

**Architect Martin Treberspurg of Treberspurg & Partner Architekten ZT GmbH:
On the architecture of the Austria House, the first Passive House for the 21nd Olympic
Winter Games 2010 in Canada**

Austria House stands as a testimonial to the world, that Passive House building technology is a real and feasible solution to our energy problem. These 2010 Olympic Winter Games, labeled as Green Olympic Games, is an ideal platform to showcase this solution, through this first Passive House to be built in Canada.

The 2700 square foot house was constructed with ecologically sustainable materials, according to the latest standards of passive house and passive window technology. After the Games it will be handed over to Whistler and become the home of the Whistler Nordic Ski club and WORCA (Whistler Outdoor Recreational Cycling Association).

Building contractor: Austrian Passive House Group (APG)

Austria House is a traditional hub of activity at Olympic Winter Games, for athletes, dignitaries, VIPs, media and fans meet and greet. As such it has always been a showcase for Austrian quality, know how and hospitality. Building contractor of the Austria House is the Austrian Passive House Group (APG) which consists of the five Austrian companies Sohm Holzbautechnik, Drexel und Weiss, Optiwin, DI Erich Reiner and zweiraum Werbeagentur. The Austria House is where the Austrian Olympic committee (ÖOC) is headquartered during the games, and where the Austrian public broadcaster (ORF) will produce daily radio and TV programs.

Austria House was designed by Treberspurg & Partner, Architects, with the cooperation of Christoph Treberspurg. The inspiration for the design of Austria House comes from the traditional buildings of Austria's alpine regions. It is a compact South facing structure, covered with a gable roof. Its monolithic appearance is amplified by energy efficient black cement fiber shingles (Eternit) on its roof, and panels on the exterior walls.

The body of the house is constructed without any glues, using solid double diagonally dowelled fir structures from Sohm Holzbautechnik GmbH (APG), who is also the general contractor for the whole project.

Flexible homogeneity

On the main floor, a spiral structure doubles as a bar and a partition between the stairwell and the rest of the floor. On the upper floor, it highlights the flexible homogeneity of the house, and potential modular use of its space.

The catering area and bar on the ground floor, looks out to the south exposed patio. From it you notice the fluidity of the house, along the expansive seamless, triple pane window wall, mirrored by the identically twinned inside and outside staircases, leading to the top floor.

There you are immediately taken by the striking unobstructed views of the mountains, through the certified passive house windows, manufactured by Optiwin, Tirol, Austria (APG). These are wood/aluminum framed (Alu2Holz), triple pane thermal insulated and argon filled. Their casements and frame insulation consists solely of sustainable wood and cork.

All through the house the temperature is maintained at a steady level and the air is continually renewed through the heat recovery and ventilation system supplied by drexel und weiss (APG), passive house pioneers from Vorarlberg, Austria.

At the top of the stairwell, is the studio for the Austrian Public broadcaster, from which it will produce and broadcast its daily programs to Austria.

Austria House 2010 – fact sheet

Address 7390 Fitzsimmons Road South,
Whistler, British Columbia, V0N 1B7, Canada

Building Contractor

Austrian Passive House Group (APG), that is Sohm Holzbautechnik, drexel und weiss, Optiwin Fensterbau, DI Erich Reiner and zweiraum Werbeagentur.
Coordination DI Erich Reiner

Architect

Treberspurg & Partner Architects ZT GmbH, Vienna, Austria
www.treberspurg.at
Mag. Arch. Christoph Treberspurg

Construction

Solid diagonally dowelled wood structures
Sohm Holzbautechnik, Alberschwende/Austria
www.sohm-holzbau.at

Exterior wall

Eternit (www.eternit.at)
32 cm ISOVER passive house insulation material (www.isover.com)
layered wood panels,
10 cm solid double diagonally dowelled wood

Roof

Eternit
44 cm ISOVER passive house insulation material
layered wood panels,
10 cm solid double diagonally dowelled wood

Flooring

Mendiger Basalt (www.mendiger-basalt.de)

Ferro concrete

EPS-insulation Isoquick (www.isoquick.de)

Heat recovery and ventilation system

drexel und weiss (www.drexel-weiss.at)

General Contractor, Austria

Sohm Holzbautechnik, Alberschwende/Austria

www.sohm-holzbau.at

General Contractor, Canada

Durfeld Log Construction

www.durfeldlogconstruction.com

Project Coordination, Austria

Erich Reiner

www.reiner.at

Marketing, Austria

Markus Regensburger

Zweiraum Werbeagentur

www.austrian-passivehouse.com

www.oesterreichhaus.at

Project Coordination/Marketing, Canada

sea to sky consulting inc.

www.stscon.com

Timeline

Start of planning **January 2009**

Start of construction **July 2009**

Completion **December 2009**

Total project cost **1.3 Million Euro**

Photography

Ira Nicolai

www.iranicolai.com