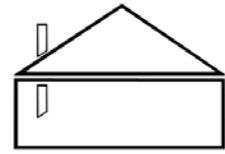


Newsletter #5 September 2011



**SCANDINAVIAN
HOMES LTD**

Passive house built in 1860!

Flaherty and Goaley's team of expert builders from Galway joined us in Sweden for the summer to renovate our old merchant building in the coastal town of Lysekil. We have brought the exterior appearance back to 1860 and added external insulation to both walls and roof.



Irish passive house specialists in Sweden

We could not access the ground floor to add extra insulation, so our heat-losses might be so large that we miss the passive target of $<10W/m^2$ peak-heat. The new windows are super-insulated NorDan windows. They are completely traditional in look, feel and material-usage, no PVC or aluminium used.



Flag-pole initiated

After two months of very enjoyable renovation work we can now see how successful the transformation back to 1860 is. Everybody we have talked to in the street are overwhelmingly happy to see the qualities of the local traditional being reborn. This did take some effort and research. Old shapes and dimensions of timber were used.



Timber panel in perfect condition after 150 years. Only linseed oil paint

Most important, while working, we pre-treat all timber with deep-penetrating organic raw linseed-oil from Allbäck paint. After that the entire house was painted with natural linseed oil paint. No pressure-treated timber, no artificial paints, only well-proven traditional methods and materials. The original wooden panel on the north side of the house withstood the test of time well. Behind 15 layers of old linseed-oil paint, the timber-panel was as good as new after 150 years.



Organic coldpressed linseed oil



External upgrade insulation light-beams where 170mm of Rockwool is installed

Please, somebody! Let us build a large traditional house to passive specification in Ireland.

We want to build a passive house with completely traditional shape and appearance in Ireland. Most Irish houses older than 100 years are well balanced, with a tasteful fenestration (shape, size and location of the windows) and possess good shapes for passive design.



Traditional Irish house, good passive-house design for new-build with Scandinavian Homes traditional rendered facade.

After 20 years of building in Ireland we have never got a request to build this type of traditional building. Why? Do people associate the traditional buildings that make up the center of most towns and villages with cold and damp? Or is it the planners and architects that push for “modern” ideas? In any case, it is a tragedy, considering the low quality constructions that have been built in this country in the sixties, seventies, eighties, nineties and up to this day, and it still goes on! Houses that cannot be heated. People use only a small part of the house. They are too large, too complex and too poorly insulated.

A few weeks ago I had an enquiry for a new house. The customer already had plans made up by an architect. The lady did not want passive performance, but she wanted it “very well insulated” How can anybody nowadays not want passive performance? The budget was restricted to a modest but normal sum. She told me that the house was of a simple good shape and of single storey so it should easily be built to high standards. Then I received the drawings.....

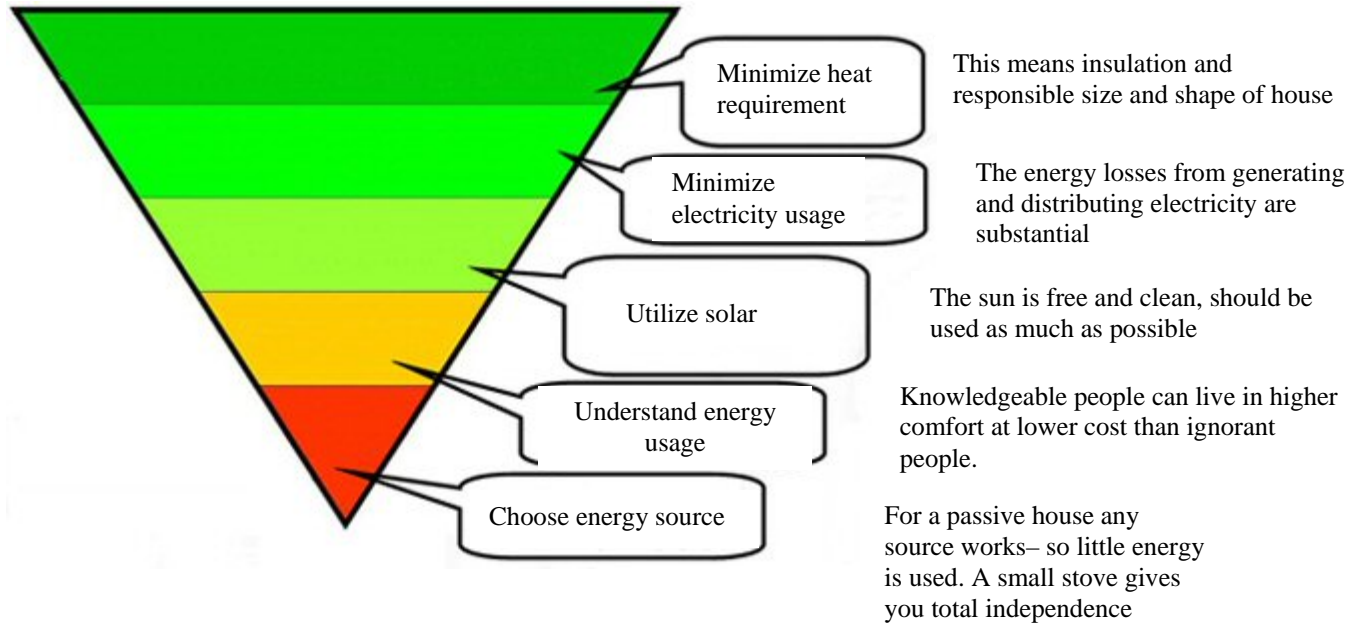
There were 17(!) roof windows, two chimneys, three external doors, two large sliding door sections, split level, a few rooms in the attic and many ins and outs. Very expensive to build to a reasonable standard, almost impossible to build to an even modest energy performance standard. In short, extremely uneconomical and unecological. Created by an established architect. Seventeen triple glazed roof windows cost around €25.000 just to buy! Then add around €5.000 to install them and add the cost for the massive heat-losses through roof-windows for ever and ever.....

The traditional Irish two-storey house is more or less ideal for passive performance. With classical windows and an elegant entrance, the house can become very attractive. This also requires staying away from short lived artificial materials for soffits and guttering. The approach can be pretty much identical to our Swedish house from 1860 but in an Irish context.

Passive Development Ltd is offering a special low-cost deal to Scandinavian Homes customers for a PHPP calculation for their Scandinavian Homes Ltd - house or - design.



The energy pyramid clearly shows the recommended sequence for how to reduce the energy usage for new buildings.



On September 9th to 11th you can hear Lars Pettersson speak at the Sustainability Seminar at SelfBuild Ireland show at the Citywest Convention Center in Dublin



New passive house Celbridge

A modern two storey house called Kattegatt 182 is being built in Celbridge this week. The owners plan to certify the house with PassiveHaus Institute in Darmstadt with the assistance of our architect Peter Lohr.

Picture shows passive foundation and scaffolding ready for the Scandinavian Homes erection team on Tuesday morning at 07.00

All the best for now,
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