



Assessing the Performance of Passive Houses in Mediterranean Climate Regions

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Message from the Guest Editor

Since the birth of the *Passivhaus* standard in the early 1990s, many authors have reported on the very low energy consumption and excellent indoor environmental conditions achieved during the operation of these passive dwellings. Despite the fact that the design suggestions were initially thought to satisfy the needs of cold climates, the standard proved to be flexible in its application, and guidelines have been released for the design of buildings located in warm and humid climates as well. However, the implementation of such measures has sometimes not proved to be adequate to guarantee the achievement of the standard design goals.

This Special Issue aims to explore how and to what extent the implementation of both passive strategies (such as the application of reflective coatings, shading devices, heat storage technologies) and active strategies (hybrid ventilation, absorption and ground source heat pumps, other low-energy systems) can help solving the cooling issues typical in Mediterranean climates, including not only countries facing the Mediterranean Sea but also areas such as coastal California, central Chile, south-western coast of Australia and some parts of New Zealand.





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