

## **Innovative Insulation**



eco buildings

# Guideline

## 1 Introduction

#### 01 Why to use this technology

Impact of the building envelope

The building envelope has to perform various tasks. It serves to protect the interior against the exterior. This includes weather protection from wind, rain, irradiation, heat and cold, visibility and glare protection, fire protection, noise protection and protection against burglary. At the same time, the building envelope must provide ideal interior conditions like thermal, acoustic, and visual comfort along with comfortable humidity conditions, while also ensuring low energy consumption rates. The ratio of the non-fenestrated areas of the building surface (walls, roofs, baseplate or cellar ceiling, etc.) is of course dependent on the architectural design and the type of building but can be as high as 90 %. Therefore the transmission losses through opaque areas can be about 80 % of all transmission losses inspite of the glazed areas having much higher U-values. Additionally the opague areas can balance these losses with only minimal solar gains.

#### Lower energy consumption, lower loads, better comfort

A retrofit of a building including the thermal performance of the opaque surfaces (and the windows) can influence the energy demand of a building in two ways: lower energy consumption and lower heating and cooling loads. So this retrofit measure saves energy, operational costs and investment costs (e.g. a new heating system with a lower peak load). In addition to the energy saving, a retrofitted opaque envelope provides other big advantages: higher thermal comfort because of warmer temperatures on the interior surfaces in winter and lower temperatures in summer. This should provide a lower risk of mould on the internal surfaces.

#### Inside or outside?

Technically, the best way to insulate a building component is on the outside as this reduces problems with thermal bridges and does not lessen the usable floor area. However, with some buildings (like listed buildings) it may not be possible to use external insulation, therefore internal insulation is used. For both solutions a higher thickness of the insulation material results in better U-values. This may cause problems like reduction of usable floor area, exceeding the dimensions of the building plot or poor aesthetics.



Figure 01: Multi-functionality of the building envelope.

In order to reduce the insulation thickness some manufacturers have developed insulation materials that have lower thermal conductivities than the standard materials. Other innovations include the use of vacuum and solar energy.

# 02 Requirements in regulations

<u>EPBD</u> The new Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) demands that the Member States set up requirements for the retrofit of existing buildings with a total usable floor area higher than 1000 m<sup>2</sup> and if the planned retrofit affects more than 25 % of the building surface or costs more than 25 % of the building value. The requirements are defined by the different countries but have to be based on an energy performance requirements and may be fixed either to the whole building performance or to the building elements that will be renovated. The required energy performance certificate in case of selling or leasing the building and for any public building will also encourage the energy efficient refurbishment of buildings because of market competition.

#### National requirements

Additionally there can be national requirements for U-values based on the prevention of mould on building surface components, e.g. for Germany in DIN 4108-2. These requirements should not be used to define the U-values of retrofitted building components as they are too weak and do not represent current practice, however they must never be disregarded. If the decision to retrofit one or more components of the building envelope is made, it is in most cases economical to achieve current practice or more. A calculation of the ratio between investment costs and the energy cost savings within a defined time frame can be used to find out what is the most economic solution.

In the case of Germany the Energieeinsparverordnung of 2002 defines the maximum U-values of new opaque building components and their replacement or renewal in existing buildings with a heating temperature of 19 °C or more as follows. For each European region (Central, North, South and East) the requirements are given for a representative country:

Table 02: Maximum U-Values of retrofitted opaque building components in different countries.

Component	Definition	Maximum U-value
		[ W/m²K ]
Exterior well	generally, internal in- sulation	0.45
	overcladding in form of slabs	0.35
Ceilings, roofs, pitched roof areas	steep roofs	0.30
Roofs	flat roofs	0.25
Ceilings and walls	external insulation	0.40
towards unheated rooms or ground	s unheated	
External wall	generally, internal in- sulation or in between inner and outer wall	0.40
Ceilings, roofs, pitched roof areas	roof construction	0.25
Floors with floor heating	against heated rooms	0.70
Slab on ground floor, cellar ceiling		0.30
Exterior wall - Milan: zone E - Rome: zone D - Palermo: zone B	generally in between inner and outer wall, external *	E: 0.46 D: 0.50 B: 0.64
Ceilings, roofs, pitched roof areas - Milan: zone E - Rome: zone D - Palermo: zone B	roof constructions *	E: 0.43 D: 0.46 B: 0.60
Floors towards unheated rooms or ground - Milan: zone E - Rome: zone D - Palermo: zone B	floor constructions *	E: 0.43 D: 0.46 B: 0.60
There are currently no requirements on U-values for opa- que building components in building retrofits in the Czech Republic. If a building retrofit involves public funding or the total energy consumption of a building is higher than 700 GJ/year the building has to comply with the require- ments of the decree 291/2001 Sb. The decree 291/2001 Sb. "Efficiency of energy use in buildings" sets the require- ments on the specific energy consumption (kWh/m³a) with regard to the surface/volume ratio of a building.		
	Exterior wall Ceilings, roofs, pitched roof areas Roofs Ceilings and walls towards unheated rooms or ground External wall Ceilings, roofs, pitched roof areas Floors with floor heating Slab on ground floor, cellar ceiling Exterior wall - Milan: zone E - Rome: zone D - Palermo: zone B Ceilings, roofs, pitched roof areas - Milan: zone E - Rome: zone D - Palermo: zone B Floors towards unheated rooms or ground - Milan: zone E - Rome: zone D - Palermo: zone B Floors towards unheated rooms or ground - Milan: zone E - Rome: zone D - Palermo: zone B There are currently r que building compor Republic. If a buildir total energy consum 700 GJ/year the buil ments of the decree Sb. "Efficiency of en ments on the specific regard to the surface	ComponentDefinitionExterior wallgenerally, internal insulation overcladding in form of slabsCeilings, roofs, pitched roof areassteep roofsRoofsflat roofsCeilings and walls towards unheated rooms or groundexternal insulationExternal wallgenerally, internal in- sulation or in between inner and outer wallCeilings, roofs, pitched roof areasgenerally, internal in- sulation or in between inner and outer wallCeilings, roofs, pitched roof areasroof constructionFloors with floor heatingagainst heated roomsSlab on ground floor, cellar ceilingfloor constructionSlab on ground floor, cellar ceilingfloor constructionExterior wall - Palermo: zone Bgenerally in between inner and outer wall, external *Ceilings, roofs, pitched roof areasroof constructions- Nilan: zone E - Rome: zone D - Palermo: zone Broof constructions *Floors towards unheated rooms or groundfloor constructions *Palermo: zone Bfloor constructions *Floors towards unheated rooms or groundfloor constructions *Palermo: zone Bfloor constructions *There are currently no requirements on U-valu que building components in building retrofits in Republic. If a building retrofit involves public fi total energy consumption of a building is highe 700 GJ/year the building has to comply with th ments of the decree 291/2001 Sb. The decree Sb. "Efficiency of energy use in buildings" sets ments on the specific energy consumption (kW

## 2 Current practice

The current practice for the energy-efficient retrofit of non-transparent building components differs from country to country dependent on the climate and other influences including politics. The materials used include cork, coco, wood-fibre boards, cellulose, foam glass, mineral wool, fibreglass, extruded polystyrene, expanded polystyrene, polyurethane boards, perlite. The most often used materials are wood-fibre boards ( $\lambda$ = 0.045 W/mK), mineral wool ( $\lambda$ = 0.035-0.040 W/mK) and expanded polystyrene ( $\lambda$ = 0.035-0.040 W/mK). These materials offer retrofit solutions for most situations and with the lowest investment costs.

The following table gives an overview of which U-values and what kind of insulation material is currently mostly used in the different regions that participate in the project BRITA in PuBs:

Table 2: Current	practice for ret	rofitted buildings	in	different countries
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Coun- try	Component	Retrofit measure	Appr. U-value for the to- tal con- struction [ W/m <sup>2</sup> K ]	
()	Exterior wall	~ 8 cm composite thermal insulation (mineral wool or polystyrene insulation ( $\lambda$ = 0.04 W/mK) with plaster)	0.35	
		gypsum board, moisture barrier, ~ 6 cm internal insu- lation (polystyrene)	0.45	
Pitched roofs O U U U U U U U U U U U U U U U U U U		~ 12 cm of mineral wool or polystyrene ( $\lambda$ = 0.04 W/mK) between the rafters	0.30	
		~ 8 cm of polyurethane ( $\lambda$ = 0.024 W/mK) on top of the concrete slab, sealing	0.25	
	Ceilings and walls towards unheated rooms or ground	~ 4 cm of mineral wool or polystyrene( $\lambda$ = 0.04 W/mK) if on inner side with moisture barrier or ~ 5 cm of wood-fibre boards	0.40/0.50	
x C	External wall	~ 20 cm insulation*	0.20	
Denmark (North)	Floor	~ 20 cm insulation*	0.12	
De N	Roof	~ 25 cm insulation*	0.15	
ly tth)	External wall	~ 10 cm insulation between inner and outer wall**	0.45	
Italy (South)	Floor	~ 6 cm insulation**	0.50	
	Roof	~ 6 cm insulation**	0.50	
0	External wall	~ 10 cm of polystyrene**	0.30	
Czech Republic (East)	Floor above un- heated space or ground	~ 5 cm of polystyrene	0.60	
Czech (E	Pitched roof	~ 12-15 cm of mineral wool between the rafters	0.30	
	Flat roof	~ 10 cm of polystyrene	0.25	
* for Denmark is mentioned a construction fulfilling the new rules in				

\* for Denmark is mentioned a construction fulfilling the new rules in building regulation from April 2006 when retrofitting

\*\* for Italy the current practice is mentioned for the region Rome (zone D)

## 3 Innovative solutions

Within the last few years, besides using a higher thickness of insulation material, a trend towards incorporating high efficient insulation materials, has developed. In the following section some examples are presented, along with some insights. In order to reduce the insulation thickness some manufacturers have developed insulation materials that have lower thermal conductivities than the standard materials. Other innovations include the use of vacuum and solar energy.

31 Higher thickness of insulation material in order to achieve a lower U-value

Using higher thicknesses of the insulation material and/or using the same type of insulation material but with a lower thermal conductivity (e.g. mineral wool with  $\lambda$ =0.030 W/mK instead of 0.040 W/mK) is often used for improving the thermal quality of the building envelope. In the case of more complex component structures like, for example a roof built with rafters this can result in adding an additional insulation layer below or above the rafters.

Pilot projects like the IEA Task 13 case study "Ultrahaus Rottweil" (1995) [1] have proven that external insulation of up to 40 cm thickness (U-value of wall: 0.11 W/m<sup>2</sup>K) can be glued to the outside wall without using anchors that would lead to thermal bridges. After now 12 years of use, the insulation material covered with a plaster layer is still in optimum condition.

Generally, the higher thicknesses of wall insulation range between 15 and 30 cm of insulation (depending on the countries' current practice). In the case that anchor constructions are necessary this can lead to difficulties as the anchor systems are sometimes only available up to a certain length.

The so-called passive or 3-litre-houses usually include thermal insulation to the roof of 30 cm and to the external wall of 20 cm or more.



Figure 31: Photo of the 40 cm insulation material (mineral wool) at the "Ultrahaus" in Rottweil, Germany.

#### 32 Lower thermal conductivity: Examples graphite embedded EPS and PUR (polyurethane)

To reduce the transmission losses of expanded polystyrene materials (EPS), a solution was developed which embedded graphite material in the pores, which results in a reduction of the radiant heat transfer within the material. Applying this technology, it is possible to reduce the conductivity of the material by about 20 %, as shown in Figure 32. The thermal conductivity of insulation material is influenced by the skeleton structure of the foam; the lighter the foam, the higher is the thermal conductivity (because of the higher air-gap ratio). Graphite embedded in EPS achieves an insulation performance comparable to a very low-density material. Compared to conventional EPS, less than half of the raw material is needed to achieve the same resulting insulation effect. (www.basf.de)



Figure 32: Comparison of the thermal conductivity of standard EPS and graphite embedded material (Neopor). (<u>www.basf.de</u>)

Since about 5 years a high-performance polyurethane system for the external insulation of walls is available on the market. The thermal conductivity of the product (0,024 - 0,030 W/mK) allows to reduce the construction thickness with at the same time low U-values. (www.ivpu.de)

#### 33 High performance plaster systems

The plaster industry developed different technologies to improve the behaviour of plaster layers in highperformance houses. One strategy is the integration of glass bubbles into the structure. This application is known from the development of transparent insulation, but the advantages of the transparent plaster alone on high-efficiency brick constructions were never studied. Figure 33a shows the general application on bricks. Because of the glass bubbles, the absorption of the sun and the convective heat transfer to the outside air are not longer on the same layer. By that less convective heat losses occur. This helps to increase the useful gains from direct, but also from diffuse radiation. The measured energy balance of the wall systems with a glass bubble layer records 15 to 25 % lower energy losses compared to a conventional plaster system. (www.sto.de)



Figure 33a: Application of glass-bubble plaster compared to conventional plaster on brick.

Another development in the field of external plaster systems combines IR-coatings and the lotus effect. A paint manufacturer developed a product with a similar surface as the lotus plant. Therefore the paint protects the plaster better against rainwater absorption, thus keeping the conductivity at lower levels throughout the year. The IRactive pigments contained in the paint help to reduce the radiant heat exchange. Both effects reduced the transmission losses of exterior wall systems, in combination with a highly absorptive colour applied onto the south surface. The IR-coating also leads to higher surface temperatures, thus significantly reducing the risk of microorganisms contaminating outside surfaces of high performance buildings, a problem that was caused by better insulation. Figure 33b gives an impression of this development; the physical effects are not visible in the structure of the plaster itself. The plaster system is offered in a wide range of colours. (www.sto.de)



Figure 33b: Application of an IR-coated plaster system with lotus effects.

An interior plaster development is concentrating on the integration of phase change materials (PCM) into the structure. Here, micro-encapsulated wax droplets are integrated into the plaster. By this method, some extra thermal capacity is added to the plaster, to perform better on temperature peaks. This increases the passive solar gains in winter and decreases the risk of overheating in summer. The development is in an early stage; therefore, only laboratory tests exist. Experiences in the 70s at MIT gave a very small effect on the reduction of temperature peaks.

(www.ise.fhg.de/english/press/pi\_2001/pi05\_2001.html)



Figure 33c: Principle scheme of micro-encapsulated PCM in plasters. (<u>www.basf.de</u>)

#### 34 Vacuum insulation systems

A new application of vacuum evacuated building elements is being developed by the insulation industry. The thermal conductivity of this material is reduced by more than factor 10 compared to conventional materials. This leads to much slimmer constructions of high-performance houses. The evacuated silica gel material is covered by a high-performance aluminium foil. The gas pressure in the construction is approx. 1 mbar, the leakage rate is predicted to be below 2 mbar per year. To make the units applicable to construction conditions, the elements are glued into a polystyrene cover. Thus, the material is protected from any sharp edges during transportation or mounting. Other disadvantages are that the construction boards are manufactured in certain sizes and that no site forming is possible. Also there is the price, which can be more than 10 times as high as conventional materials. Within the framework of IEA Annex 39, the quality of vacuum insulation products (VIP) and possible applications are investigated.



Figure 34: Vacuum insulation material panel compared to mineral wool panel of the same thermal resistance. (<u>www.vip-bau.ch</u>)

#### 35 Light wedges

As a result of increasing insulation thicknesses, several manufacturers have developed special solutions for the wall/window joint to prevent the so-called arrow-slit architecture and to increase the amount of daylight coming in through the windows. "Light wedges", that are expanding towards the external surface of the insulation system, allow for a higher yield of daylight. (www.marmorit.de)



Figure 35: Light wedges in insulation systems allow a better use of daylight. (<u>www.mamorit.de</u>)

### 36 Transparent insulation material

Transparent insulation improves the thermal performance of the exterior wall not only by reducing the transmission losses but also by enabling solar gains. Figure 36 shows the functional principle of transparent insulation in comparison with opaque insulation. The solar radiation on the wall is transmitted through the insulation material and absorbed at the dark coloured exterior surface of the inner shell of the wall and converted to heat. The insulation material in front ensures that a large part of the gained heat is transfered to the inner shell of the wall. Depending on the amount of solar radiation and the external temperature the transmission loss is reduced or the heat transfer is reversed. In the latter case the transparent insulation acts as heating system. The inner shell works as a storage system and controls the time delay of the heat transfer from outside to inside (depending on its thermal capacity).



Figure 36: Functional principle of transparent insulation material in comparison to conventional (opaque) insulation material.

#### 37 Solar walls

Air collectors use solar energy to preheat air on an absorber plate behind a glazed cover. The preheated air is then used as supply air in either a mechanical ventilation system or a hybrid ventilation system. In some cases the solar collectors contain water as medium (regular solar thermal collector) and the heat is transferred to the air via a heat exchanger. The simplest and (in most cases also) the most economic way to use solar energy for preheating the air is to use so-called solar walls. They can contribute to (or even completely take over) the preheating of the supply air as long as the sun is shining. Therefore, solar walls are used mostly in cold but sunny areas. Additionally, they lead to lower transmission losses as the air facing the outside of the regular wall is warmer and the still occuring transmission losses are mostly fed back into the building via the preheated air.

Figure 37 presents the functional scheme of the solar wall system which works without an expensive glazed collector by using a perforated dark metal sheet as absorber plate. However, care should be taken during the design phase in order to prevent overheating in the summer phase. Solar walls are mostly applied at factories with high air-change rates. Solar walls were investigated in IEA SHC Task 19 "Solar Air Systems" [3]. (www.solarwall.com)



Figure 37: Functional principle of a solar wall.

## 4 Advantages/Disadvantages

Table 4: Advantages and disadvantages of the different insulation systems

Innovative system	Advantages	Disadvantages
Higher insulation	<ul> <li>proven solution</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>can lead to arrow-slit</li> </ul>
thicknesses	- small extra costs	appearance of the wall
Graphite em-	- smaller insulation	-
bedded EPS	thickness	
High performance	- use of solar en-	- high investment costs
plaster systems	ergy	
Vacuum insula-	- small insulation	<ul> <li>size pre-defined, no</li> </ul>
tion systems	thickness	modification at building
		site possible
		<ul> <li>very high investment</li> </ul>
		costs
		<ul> <li>small leakage rates,</li> </ul>
		therefore increasing U-
		value after some years
		<ul> <li>if VIPs are punctured</li> </ul>
		during application or use
		the thermal resistance
		decreases significantly
Light wedges	<ul> <li>use of daylight</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>slightly higher invest-</li> </ul>
	- improved aes-	ment costs
	thetics	
Transparent insu-	- use of solar en-	- in most regions shading
laton material	ergy	devices are necessary
	<ul> <li>higher comfort</li> </ul>	for summer
	through warmer	<ul> <li>high investment costs</li> </ul>
	inner surfaces	- needs approval by the
		fire department
		- gains can only be used
		in suitable building types
		(evening use)
		- production is very lim-
		ited (in Germany)
Solar walls	- use of solar en-	<ul> <li>passive systems are</li> </ul>
	ergy	difficult to control
		<ul> <li>active systems may</li> </ul>
		have high investment
		costs if additional costs
		for the mechanical venti-
		lation system occur

#### 5 Costs

#### 51 Investment costs

Table 51: Investment costs for Germany, representative for the region  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{Central}}$ 

	Additional gross investment costs [€/m <sup>2</sup> ]			
Innovative	Related to component area		Related to usable building floor area	
system				
	Range	Average	Range	Average
Higher insu- lation thick- nesses*	5-40	15	1.4-11.5	4.2
Graphite embedded EPS**	3-10	5	0.8-2.9	1.4
High per- formance plaster sys- tems**	60-80	70	18-23	20
Vacuum in- sulation systems**	-	105 (wall ap- plication)	-	29
Light wedges		2		0.7
Transparent insulaton material**	66-701	297	5-143	42
Solar walls	200-400	300	4-8	6

compared to thickness according to requirements

\*\* compared to conventional insulation material of same thickness

Table 52: Energy saving potential for Germany, representative for the region Central

	energy saving potential [kWh/m <sup>2</sup> a]				
Innovative	related to component area		related to usable build-		
system			ing floor area		
	Range	average	range	average	
Higher insu- lation thick- nesses*	4.9-35	9	1.4-10	2.6	
Graphite embedded EPS**	1.6-3.2	2.3	0.4-0.9	0.6	
High per- formance plaster sys- tems**	3-10	5	0.9-2.8	1.6	
Vacuum in- sulation sys- tems**	-	26	-	7.3	
Light wedges***	-	-	0.2-0.4	0.3	
Transparent insulaton material**	13-71	41	1-21	6	
Solar walls****	120 –200 o thickness ac	160	7-12	10	

compared to thickness according to requirements

\*\* compared to conventional insulation material of same thickness

\*\*\* electrical lighting savings

\*\*\*\* used as preheating of a ventilation system

#### 53 Additional costs

Based on experiences made at several projects with advanced technologies many construction companies ask for higher prices than necessary for technologies that differ from their standard work. Therefore it might make sense to search for companies that have experiences with the technology or ask for several offers.

The solar wall system might cause additional costs if the gains shall be used in a controlled way, supported by fans. The costs occur if the necessary mechanical ventilation system has not existed before the retrofit.

#### 54 Cost-benefit analysis

The following table gives the possibility to compare the costs for the saved/gained energy with the actual energy costs. The values were obtained by dividing the investment costs by the energy saving potentials over the period of 20 years.

Table 54: Costs for the saved energy over a period of 20 years for Germany, representative for the region Central

Innovative system	Average costs for the saved energy in 20 years [ €/kWh ]
Higher insulation thickness*	0.08
Graphite embedded EPS**	0,12
High performance plaster systems**	0.63
Vacuum insulation systems**	0.20
Light wedges***	0.12
Transparent insulation material**	0.35
Solar walls****	0.03

compared to thickness according to requirements

compared to conventional insulation material of same thickness
 electrical lighting savings

\*\*\*\* used as preheating of a ventilation system, calculated without extra costs for mechanical ventilation systems Most of the costs and energy savings were taken from the book "Solare Fassadensysteme. Energetische Effizienz-Kosten-Wirtschaftlichkeit" [4].

### 6 Maintenance and service

For most of the technologies as well as for standard solutions care must be taken at the joints etc. in order to prevent thermal bridges, which can not only result in energy losses but also in problems with moisture and mould. The listed technologies do not need special maintenance.

It should be mentioned that the filters etc. of the ventilation system connected with the solar walls have to be cleaned in regular periods.

If vacuum insulation (VIP) is applied the users and eventually the craftsmen working in the building have to be informed that the specific wall or floor area must not be destroyed by drills, nails, etc. If the VIP is accidentally punctured during the application or use, the thermal conductivity of the core will go up to about 0.02 W/mK. This is still the half of standard insulation material, however the vacuum insulation panels have a thickness of about 2 cm plus the twotimes 1 cm polystyrene cover only. Thus the resulting thermal resistance will end up being similar to about 8 to 10 cm of commonly used insulation.

## 7 Best practice examples

The following built examples show the application of some of the aforementioned innovative insulation systems and materials in practice.

71 Use of higher insulation thickness at the BRITA in PuBs demonstration building Proevehallen in Copenhagen, Denmark



Figure 71: Photo of the cultural centre Proevehallen in Copenhagen (left), and the system chosen for the application at the external wall (right, (<u>www.rockwool.dk</u>)).

At the Danish demonstration building of BRITA in PuBs, the Proevehallen cultural centre, the external wall was insulated with a layer significantly higher in thickness than used in the current national practice and stipulated in the national requirements. The applied 20 cm of mineral wool (0.038 W/mK thermal conductivity) plus the cover plaster resulted in a post-retrofit U-value of 0.18 W/m<sup>2</sup>K. The required U-value according to Danish regulations is 0.40 W/m<sup>2</sup>K (see table 02). The system is well proven and documented by the manufacturer. No difficulties were met during the installation of the insulation and the following plastering of the walls.



Figure 72: Photos of the retrofitted nursing home in Stuttgart-Sonnenberg (left) and of the application of the graphite embedded EPS-system (grey) on the south and north side of the building (right).

The graphite embedded EPS system was applied because the planned transparent insulation system could not be used as a result of technical problems at the manufacturer. The design team looked for a system that would be easy to include at a late state of planning and would be at least as energy-efficient as the formerly planned system. They came up with replacing the originally planned 20 cm polystyrene insulation with  $\lambda$ =0.040 W/mK by a 20 cm EPS-system ( $\lambda$ =0.035 W/mK). The energy savings realised were bigger than calculated with the transparent insulation (smaller area covered). No problems occurred during the construction and in use (2 years at the time of the preparation of the guideline). (www.ensan.de)

Use of transparent insulation at a multi-family house 73 in Munich



Figure 73: Photos of the multi-family house in Munich (left), and of the application of transparent insulation at the exterior wall of the top floor (right).

Different innovative systems were installed at the exterior wall of the top floor of the building. These systems included solar air and solar water collectors as well as transparent insulation panels manufactured by 2 different companies. The effects of these systems were measured for 2 years. For walls with transparent insulation material care has to be taken in order to prevent overheating problems in the rooms behind the walls. To counteract these problems, manufacturers either restrict the solar gains by using solar protection glazing (e.g. WICONA) or they limit the size of the panels (e.g. STO). The experience at Munich was that the system with solar protection glazing led to lower summer temperatures; on the other hand less reduction of the heating energy consumption was achieved. However the users did not complain about too high wall temperatures with any of the systems. Because of the time shift between the solar gains and the emission of the heat to the room, a transparent insulation system only makes sense in buildings that are used in

the evenings and have heavy outside wall constructions. (www.ibp.fraunhofer.de/wt)

Use of vacuum insulation panels at the community 74 centre Guter Hirte in Ulm, Germany



Figure 74: Photo of the retrofitted community centre in Ulm (left), here kindergarden, and of the application of vacuum insulation panels at the floor of the kindergarden (right).

In this retrofit project vacuum insulation panels (VIPs) were used in the floor of the kindergarden and as exterior insulation (between two layers of polystyrene) at the wall of the parish hall. Especially the use at the floor area showed advantages as the insulation thickness was very small and at the same time a good U-value was achieved. Therefore no steps or new doors were necessary. However the use of VIPs for the floor level required careful planning. The border of the floor area had to be insulated with polystyrene as the panels can not be cut. Also below and above the VIPs additional insulation layers had to be included to protect the material and act as acoustic insulation. (www.ensan.de)

#### **Calculation tools** 8

- How to calculate a U-value: ISO 6946, available at national standardisation body publishers, e.g. for Germany Beuth Publishing, Berlin.
- How to calculate thermal bridges: ISO 10211-2, ISO 14683, available at national standardisation body publishers, e.g. for Germany Beuth Publishing, Berlin
- Libraries for thermal conductivities: e.g. DIN 4108-4, available at Beuth Publishing, Berlin.
- Tools for developing a retrofit strategy:
  - Energy Concept Adviser of IEA Annex 36 (ECA), www.annex36.com
  - BRITA in PuBs information tool (BIT), www.brita-in-pubs.com
  - EPIQR: a cost predictive European retrofitting evaluation method for existing apartment buildings, <u>www.epiqr.de</u>, <u>www.epiqr.fr</u>, etc.
- Tool for a holistic calculation of the net, final and primary energy demand of non-residential buildings according to the German DIN V 18599: ibp18599, www.ibp18599.de
- Tool for checking the dew problem in the component: Wärme und Feuchte instationär (WUFI), www.ibp.fraunhofer.de/downloads



## 9 References

#### 91 Compilation

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#### 92 Further reading

Insulation material and system manufacturers:

- BASF Aktiengesellschaft: http://www.basf.de
- Rockwool: <u>www.rockwool.com</u>
- Isover: <u>www.isover.com</u>
- STO: www.sto.com
- WICONA: www.wicona.com
- IVPU-Industrieverband Polyurethan-Hartschaum e.V.: http://www.ivpu.de/
- KNAUF MARMORIT GmbH: http://www.marmorit.de
- Conserval Engineering Inc.: <u>www.solarwall.com</u>

#### 93 Literature

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#### Internet:

- Fraunhofer-Institut fuer Bauphysik IBP: www.ibp.fraunhofer.de/wt
- Fraunhofer-Institut fuer Solare Energiesysteme ISE: http://www.ise.fhg.de/english/press/pi\_2001/pi05\_2001.html
- FHBB Institut fuer Energie: <u>http://www.vip-bau.ch/</u> (in German)
- Energetische Verbesserung der Bausubstanz (Beispielgebäude = case studies): <u>www.ensan.de</u> (in German)

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