Passivhaus Valplas Offices
Project Documentation - ID 4598


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First Passivhaus office building certified in Spain, with an area of 1,436 m² and three floors. The bioclimatic design was vital to get the values obtained in the PHPP. Due to the north orientation and the volume imposed by the conditions of the plot and the functional program, we have mainly worked on optimizing hollows, trying to find a balance between the contributions of natural light and reducing transmission losses. The location, attached to the south of the existing warehouse facade, cuts off the night cooling created by the natural cross ventilation. To reduce this demand, we have projected two interior courtyards that also intensify the contribution of natural light.

See also http://www.passivhausprojekte.de/index.php#d_4598 Project ID: 4598

Special features: Standard Passivhaus adapted to Mediterranean Climate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U-value of exterior wall</td>
<td>0,275 W/(m²K)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U-value basement ceiling</td>
<td>0,640 W/(m²K)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U-value of the roof</td>
<td>0,207 W/(m²K)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U-value window</td>
<td>1,35 W/(m²K)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heat recovery efficiency</td>
<td>87,0 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHPP Annual Heating Demand</td>
<td>13,37 kWh/(m²a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHPP Primary Engine demand</td>
<td>116 kWh/(m²a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pressure test n₅₀</td>
<td>0,33 h⁻¹</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1 Description of the construction task

Grupo Antolin Valplas

Some refurbishment work will be undertaken in the middle of the factory occupied by Grupo Antolín Valplas, and a new office building will be built on the northern front of the plot. The activity of Grupo Antolín Valplás is plastic injection.

The proposed new building consists of:

1. Construction of an office building replacing the current projection of the factory in the north with three floors (main floor + 2).

   - On the ground floor the building is divided into two areas. The first one is the Factory staff area, where the changing rooms and toilets are located. As well as doctor’s room and cures, a space for living and dining hall with direct access to an outdoor resting area in the east wing. And the second one is the Offices staff Area, which access is independent from factory staff. In this area the building has the reception, a meeting room and the quality control laboratory.

   - An open space office with some auxiliary rooms, archive room is located on the first floor, etc. On this floor, the building also has the training room on the west side

   - The second floor is very similar to the first one. There is an open space for office and several auxiliary department associated with office use.

2. Construction of a facilities building of rectangular shape, located in the northwest corner with two storeys high (main floor + 1).
2 Photographs of the elevation

North elevation of the Passivhaus building.
North elevation (parcial)

Patio
North elevation (parcial)
North and East elevation

North and West elevation of the Passivhaus building.
North elevation (parcial)
3 Exemplary photograph of the interior

Office staff hall and reception

Open office space
Staircase and courtyard in second floor

Courtyard in first floor over the changing room
4 Cross – Section

In the north and east facades, isolation has been done with rigid mineral wool panel of 100 mm thick with a thermal conductivity of 0.035 W / (mK). The entrance door canopy, the plinth and the courts have been finished with SATE (External Thermic Isolation System), placing a double "Rockwool" high density panel.

Isolation is continued in all facades and ensures the elimination of thermal bridges in the edges of the slab and in the junctions with the roof. The exterior finish was made with cement mortar, reinforcing fiberglass mesh, and three layers of flexible mineral stucco, waterproof, permeable to water vapour and resistant to impact.

The heating network has been solved by two systems: one through the air ducts (hot / cold) and the other a complementary Fan coils systems (hot / cold). The heat recovery unit is placed in the roof. It has a battery placed at the outflow impulsion air ducts that is used to generate hot or cold air according to demand.
Main Floor: Factory staff area with changing room and toilets, Doctor’s and cure room, Dining hall. Office staff area with Reception, meeting room and Quality and Control Laboratory.

First Floor: open space office, auxiliary rooms, meeting rooms, archive room. Training room (on the west side)

Second Floor: Open space for office and several auxiliary department associated with office use.
6 Construction including insulation of the floor slab

For avoiding thermal bridges in the basement ceiling structure, it is necessary to use extruded polystyrene insulation pieces 100 mm thin, with a exterior waterproofing layer and draining sheet of HDPE.

Wall and floor slab

| From the outside to the inside: Drainig sheet of HDPE, Waterproof layer, extruded polystyrene Styrodur insolation 100 mm, Waterproof mortar plaster 15 mm, Honeycomb clay bricks 190 mm, gypsum plaster 15 mm. | U-Value | 0.275 | W/(m²K) |
Construction including insulation of the exterior walls

The structure of the outer wall. The facade has been built by honeycomb clay block of 19 cm thick with a thermal conductivity of 0.28 W / (mK), it has been externally applied a layer of 15 mm waterproof mortar. In the north and east facades, isolation has been done with rigid mineral wool panel of 100 mm thick with a thermal conductivity of 0.035 W / (mK). The outside layer is an exterior corrugated steel sheet with an air chamber of 50 mm.

The entrance door canopy, the plinth and the opaque space between windows have been finished with SATE (External Thermic Isolation System), placing a double panel "Rockwool" high density of 110 mm thick with a thermal conductivity of 0.036 W / (mK). Isolation is continued in all facades and ensures the elimination of thermal bridges in the edges of the slab and in the junctions with the roof. The exterior finish was made with cement mortar, reinforcing fiberglass mesh, and three layers of flexible mineral stucco, waterproof to rainwater, water vapour permeable and resistant to impact.

Inside the closure it has been executed with plaster lining of 20mm thick, which ensures air tightness and water vapour permeability.

| From the outside to the inside: Exterior Corrugated steel sheet, air chamber 50 mm, Rigid mineral wool insolation panel 100 mm, Waterproof mortar plaster 15 mm, honeycomb clay bricks 190 mm, gypsum plaster 15 mm. | U-Value 0.275 W/(m²K) |
The roof consist of a slab of hollowcore plank and compression layer 20 + 5 cm thick, with fire resistance REI-120, lightweight concrete for the gradient, waterproofing layer of PVC and geotextile armed protection, thermal insulation, ref. Styrodur 3035 CS, consisting of double extruded polystyrene rigid boards 150 mm thick, smooth surface and half wood edge, with a thermal conductivity of 0.034 W / (m²K), and heavy protection with gravel. At the junctions of the facade with the roof, it was placed cellular glass insulation, ref. Foamglas. Perinsul, with a thermal conductivity of 0.058 W / (m²K), eliminating thermal bridges.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hollowcore plank and compression layer 200 + 50 mm, Lightweight concrete 50 mm, waterproofing layer, geotextile protection, Extruded Polystyrene thermal insulation of Styrodur 100 mm, geotextile and gravel 100 mm.</th>
<th>U-Value</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.207</td>
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</table>
It has been installed a high performance joinery, certified Passivhaus, ref. Alu Schüco Inside-82, with a thermal transmittance of 0.78 W / m2K. The glasses have a solar factor and an overall heat transmission coefficient which varies according to the orientation. The joinery has been placed in the same plane of the insulation to avoid interruption of thermal building envelope and thermal bridges. The joinery has been fixed with punctual galvanized steel angled anchored to the honeycomb clay
block. In the Inside face it has been placed an airtightness membrane with bioadhesive and a mesh for plaster, and in the outer face a membrane of water tightness, also with adhesive and mesh for plaster, vapour barrier and adhesive tape with butyl.

**Frame:** The outside joinery is chosen energy-efficient. The windows have a PVC frame Ref. Alu Schüco Inside-82 with $U_f = 0.78 \text{W/m}^2\text{K}$. All windows, even doors, are sealed preventing uncontrolled air infiltration.

**Type of glazing:** The choice of glass has been done with the study of values $^**G^*U$ that facilitate the manufacturers.

* The $U$ value is the thermal transmittance and is related to the amount of heat flowing through a constructive system. The lower this value further thermal insulation. To the north it is essential that this value is the lower the better. To the South, this value also ought to be low but it must be balanced with high solar factor $G$.

$**$ The solar factor $G$ is related to the protection of solar radiation. This means that the higher the solar factor $G$ is, more solar radiation capture and thus transmitted to the interior. To the north this value is irrelevant, however, to the south the higher this value, the better for heat gains from solar radiation winter.

**Glasses proposed north** are high performance defined for this location, with a very low value $^*U$

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frame</th>
<th>Type of glazing</th>
<th>G-Value</th>
<th>U-Value W/(m²K)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frame PVC SCHÜCO ALU INSIDE SI-82</td>
<td>SGG CLIMALIT PLANISTAR ONE triple insulating glass 6/16aire/5</td>
<td>0,38</td>
<td>1,35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SGG CLIMALIT PLANITHERM triple insulating glass ULTRA N 6/16argón/5</td>
<td>0,57</td>
<td>1,15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALUMINIUM SCHUCO AWS75 SI /ADS75 SI</td>
<td>SGG CLIMALIT PLANISTAR ONE triple insulating glass 4+4/16aire/3+3</td>
<td>0,36</td>
<td>1,35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CURTAIN WALL SCHUCO FW 50+ SI</td>
<td>SGG CLIMALIT COOL-LITE SKN 165 6/16aire/4+4</td>
<td>0,33</td>
<td>1,45</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Glasses proposed east:** are high performance defined for this location, with a very low value $^*U$

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frame</th>
<th>Type of glazing</th>
<th>G-Value</th>
<th>U-Value W/(m²K)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frame Schuco Alu Inside SI82</td>
<td>SGG CLIMALIT PLANISTAR ONE triple insulated glass 6/16aire/5</td>
<td>0,38</td>
<td>1,35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALUMINIUM SCHÜCO AWS75 SI /ADS75 SI</td>
<td>SGG CLIMALIT PLANISTAR ONE triple insulated glass 4+4/16aire/3+3</td>
<td>0,36</td>
<td>1,35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
10 Description of the airtight envelope; Documentation of the pressure test result

The air tightness of the building has been checked twice, the first one in work in progress phase and the second one with the finished building. A Blower door test was done before the installation of the insulation, consisting in the modification of the artificial shape of the pressure conditions of the building, creating a difference between the inside and the outside. With the help of a fan installed on the access door to the warehouse, the air was extracted in a controlled way, to generate a negative pressure of 50 Pascals. A smoke generator was used to detect possible air infiltration. The final test result was 0.33 renovations / hour.

To ensure very low energy demand, we must also control unwanted air infiltration, unusual among the concerns of many technicians but well known among users. We solve the unwanted infiltration placing an airtight barrier that is a polyethylene film that is also a vapour barrier regulator. Joints between any construction elements are reinforced with adhesive tape to ensure the continuity of the barrier airtight.
Roof tightness: The slab consists of precast concrete hollow core units and compression layer 20 + 5 cm in thickness and fire resistance REI-120. In all the junctions honeycomb clay bricks with slab, it has been placed airtightness membrane with bioadhesive and grid for plaster.

Tightness in outer wall: The facade has been executed with honeycomb clay bricks 19 cm thick (ceramic block of clay lightened with multiple cells and tongue and groove system which achieves a thermal conductivity of 0.28 W / (mK). The vertical joints have been sealed with cement mortar and the horizontal ones have been executed with two bands of mortar to hold the "tube" over the entire height of the facing. A 15 mm of waterproof mortar layer has been applied in the exterior. The inside of the wall was run with 20 mm of trim and plaster, which ensures air tightness and permeability to water vapour. In all the honeycomb clay bricks joints with slab, it has been placed an airtightness membrane with bioadhesive and a grid for plaster.

Tightness in windows: We have installed a high performance joinery, certified Passivhaus, ref. Schüco Inside Alu -82, with section profile of 82 mm and 8 cameras. The joinery is placed level with the plane of the insulation to avoid interruption of the thermal building envelope and to avoid thermal bridges. It is fixed with specific galvanized steel angled screwed onto the honeycomb clay bricks. Inside, it is placed a membrane airtightness with bioadhesive and a grid for plaster, and the outer membrane of water tightness, also with adhesive and grid for plaster, vapour barrier and adhesive tape with butyl, PVC profile to finish the exterior side.

Tightness ground floor: The ground floor has been executed with a 300 mm reinforced concrete floor over a drainage layer of gravel, a concrete cleaning and levelling base, 40 mm thermal insulation, ref. Styrodur 3035 CS, consisting of a rigid plate of extruded polystyrene high compressive strength, smooth surface.

By DIN 1045-2 rules, the concrete is airtight.

Pressure test measurement results from 21/01/2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Blower door test</th>
<th>50 Pa-Blower door</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date 21-01-2015</td>
<td>n_{50} h⁻¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0,33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
11 Ventilation ductwork planning

The ducts that are used in winter to drive warm air, in summer serve to drive cold air. The change from one to another is made by a battery pack placed at the outflow of the heat Recovery. When the supply of cold air through the duct is not enough, Fan coils installation starts working. In this case, the cold water comes from the cooling machine, provided by the three cooling towers (located in the facility building, and used by the warehouse).
12  Panning of ventilation, central unit information

The renovation was made considering the demands set by the regulations. It has been installed a single heat recovery, the aim is to heat the entire building in periods of moderate demand with this same air.

The heat recovery is of great flow caudal, Mod. Lufta maxk i3 7000DC PHI certified, which has been placed on the roof and exchange the air of the entire building.

In the project we can differentiate two zones according to the use:

• **Changing rooms** used for 30 minutes during shift changes (3 shifts), 1.5 hours per day, plus a dining hall that is used during one hour in each shift for a total of 3 hours a day;

• **The rest of the building**, whose supply air comes directly from the heat recovery unit.

Thus, as can be seen in the drawing, the supply air (in red), goes down through a vertical duct, from the roof to the ground floor; two horizontal branches distribute this air around all the rooms on second floor office, one of these branches continues to another air shaft where it is distributed vertically around the east side of the first and main floor. Other branch goes down from the main duct to the first and main floor in the west side.

Most of the office supply air (orange), passes through transfer to the changing and dining hall while a small part returns to recovery. After passing through this rooms, transfer air reaches the return lines (blue) to the heat recovery.

- **Ventilation system model:** Lufta maxk i3 7000DC
- **Effective heat recovery efficiency:** 87%
- **Electrical efficiency:** 0.43 Wh/m³

*The picture shows the heat recovery and the main ducts on the roof of the building.*
13 Heat Supply

The heating network has been solved by two facility systems: one through the air ducts (hot / cold) and the other a complementary Fan coils facility (hot / cold). The heat recovery unit is placed on the roof. It has a battery placed at the outflow impulsion air ducts that is used to generate hot or cold air according to demand.

The air (hot / cold) that flows through the ducts, get into the working spaces through the grids. When the contribution made by them is not enough, Fan coils system start working, heating the water for free. This is achieved because of the waste heat produced by the operation of the compressors (located in the facility building, and used by the warehouse), that is recovered by the heat exchanger placed at the compressor’s hot air outflow. This extra heat is the one that is used to heat for free the hot sanitary and the Fan coils water.
The PHPP is an easy to use planning tool for energy efficiency for the use of architects and planning experts. The reliability of the calculation results and ease of use of this planning tool has already been experienced by several thousand users.

Passivhaus VALPLAS OFFICE PHPP- Calculation: According to developed tests in the building, the data for heating demand is 13,37 kWh / (m²a) so that it gets the limit of 15kWh / (m²a). In terms of primary energy demand also it complies with the limit established according to the standard of 120 kWh / (m²a) having 116 kWh / (m²a).
Energy balance, heating demand (monthly method)

The biggest energy loss takes place through windows with the half of the total (20.5 kWh / (m²a)). Almost the same amount of losses arise through the walls, with a similar value between roof, floors and walls (5.1 -1.8 kWh / (m²a)). Moreover, a third of the necessary energy is provided by solar gains which balance losses through windows. All this added to the internal gains (almost the 40% - 15.2 kWh / (m²a)), give us a result of heating demand of 30% of the losses, 13.3 kWh / (m²a).

15 Total Construction and Building costs

The building has been built for a private Group in the years of economic crisis but with slight growing trend (2014/2015).

The Passivhaus VALPLAS Office has a total floor area of 1.436,43 m² and 1.248,65 m² floor space. With a total construction cost of 1.186.289,63 €, the price per square meter of the building ended up being de 825,86 € / m².
16 Information about the architectural design

First Passivhaus office building certified in Spain, with an area of 1,436 m² and three floors. The bioclimatic design was vital to get the values obtained in the PHPP. Due to the north orientation and the volume imposed by the conditions of the plot and the functional program. We have mainly worked on optimizing hollows, trying to find a balance between the contributions of natural light and reducing transmission losses. Its location, attached to the south of the existing warehouse facade, cuts off the night cooling created by the natural cross ventilation. To reduce this demand, we have projected two interior courtyards that also intensify the contribution of natural light.

The office building is a longitudinal prism 8.5 m wide by 59.5 m long and 3 stories high. It has a 3 heights patio in front of the access and another one of 2 heights, over the dressing room area that is located in the main floor. These courtyards bring light to different meeting rooms.

The building has two distinct areas on the ground floor: Reception of the factory and office area, and the service area of the factory staff. The remaining surface on the upper floors is completed by office use.