

# Energy Efficiency in the Mediterranean

## 1<sup>st</sup> Passive House Conference in Malta

28, 29 April 2011  
The George Hotel  
Paceville Street, St. Julians

**Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Feist**  
(Passivhaus founder)  
and other international speakers from  
Austria, Germany, Italy, Malta, Spain



## Energy Efficiency in the Mediterranean

### Preamble

“Energy efficiency meets architecture – our contribution to environmental protection”  
The Passive House (PH) concept is a very low-energy building standard that can be implemented practically all over the world. The Passive House standard is one of the world’s leading benchmarks for energy efficiency in the Built Environment.

Buildings are responsible for over 40% of energy consumption and 36% of EU CO2 emissions. Energy performance of buildings is key to achieve the EU Climate & Energy objectives, namely the reduction of 20% of the Greenhouse gases emissions by 2020 and a 20% energy savings by 2020.  
Therefore improving the energy performance of buildings is a cost-effective way of resisting climate change while improving security of energy supply.

The EPBD, the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (2002/91/EC) has gone through a recast in May 2010. Essentially this has reinforced the need for tighter energy standards through simplified legislation in order to reach the minimum energy standards in building design.

The Passive House purports to exceed such minimum standards. Although proposing leading edge building technology, high quality materials with uncompromised thermal comfort standards, the Passive House concept gives innovative intelligent solutions for new and old buildings.

“The Passive House – improved comfort, low-cost, low-energy demand, environment friendly - the way forward for a better quality of life”

### Aim of Conference

This Passive House Conference proposes solutions for a Passive House in a warm Mediterranean climate, such as Malta. It will expose current ongoing research in applying the original cold-oriented house to a warm environment, focusing energy on keeping the building cool in the long warm season through spring, summer and autumn months.

### Programme

“Energy Efficiency in the Mediterranean” – 1<sup>st</sup> Passive House Conference in Malta

#### Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2011 – Day One

08.30	Registration
09.00	Introduction: Dr. Vincent Buhagiar and Architect Andrea-Nicole Schmidt Faculty for the Built Environment, University of Malta (UoM)
	Chairperson: Prof. Alex Torpiano, Dean, Faculty for the Built Environment, (UoM) Rapporteur: Architect Kenneth R. Sultana
09.15	Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Feist, Passivhaus Institut Darmstadt - Germany “Passive House a real solution”
10.00	Hon. George Pullicino, Minister, MRRA (Environment) - Malta “EU regulations – Future for the Passive House”
10.30	Coffee break
11.00	Günther Gantioler, TBZ Bozen - Italy “Products for certified Passive Houses in warm climate”
11.30	Perit Stephen Pulis, MRRA - Malta “The Energy Performance Certification of Buildings – Legislative background”
12.00	Architect Andrea-Nicole Schmidt, Certified Passive House Designer - Malta “Passive House Malta – furthering your knowledge”
12.30	Panel Discussion: “Future vision Passive House in hot climates – Pro & Cons” Moderation: Prof. Alex Torpiano, Dean, Faculty for the Built Environment, (UoM) Podium: All speakers and invited guests

13.00	Lunch break
14.15	Dr. Witta Ebel, Passivhaus Institut Darmstadt - Germany “Passive House – the cost effective alternative for all climates”
14.45	Engineer Günther Lang, IG Passivhaus - Austria “Refurbishment of existing buildings towards Passive House, energy efficient buildings”
15.15	Coffee break
15.45	Workshop: “Passive House in Malta – what are the next steps?” Moderation: Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Feist, Passivhaus Institut Darmstadt - Germany Podium: All speakers and invited guests
16.30	Open discussion
16.45	Summary for day ONE – Chairperson & Rapporteur
17.00	Closing Speech: “Energy Efficiency – it’s the walk not the talk”
17.20	Opening Passive House exhibition – Organisers
17.30	Closing first conference day and time for visiting Passive House exhibition
20.00	<i>Evening Dinner</i>

#### Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2011 – Day Two

	Chairperson: Architect Andrea-Nicole Schmidt, Certified Passive House Designer - Malta Rapporteur: Perit Lucienne Ellul - Malta
9.00	Welcome speech: Ambassador Bernd Braun, German Embassy for Malta
9.10	Summary of day ONE – Chairperson & Rapporteur
9.20	Architect Micheel Wassouf, Barcelona - Spain “The way to the Passive House in Spain”
10.00	Ing. Alan Abela, Ingenuity Group - Malta “EPBD – the rating system for Malta – a comparative study”
10.20	Engineer Günther Lang, IG Passivhaus - Austria “Sustainability & Economy of a Passive House,- the way towards energy independence”
10.40	Open discussion
10.50	Coffee break
11.20	M.A. Architecture Jörn Werner, INBG - Germany “Passive Houses in South West Europe”
11.40	Günther Gantioler, TBZ Bozen - Italy “The Passive House evolution in Italy”
12.00	Prof. Robert Ghirlando, University of Malta & Dr. Mario Fsadni, Institute for Sustainable Energy - Malta “Traditional building features in a Passive House concept for Malta”
12.30	Open Discussion - “The Passive House in Malta – what future in the Building Industry?” Moderation: Perit Censu Galea, BICC Chairman - Malta Podium: All speakers and participants
13.00	Summary of Day TWO – Chairperson & Rapporteur
13.15	Conclusion & Closing Speech: Prof. Alex Torpiano, Dean, Faculty for the Built Environment, (UoM)
13.30	Closing of the Conference

### Organisers:

Prof. Alex Torpiano – Dean, Faculty for the Built Environment, University of Malta  
Dr. Vincent Buhagiar – Faculty for the Built Environment, University of Malta  
Architect Andrea-Nicole Schmidt – Certified Passive House Designer, Malta

### In Collaboration with:



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