



Thank you for joining the 2020 Active House Alliance General Assembly



As some of you will recall we had originally planned to meet in Milan for the Active House General Assembly and combine it with a chance to see some of the amazing buildings in the city. Unfortunately, Covid-19 made this impossible. Instead, this year's General Assembly took place online for the first time!

We had a good discussion on the state of affairs of the Alliance. Our secretary general, Lone Feifer, presented the objectives for the three coming years based on the previous strategy work. The General Assembly also elected new members of the Board of Directors and the Board Advisory Committee, congratulations to everyone elected!

As a second half to the General Assembly, we had some inspiring presentations from members of the Alliance. A big thank you to Prof. Marco Imperadori, for telling us about Active House approach in education and research, to Guo Chenglin for telling us about AH Growth Academy in China and to Alexander Kucheravy & Günther Gantioler for telling us about the Active House Autumn School.

Active House Virtual Gatherings



Inspired by the great presentations and discussions we had during the General Assembly the Active House Alliance will soon be arranging a series of virtual gatherings.

By bringing together Active House members around a presentation and a discussion on a particular topic we hope to have a more frequent exchange on different aspects of the Active House principles. The aim is to bring all of us closer together even as we cannot meet physically.

Each gathering will feature a presentation by a speaker on a topic relevant to the Active House principles and a subsequent discussion with Active House members. Stay tuned for more information to come!

Active House members partner to develop the AirBird®



We are extremely happy that two of our Active House Alliance members, Velux and Leapcraft, teamed up with another company to create the AirBird®, a tool that makes healthy indoor climate visible to help improve well-being and living comfort.

The bird can perfectly complement the Active House radar as it easily detects poor indoor air quality, thus helping take the necessary action. Every few minutes it measures CO₂, temperature and humidity to look for patterns and can give feedback via gentle bird sounds to prompt the adjustment of ventilation, heating or cooling.

Designing for visual comfort with natural light

To be able to fully describe light, one needs to discuss its many aspects:

its source,

its distribution,

its tone and color,

its intensity...



Being able to control light levels is also key to visual comfort: both too little and too much light can be a source of discomfort.



Sharp contrast or major changes in light levels can cause stress and fatigue, as the human eye is permanently adapting to light levels.



An article sponsored by Active House member Saint-Gobain explores the influence of natural light on our well-being and health and makes suggestions for how to best handle natural light when designing. The article introduces five aspects to consider when designing for visual comfort:

- Always prioritize natural light
- Map the distribution of light, independent of the observer: Illuminance and Luminance
- Evaluate the quantity and quality of light
- Consider the relationship between openings and space: Window-to-Floor Ratio
- Decide the amount of light that must pass through the glass: Visible Light Transmission

Architects are increasingly aware of the influence of projects on the well-being and good health of the users. Natural light has a prominent role to play in this regard. Everything that enters through our eyes influences the health of body and mind, affecting not just the biological clock but also heart rate, functioning of organs and state of mind.

The infographic is titled "The SOCIO PSYCHOLOGICAL aspect of visual comfort". It consists of several panels with text and illustrations:

- Top Left:** Text: "The SOCIO PSYCHOLOGICAL aspect of visual comfort". Illustration: A man and a woman sitting at a table with a lit candle.
- Top Middle:** Text: "Light has a profound effect on the way we feel and experience time and space, both consciously and unconsciously." Illustration: A man working at a desk under two windows.
- Top Right:** Text: "Our personal history and culture also shapes the way we appreciate light and visual environments." Illustration: A woman looking at three different window designs.
- Middle Left:** Text: "Extreme variations in preferred range of illuminances exist depending on age and culture." Illustration: A diverse group of people with speech bubbles containing different light symbols.
- Middle Center:** Text: "But whatever the nationality, age or social category, light directly influences the mood and health of all humans." Illustration: A balance scale with a sad face on the left and a happy face on the right, with a sun icon above the happy face.
- Middle Right:** Text: "Non-visual effects of light play an important role in this respect. Their discovery is fairly recent and they remain the subject of active scientific research." Illustration: A glowing lightbulb with a question mark inside.

Good architecture can positive contribute to the well-being of occupants through taking into account natural lighting in creating indoor comfort. Read the full article [here](#)

Lara Anne Hale becomes an Innowomen ambassador



We are delighted to announce that Lara Anne Hale, Business Postdoctoral Fellow at VELUX, became an

Innowomen ambassador. Many of you will know Lara from her involvement in Active House.

Innowomen is a group of women entrepreneurs and researchers affiliated with the Denmark Innovation Fund, who act as ambassadors and visible role models for potential applicants for the fund's programs. The Innovation Fund launched the Innowomen concept in December 2018 - as part of an overall diversity effort to encourage more women to make a career as entrepreneurs and researchers.

Together with the other seven Innowomen, she will inspire talented women to pursue an entrepreneurial or research career.

Lara brings a great professional diversity within the group, currently focusing on postdoctoral research at VELUX Group and Copenhagen Business School on the topic of Smart Buildings and Cities Business Model Innovation. This research is supported by the Innovation Fund and Realdania and is part of the BLOXHUB Science Forum.

Have your project displayed on Active House social media!



Do you have a great photo you would like to have displayed on the social media channels of the Active House Alliance? Then now could be your chance!

We are always eager to receive more pictures of great Active House inspired projects to share on social media. To send us your photos, simply send them by email to secretariat@activehouse.info

We hope you will share your great examples with us!

The Active House Alliance welcomes the University of L'Aquila and Ghent University as new members



The Active House Alliance is honoured to welcome its newest academic members: the Department of Civil, Construction-Architectural and Environmental Engineering (DICEAA), University of L'Aquila and the Research Group Building Physics, Ghent University.

DICEAA carries out its activities with regards to design, construction, maintenance, safety and monitoring of structures with particular attention paid to the design and seismic upgrading of existing buildings and monumental heritage.

DICEAA is involved in urban and rural planning, design, sketch, survey and urban and architectural renovation as well as in the recovery, preservation, and valorization of cultural and environmental heritage.

The **Research Group Building Physics**, headed by Prof. dr. ir. arch. Arnold Janssens, contributes to the development of knowledge about sustainable, durable and energy-efficient buildings with a healthy and comfortable indoor climate. Main research topics have been Heat-Air-Moisture (HAM) modelling of the building envelope, ventilation system performance analysis, and residential energy performance assessment.

The group has acquired a strong reputation in these fields through its publications and active participation in international networks such as IEA EBC, AIVC, IBPA, ISIAQ, IBPSA and DBMC. In addition to these modelling efforts, the research group has extensive experience with component testing through its activities in the Façade Element Test Lab and with field-research through long-term monitoring projects.

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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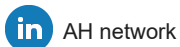


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