Global climate change is the challenge of our generation... New Yorkers will rise to the challenge. We will build on progress we have made to become more resilient to a changing climate and to mitigate the harmful greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change. We are committing to reduce our emissions by 80 percent below 2005 levels by 2050, making us the largest city in the world to commit to this goal. Our work begins today, and working together, we can truly become One City: Built to Last.”

- Mayor Bill de Blasio
Why Brussels?

The City of Brussels in Belgium, the political capital of Europe, mandated Passive House from January 1st 2015 - the first city in the world to do so. The Mission will meet the officials that made this happen (learn more about Brussels’s history in Passive House [here](#) and view some of the Sustainable Construction Research projects [here](#) as well as architects, developers and contractors that have contributed to over 6 million sf.ft of projects in the past few years alone.

Who Should Attend?

City planning and code officials, architects and engineers, developers, contractors, manufacturers, universities, financiers, lawyers and anyone interested in super-high performance buildings.

Passive House Offices for the Department of the Environment, Brussels: [www.eusew.eu](http://www.eusew.eu)
About Your Host

Tomás O’Leary
Co-Founder & Managing Director, Passive House Academy


Schedule

Day 1: Monday May 18th

11am: Project #1.1— How Did Brussels Go Passive?

Workshop with guest presenter Joke ('Yoka') Dockx, Director for Energy at the Brussels Institute for Management of the Environment. Ms Dockx will outline the process through which the Brussels region delivered the mandatory Passive House standard since January 2015. Key topics will include challenges faced, successful strategies, economic benefits and carbon reductions.

Ms Dockx will also lead a tour of the impressive new highly-glazed Passive House office building which her Department has just moved into (see photograph, bottom of Page 2).

1pm: Lunch

2.30pm: Project #1.2— Passive House Innovation and Enterprise at Greenbiz

Site visit led by Ms. Sabine Leribaux of architectesassoc Brussels to the renowned NZEB Incubator located on an abandoned and polluted industrial site near the city center. Greenbizz is part of a large-scale urban development and includes workshops for environment-oriented businesses and spin-offs, incubator units and Passive House office space. The project is nearing completion, further details here.

4.30pm: Project #1.3— Urban Development

Mr. Pierre Lemaire will lead the delegation through the most impressive 'Tour and Taxis' area of Brussels which is a large urban development adapting densities, increasing social and functional diversity, providing public spaces and amenities and improving transport networks.

6.30pm: Boat Trip in Brussels

8.00pm: Dinner in Brussels Old Quarter

After Dinner Speaker - Sébastian Moreno-Vacca: ‘Passive House Costs Less than Normal’

Sébastian is a highly entertaining Architect based in Brussels and working only on Passive House projects. He typically delivers Passive House for significantly less than standard construction costs and will give us the inside track on how to do this. He is also familiar with international building standards, currently working on a Passive House retrofit in the Meatpacking District NYC. More about Sébastian's office A2M here.
**Schedule: Day 2**

**Day 2: Tuesday May 19th**

**Project #2.1 — Low Energy Large Housing Retrofit**
Award winning retrofit project completed in 2014 involving conversion of a 1930's office building to 20 high quality condos. With a floor area of 35,000 ft² and a budget of $6.5 million, this project undertaken by a private developer represents a highly relevant case study for the US building stock. The visit will be hosted by MDW Architecture and further information on the project can be found [here](#).

**Project #2.2 — Passive House Retrofit of 1980's Office**
Fascinating look at the 'European Philanthropy House' project, requiring a Passive House renovation of a 1980's office building by Architects Greenarch and Engineers Matricel. Located adjacent to the Belgian Parliament. This stone clad building was renovated to the Passive House standard using interior insulation. It was the first such renovated building in the region and received the BATEX Award. Further details can be found [here](#).

**Lunch**

**Afternoon**

**Project #2.3 — Mixed New Build and retrofit Passive House Apartment Building**
The Architects for this project have completed over 2,000 Passive House dwellings, 14 offices and 12 schools totalling over 4 million ft² of Passive House projects. The project we are visiting consists of 51 apartments over 144,000 ft² - part new-build, part retrofit. Further details can be found [here](#).

**Project #2.4 — Renovation and Part-New Construction of Former Brewery to Offices and Hotel**
This renovation project was delivered by the Architects l'Escaut for the Municipality of Molenbeek. The 70,000 ft² project encompasses a training center, 3* hotel and offices. Further information [here](#).

**Project #2.5 — Renovation of Brick Clad Building to Low-Cost Hotel**
Adjacent to the above Project 2.4, this project was delivered by Architects A2M and comprises almost 100,000ft² of renovated brick-clad space to a low cost 150 bedroom hotel. Further information found [here](#).

**Evening Meal with guest presenter**
Schedule: Day 3

Day 3: Wednesday May 20th

Project #3.1 — Passive House Community Center
This Passive House Community Center and social housing project (37,000ft²) was designed by Architects for the Lxelles Municipality. The community center comprises a reception and exhibition space which can cater for up to 250 persons as well as modular classroom spaces used for various activities including yoga, dance and martial arts.

Project #3.2 — Passive House School
The firm TRAIT ARCHITECTS are well regarded for their Passive House schools, not least this project in Brussels which comprises an elementary school and 13 social housing apartments. This 55,000ft² project was completed in 2013. The architectural design uses the southern orientation of the housing units to ensure proper light and heating. The layout is appropriate for the very densely populated area, in the immediate proximity of downtown Brussels.

Lunch

Afternoon

Project #3.3 — Passive House Social Housing
The projects Bruyn Ouest and Bruyn Est are social housing projects designed by Pierre Blondel Architects and B612 Associates respectively. Located to the northeast of Brussels center, Bruyn Ouest was completed in 2012 and consists of some 79 apartments.

Virtual Workshop: Ask the Passive House Institute!

This third day of the Brussels tour will feature a virtual workshop (via Skype) with Dr. Berthold Kaufmann, Senior Researcher, Passive House Institute, Darmstadt. Dr. Kaufmann is familiar with the Passive House scene all around the world and has a special interest in international development of the standard in regions outside of Germany. This workshop provides you with an opportunity to hear at first hand where Passive House is heading globally and how New York and other US regions in the US can best take advantage of the standard both new build and retrofitting. If you've got a question concerning Passive House for Dr. Kaufmann, forward it to us and we will put it on the Agenda. Topics to include (at the very least) tall buildings, dealing with humidity, emerging Passive House standards, product development and much more.

Dinner

Depart at leisure
Cost
From €1,595 per person.

What's Included?
- Hosted tour with Tomás O'Leary
- Ground transportation from Monday May 18th to Wednesday May 20th
- Site visits as well as meet and greet events
- 3 star hotel accommodation and all meals for 3 nights (Sunday 17th to Wednesday 20th)

Booking Your Travel
- The tour will begin at 10:30 sharp from the Novotel Grand Place on Monday May 18th.
- Please plan your arrival for that morning.

Book Your Place
To book your place please register online by clicking here. If you require any assistance please contact us at: events@passivehouseacademy.com

Tour of the World's 1st Passive House Region: Brussels
Monday May 18 - Wednesday May 20, 2015