



Invitation

The General Assembly

at 12.00 on 12-13 May in Milan
hosted by Professor
Marco Imperadori

visit www.activehouse.info for more information



General Assembly Postponed!

Due to the current precautions for North Italy during COVID19 crisis, it has been agreed between Professor Marco Imperadori, Tad Putyra, Yves Lambert and Lone Feifer to postpone the Active House General Assembly to 12 and 13 May.



General Assembly to visit Active House Award winner Unipol Group Headquarters worksite with CMB

As part of the General Assembly in Milan, Italy the Active House Alliance will visit the worksite of the Unipol Group Headquarters, a project being developed by CMB. In 2019 the project won an Active House Award in the category designed project without radar.

The project, designed by Mario Cucinella Architects, is a tower with a height of nearly 120 meters and a total area of 31,000 square meters. Built from steel, wood and glass the building will host commercial spaces, a major auditorium and a panoramic roof garden on the top with space for meetings and public cultural events.

The design solutions aim to encourage the re-discovery of constant interaction between the users of Unipol Group Headquarters and the surrounding climate, empowering them to actively modify their working spaces to increase their comfort levels. Different façade elements (façade geometry, external shading and movable louvres) for different orientation, together with the optimization of the plans' depth and the MEP micro-zoning allow all working spaces to benefit from 70% of daylight autonomy while communal mitigated transitional areas like the atrium and the roof greenhouse (both fully naturally ventilated) allow for smoother transitions between indoor and outdoor and space coupling with the outdoor, especially during the mild mid-seasons.

The building massing is the result of the optimization of passive design choices towards active strategies. It aims, indeed, to maximize the building energy efficiency by reducing the overall energy consumption and covering the resulting demand with renewable sources. The south-facing atrium act as a gigantic thermal buffer, storing solar gains during the winter season while offering shading and natural ventilation through stack-effect during the summer season.

All materials and processes used during construction are responsibly sourced (wood coming from FSC certified forests, concrete with low-CO2 aggregates, recycled material up to 30% of the total used, etc.). In addition to this, the general contractor has been requested by the client to provide EPC declarations for all materials as well as VOC free certificates. The project focuses a lot of water use and recycle, maximizing landscape and soft paving to increase permeable surfaces to collect rainwater. The water collected is treated and reused for both irrigation and toilet flushing, avoiding significant drinkable water waste.

Read more about the project [here](#)



Active House publishes booklet on Specifications 3.0

Active House has published the 3rd edition of the Active House Specifications.

The publication outlines the specifications for designing an Active House: a home, school, office, or

another type of building that integrates health and comfort with energy efficiency and environmental performance.

The specifications are updated to reflect the current developments in the building industry and to remain at the forefront of sustainable buildings, while keeping the aspects that make Active House stand out.

The specifications were created in cooperation with members of the Active House Alliance, who have shared their knowledge, experience and feedback on the previous edition of the specifications.

Bas Hasselaar, one of the authors of the AH Specifications 3.0, talks about the new version:

Why was it necessary to issue the Active House Specifications 3.0? Why now?

“The last version of the specifications was published in 2015, five years ago already. Over the past five years we have received a lot of questions and feedback about the specifications. In addition, many new Active House projects have been realised, all over the world. Not only residential, but also schools, museums, office buildings, etc. Active House has always been at the forefront of the building practice. Active houses perform better and offer higher quality than buildings that are built according to regular building standards. With the progressing of the building standard, it was time to update the specifications, to stay at the forefront.”

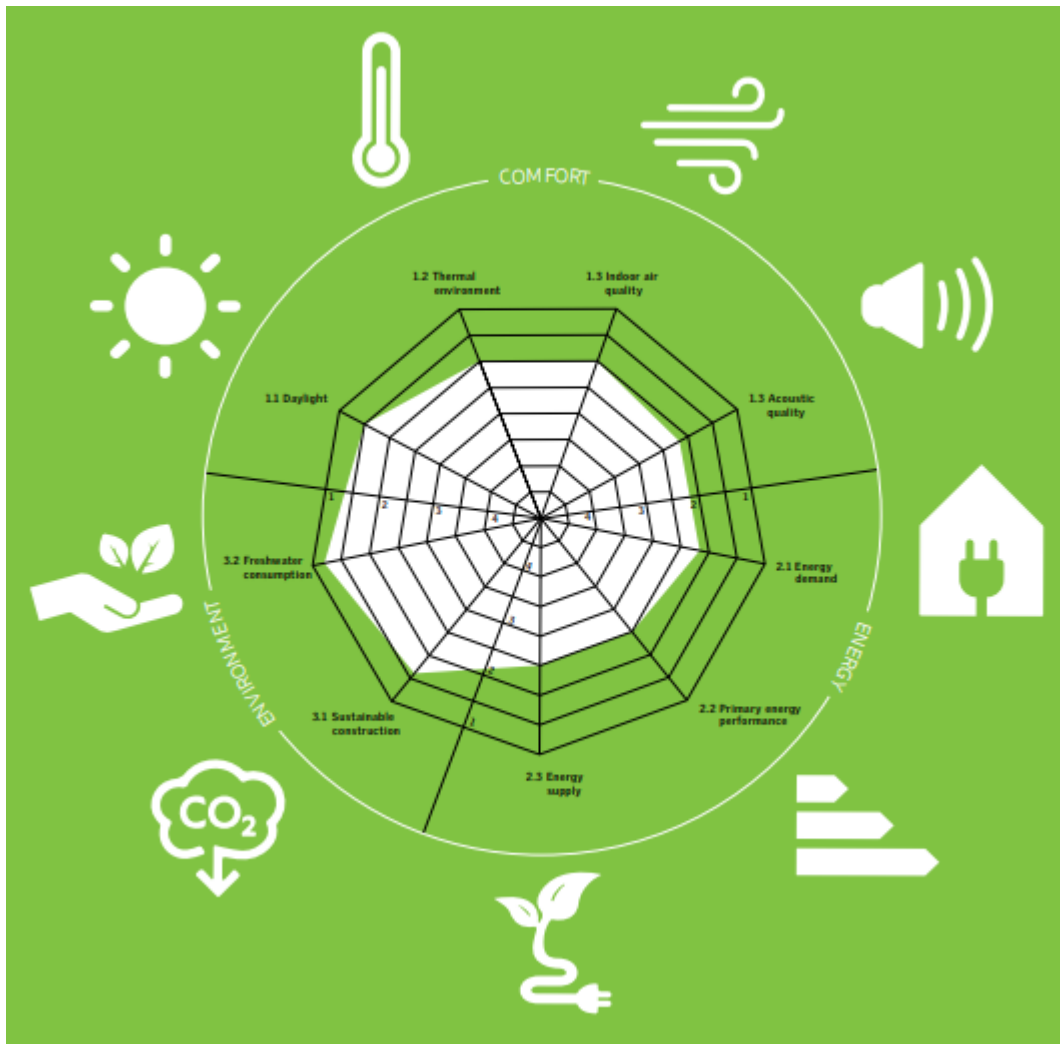
What is different compared to previous Specifications?

“There are many changes. Some are relatively small, such as updated demands with regards to energy efficiency or indoor air quality. Others are much larger. There is a completely new chapter on acoustics, as (absence of) noise is an important aspect of a good indoor climate. Another big change is the weighting of the comfort aspects. Some rooms are used more intensively than others, and it is important that especially those rooms that are used a lot by many people have a good indoor climate. This is now reflected in the comfort scores. Aside from the content related changes, there is also a completely new layout and graphic design to make the Active House Specifications more attractive to look at and easier to use.”

How you hope the specifications will help the developers of new building?

“Content-wise, the specifications can be divided into two parts: qualitative aspects, and quantitative aspects. Each parameter that is described in the specifications has both these qualitative and quantitative aspects. The quantitative aspects deal with numbers: they describe how much or at what level the design operates, which is translated into the Active House radar diagram. This diagram is a great tool to convey the quality of the building and can be used as a communication tool. The qualitative aspects deal with the ‘softer’ aspects of design that are difficult to express in numbers, such as the quality of the view out of a window. These aspects are especially important at the design stage. In the previous version of the specifications, the qualitative aspects were grouped together at the back of the booklet, where they were easily overlooked. Now, they are prominently featured at the start of each parameter, so they can easily be used by developers to improve the design or performance of their buildings. Hopefully, reading, or even browsing through the new Active House Specifications, will inspire developers to aim high, raise their ambitions, to create better buildings for people and planet.”

You can access the specifications by following this [link](#)



Active House sets out vision for better buildings

Active House is a vision for buildings that offer a healthier and comfortable indoor climate for the occupants without negative impact on the climate – measured in terms of energy, freshwater consumption and the use of sustainable materials. By considering how indoor air quality, daylight and the thermal environment affect productivity, health and well-being, the Active House vision emphasises the essential need to design buildings that facilitate comfort as well as sustainability. The Active House vision puts residents at the centre of attention and makes creating a building which looks beyond energy performance and incorporates aspects such as air quality, heating and daylight to create better buildings. You can read more about the Active House vision [here](#)

You can follow the [Active House webpage](#), and the [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#) profiles for up to date information about Active House



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