

The Passive House:

Frequently mentioned concerns:

- The higher costs associated with a passive house do not pay off
- One cannot open a window in a passive house
- Air quality is bad in a passive house
- Walls need to breathe
- No heating or cooling system can be installed in a passive house
- The current minimal energy saving requirements are sufficient for me

The Facts:

- The additional costs needed for passive house building elements have continued to fall, while prices for non-passive-house elements have steadily risen over time. The lack of a heating system ensure fixed low operational costs for a long period of time.
- One can open all windows in a passive house. It is no longer necessary, due to the ventilation system, so that additional energy can be saved.
- The air quality is constantly better in a passive house than in a regular building without ventilation system, as the air is constantly being refreshed.
- Walls do not need to breathe. The loss of energy „through the wall“ is bad for the overall energy footprint of the building. The building should therefore be built as air-tight as possible, as is also required in minimal energy requirements for any building.
- It is not prohibited to install a small heating system into a passive house. In large scale, non-residential buildings smaller areas could exist, where this might be necessary. Also cooling systems can be installed, while the energy needed would be minimal. However, usually one can abstain from installing such systems at all.
- The current minimal energy requirements are coming closer to the passive house ones. Many building elements are similar or already the same, i.e. three-layered window panes are the norm in all non-passive houses today.

For planning and execution of passive house projects, please contact Atelier Winkler at:

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