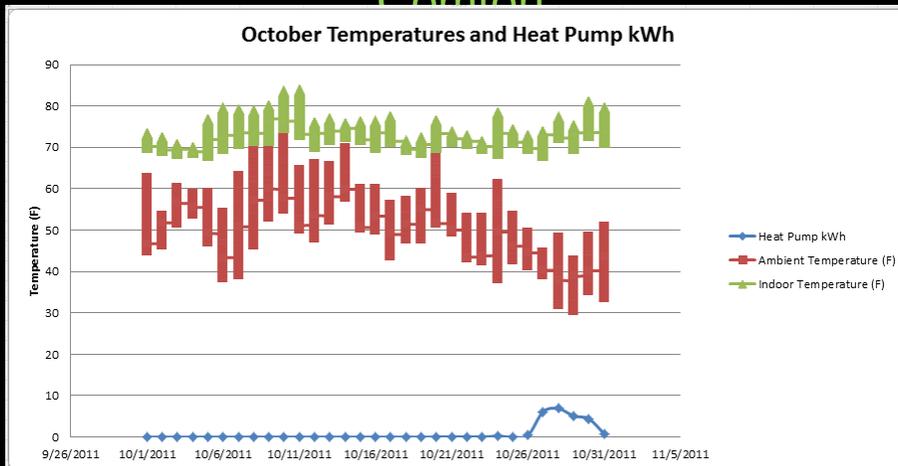
Post-Construction Performance Monitoring



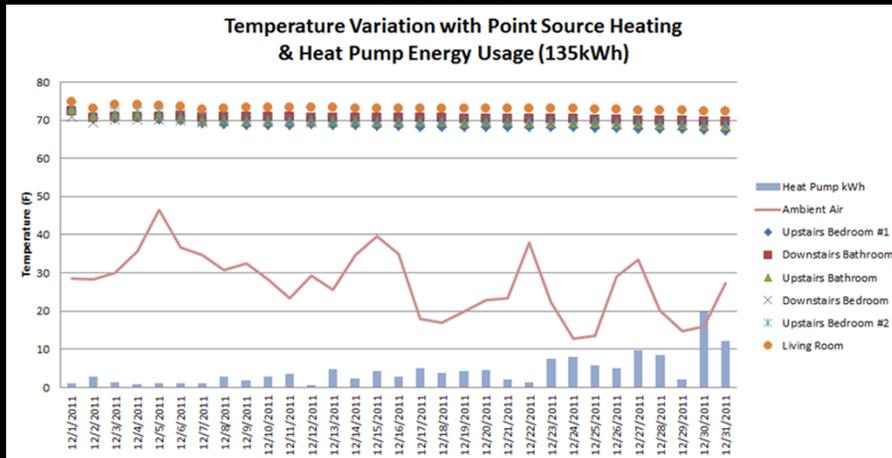
Post-Construction Performance Monitoring



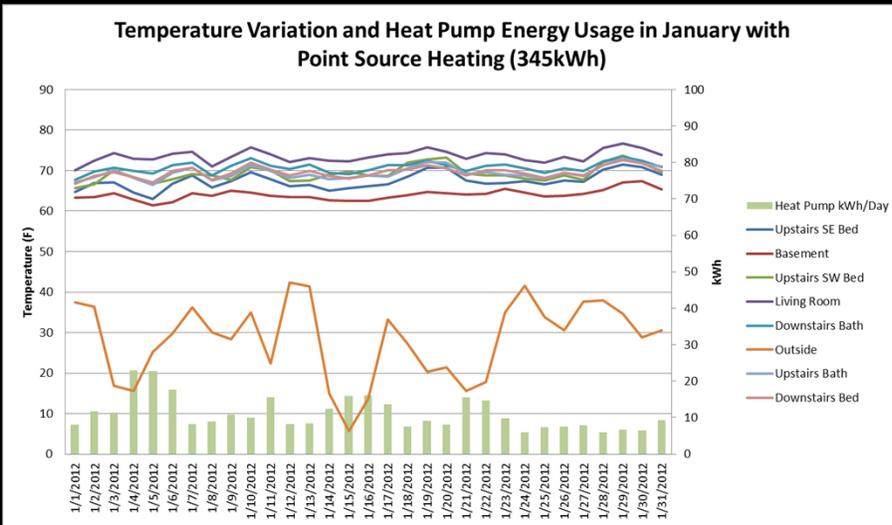
Heating Energy Needed to Meet Comfort



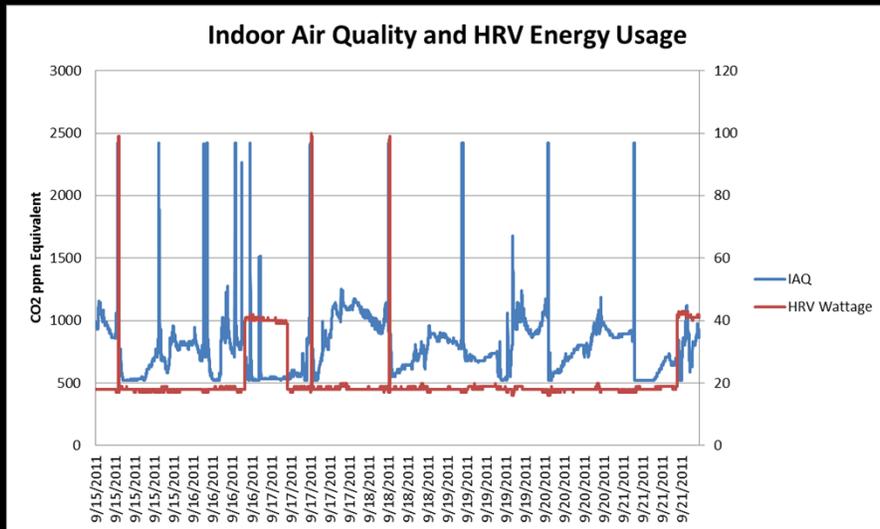
Heating Energy Needed to Meet Comfort



Heating Energy Needed to Meet



IAQ



HRV Energy to Meet IAQ Needs

IAQ

The levels of CO₂ in the air and potential health problems are:

250 - 350 ppm – background (normal) outdoor air level

350- 1,000 ppm - typical level found in occupied spaces with good air exchange.

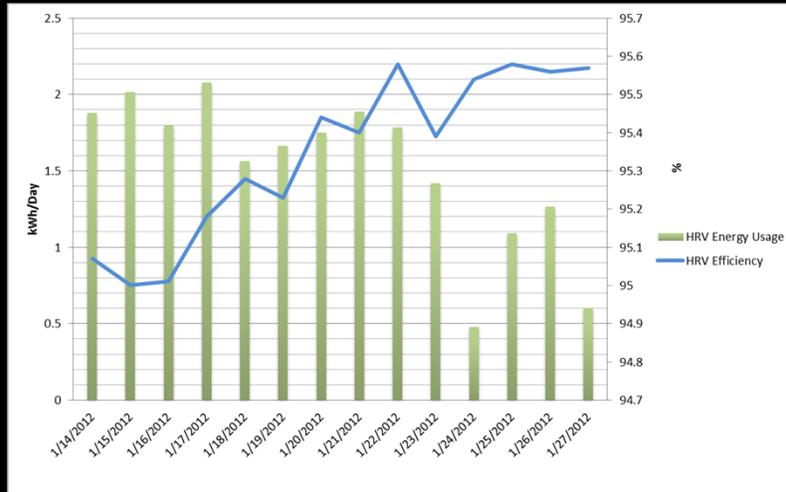
1,000 – 2,000 ppm - level associated with complaints of drowsiness and poor air.

2,000 – 5,000 ppm – level associated with headaches, sleepiness, and stagnant, stale, stuffy air. Poor concentration, loss of attention, increased heart rate and slight nausea may also be present.

>5,000 ppm – Exposure may lead to serious oxygen deprivation resulting in permanent brain damage, coma and even death.

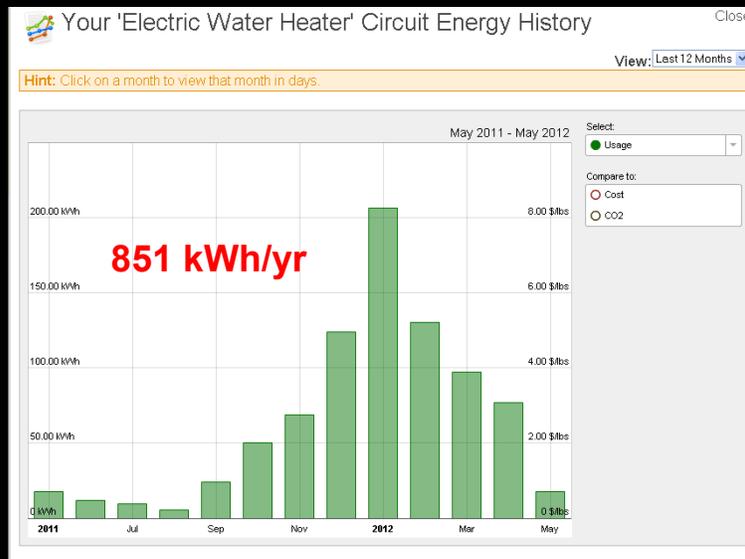
Wisconsin's Department of Health

IAQ



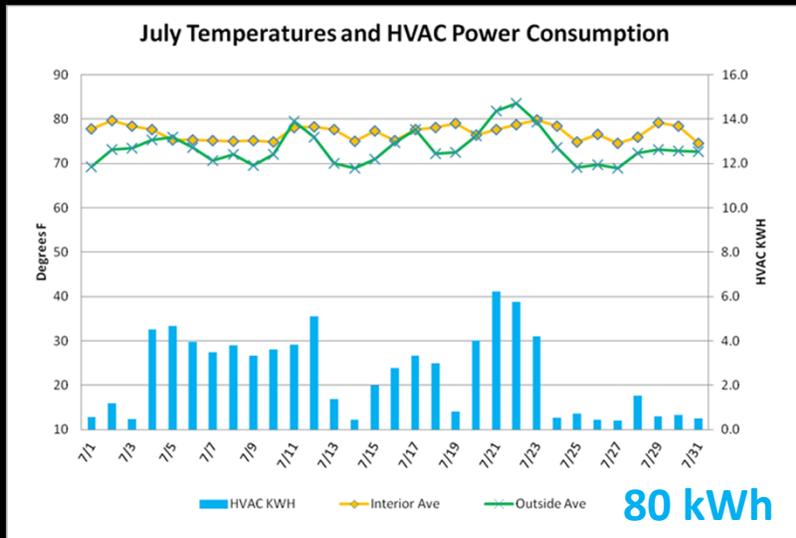
HRV Efficiency & Energy Use

DHW



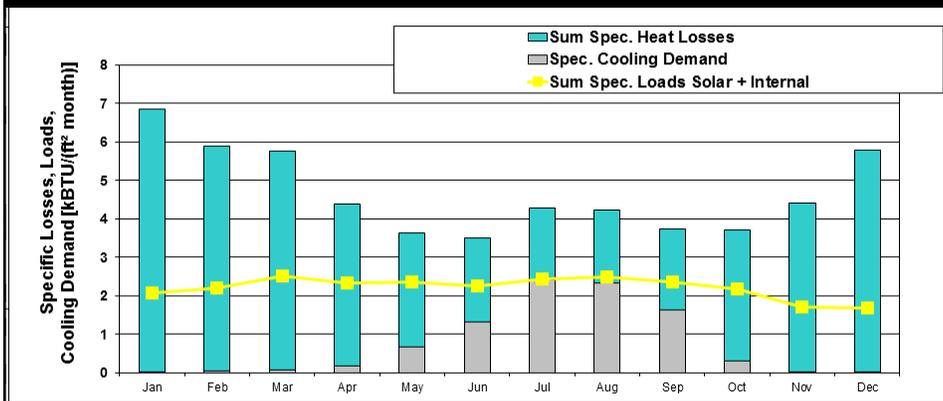
Sunward Solar Thermal System

Cooling Season



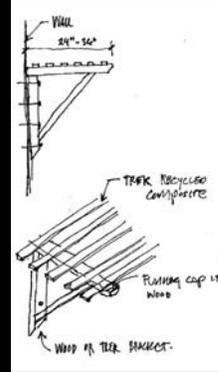
Cooling Energy Needed to Meet

Cooling Season



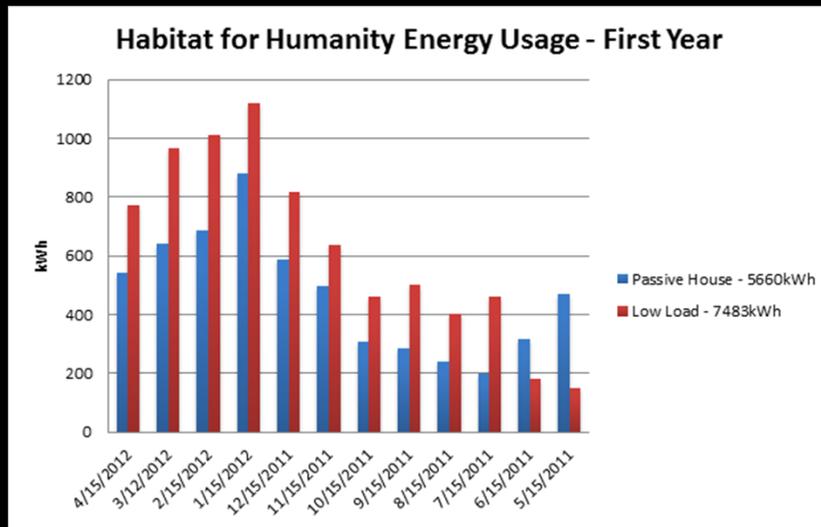
PHPP Predicted Cooling Demand

Passive Houses need Shading

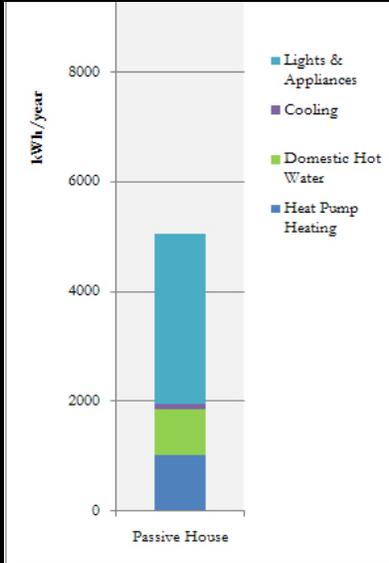


<p>Aluma-Roll awnings are easy to open and close with a convenient and sturdy cord</p>	<p>Step-Down awnings offer permanent, year round protection</p>	<p>Aluma-Roll Stationary awnings are permanently installed with or without side wings</p>

Total Energy



Total Energy



Comparison of Annual Heating Costs VT Baseline* : Passive House



Estimated monthly energy costs
\$3.34/gal; elec \$.15/kWh

Estimated monthly energy costs
\$5/gal; elec \$.20/kWh

*VT Baseline: VEIC Study of 300 new construction houses – Estimated heating costs based on REMRate models

Comparison of Total Costs

VT Baseline* : Passive House

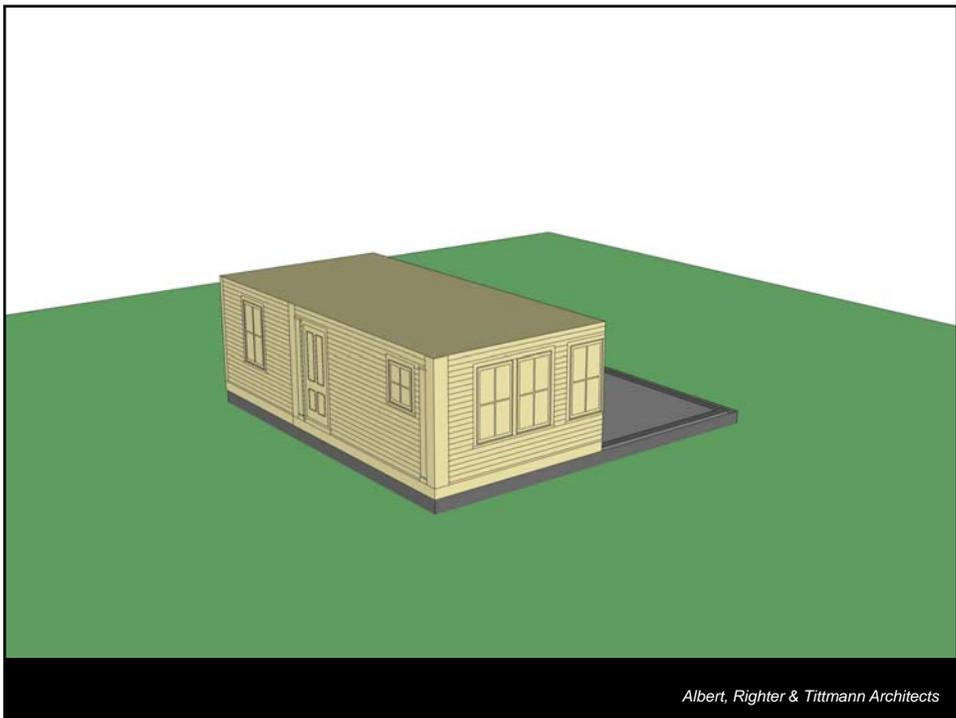
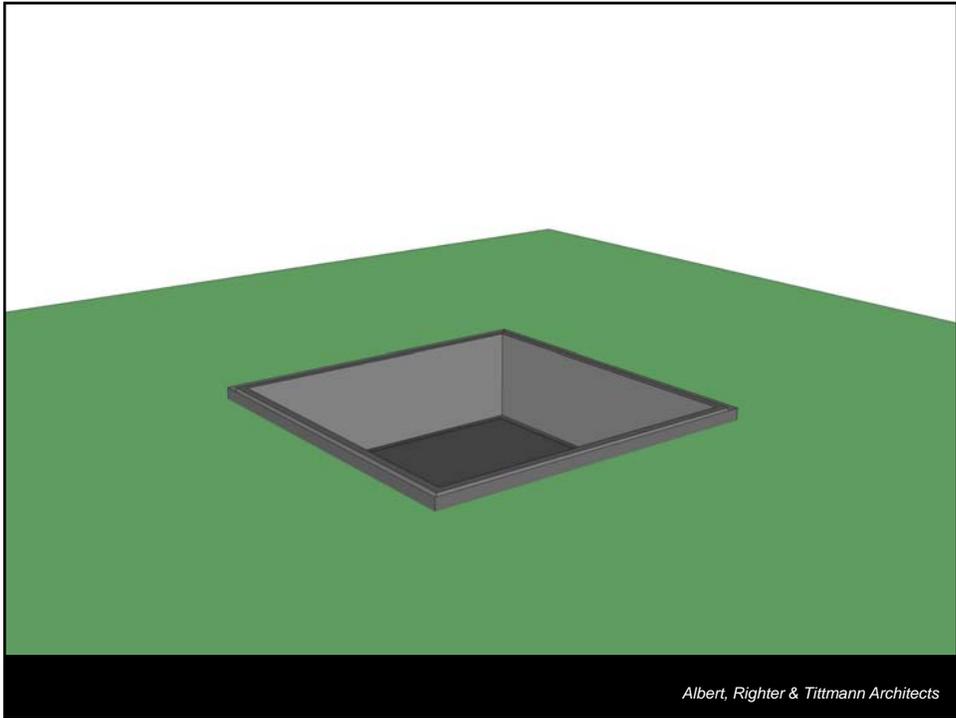
	VT Baseline Home	Passive House
Total Cost of Home (Includes \$200k for Land and Site Work)	\$375,000	\$390,000
Mortgage/month 30 year fixed @ 5%	\$2,013	\$2,093
Insurance	\$50	\$50
Property Taxes	\$500	\$500
Estimated monthly energy costs @ \$3.34/gal; elec \$.15/kWh	\$438	\$42
Total Costs/month @ \$3/gal; elec \$.14/kWh	\$3,001	\$2,685
Estimated monthly energy costs @ \$5/gal; elec \$.20/kWh	\$638	\$56
Total Costs/month @ \$5/gal; elec \$.20/kWh	\$3,201	\$2,699

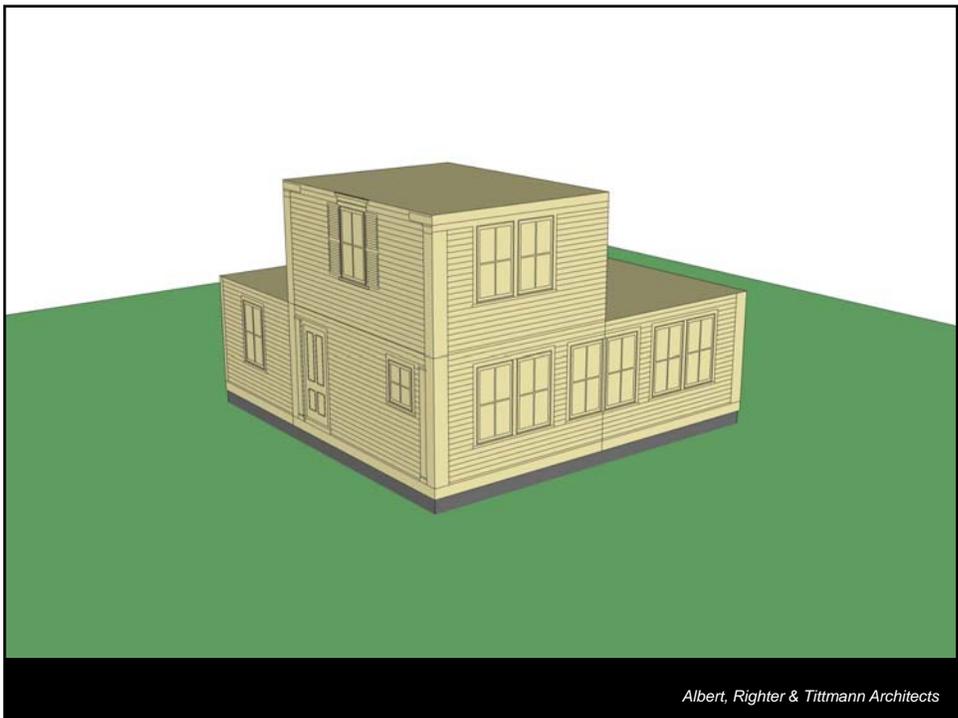
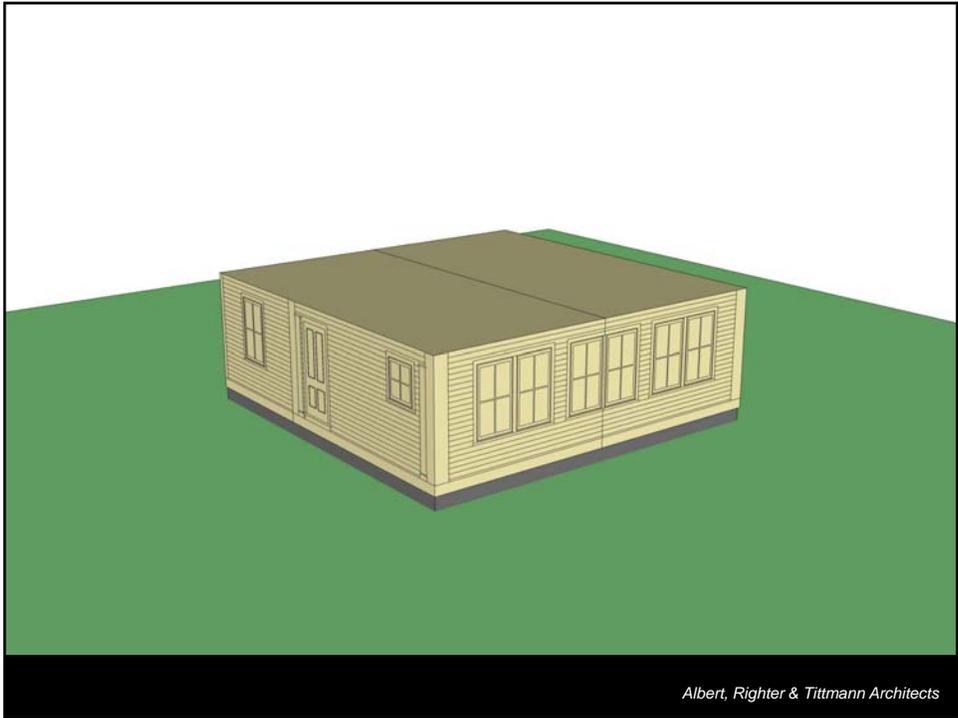
Passive House yearly savings @ \$3.24/gal; elec \$.15/kWh over energy code home = \$3,792

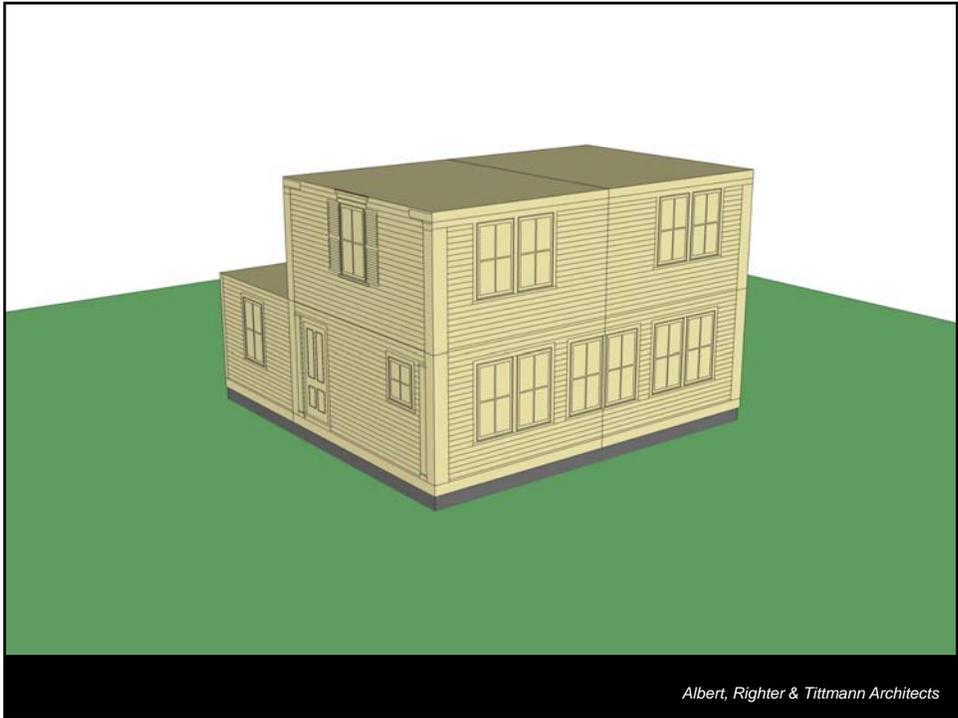
Passive House yearly savings @ \$5/gal; elec \$.20/kWh over energy code home = \$6,024

*VT Baseline: VEIC Study of 300 new construction houses – Estimated heating costs based on REMRate Models. Models assume 4400 kWh for DHW and 4000 kWh for plugs

MODULAR CONSTRUCTION







Albert, Richter & Tittmann Architects



Albert, Richter & Tittmann Architects



Beginning of floor system-open web joists, LVL to reduce columns in basement



4" Foam blocking on outside perimeter of floors – open web joists – urethane adhesive on floors



EPDM gasket on floors.



EPDM gasket at floor and wall intersections



Spraying the foam seal - attaches the sheetrock to framing and makes air-tight assembly



Sheetrock air-sealed to framing



Lifting wall section off framing table



Assembled walls on floor for 1/2 of 1st floor



Insulated headers – built load specific



Full sheetrock air-seal behind tub



Foam sprayed on sheetrock joints
at tub to complete air-seal



OVE framing
(partial double plate is temporary for lifting)



20" raised Heel folding truss w/
EPDM gasket between walls and
ceiling



13 3/8" window buck
clapboard drainage under window



Installed dense pack cellulose



Air seal around plumbing vents



Radon vent and ERV ducts



Silicone sealing of wires penetrating exterior insulation



Exterior insulation details



Air sealing of wall sheathing



Wide strapping on corners



Folded shed roof



Eave framing on shed roof



Front door area

8.17.2010

10 working days



On the launch pad Claremont, NH
6:30 AM 9.10.2010



Section



Foundation and wall insulation detail



Coming in for landing





Charlotte, VT
1:30 PM 9.10.2010



Habitat for Humanity Passive House



“Heating System”
\$30 for January, average temp 72



Habitat for Humanity Passive House



Habitat for Humanity Passive House



Habitat for Humanity Passive House



Habitat for Humanity Passive House



Philip Jensen-Carter

Habitat for Humanity Passive House



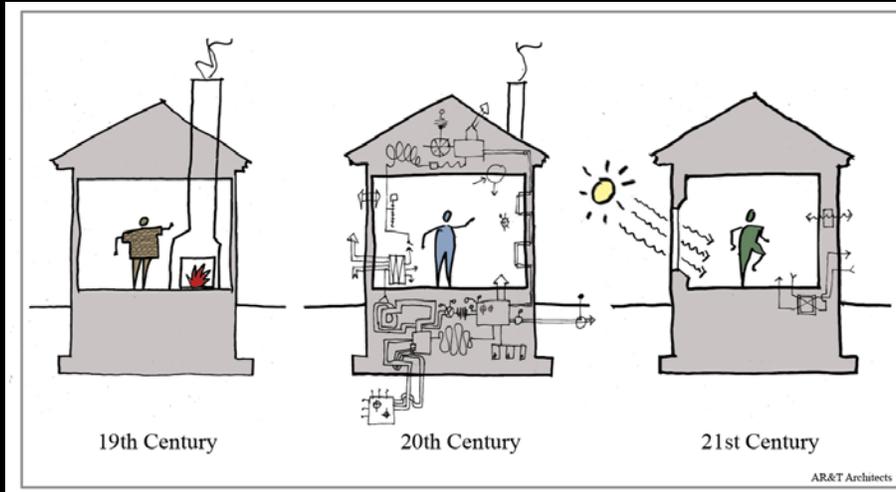
Philip Jensen-Carter

Habitat for Humanity Passive House



Philip Jensen-Carter

Moving Towards Simplicity



Albert, Richter & Tittmann Architects

Resources



Philip Jensen-Carter

- Passipedia: www.passipedia.passiv.de
- Passivhaus Institute Germany: www.passiv.de
- PHIUS: www.passivehouse.us



J.B. Clancy, AIA
Albert, Righter & Tittman
Architects, Inc.

Submit a question to the moderator via the Chat box. They will be answered as time allows.



Stephen Schreiber FAIA
Professor and Architecture+Design Program Director
Department of Art, Architecture, and Art History
University of Massachusetts Amherst
Moderator

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