Case study of the Scranton Passive House



Richard Pedranti of Richard Pedranti Architect



Provider name and number, September 11, 2015



Case Study: Scranton Passive House

Design and construction

- 1. The use of Perlite under a slab foundation
- 2. Our experience with testing, failure, and remediation of leaky OSB
- 3. An affordable Passive House **IoT** monitoring system



























Katie, Christie, Amanda, and Declan

Design Program

1. A simple, functional, and beautiful home for family of 4

2. A sustainable and energy efficient home

3. A construction budget of \$150 per square foot



View of Scranton Breaker 1836







1/A13 Exterior view from the northeast



2/A13 Exterior view from the southeast



4/A12 Detail View of window installtion from the inside



3/A12 Detail View of window installtion from the inside





Design 1

Design 2











Southeast view of the Scranton Passive House

www.scrantonpassivehouse.com







Site Plan







SOUTH Solar Patiefieder Piloto at 11AM on March 27, 2013

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EAST Solar Pathflider Photo at 1PM on May 20, 2013

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NORTH Solar Pathfinder Photo at 1PM on May 20, 2013



15 degree horizon and 30% shading





WEST Solar Pathfinder Photo at 1PM on May 20, 2013

15 degree korizon and 30% shading





Site 4, 94 04 80 52.5 01.5 04.5 04.5 04.5 00 90 90 90

> 93.5 84.9 89.2





Optimized building morphology









First Floor Plan





SECOND FLOOR PLAN 9 BEDROOM 1 10 BATHROOM 2 11 BATHROOM 3 12 BEDROOM 2 13 BEDROOM 3 14 HALL CLOSET 15 DEN



Second Floor Plan







EAST ELEVATION

East Elevation



NORTH ELEVATION

North Elevation



WEST ELEVATION

West Elevation



SOUTH ELEVATION

South Elevation





PASSIVE HOUSE METRICS

Heat Demand Heat Load

Primary energy

4.16 kBTU/(ft2yr) 2.48 kBTU/(ft2hr) 31.4 kBTU/(ft2yr)







Installing 12" EPS foam over gravel setting bed







Formwork in place ready to pour concrete floor slab over 8" perlite and 12" of EPS Type 9 foam

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Mining perlite rock



Forms of perlite

Why Perlite Works Genesis in Fire

Rapidly heating perlite ore to temperatures of about 900°C (1,700°F) softens the volcanic glass causing entrapped water molecules in the rock to turn to steam and expand the particles like popcorn.



Crushed expanded perlite particles present a maze of microscopic pathways that can be used to filter and clean a wide array of liquids, beverages, and pharmaceutical products.

*Photo: Santini & Associates; J. Barker, Bureau of Geology, NM Tech

The expanded particles that result are actually clusters of minute, lightweight, insulating, glass bubbles. Broken bubbles and surface openings on the particles provide for water and air holding capacityespecially important in horticultural uses

Sophisticated manufacturing techniques allow the expansion and collection of individual perlite bubbles, which are used as fillers or extenders for a wide variety of products.

Perlite Institute, Inc.

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10 MICRONS

1000 MICRON













Physical Characteristics of Perlite

R-value = 3.7 per inch

Thermal conductivity at 75F 0.27-0.41 BTUin/hFT2F 0.04-0.06 W/mK

TYPICAL PHY	SICAL PROPERTIES	TYPICAL ELEMENTAL ANALYSIS				
			parts per hundred			
Color	White	Silicon	33.8			
Refractive Index	1,5	Aluminum	7.2			
pH (of water slurry)	6.5 - 8.0	Potassium	3.5			
Free Moisture (maximum)	0.5%	Sodium	3.4			
Specific Gravity	2.2 - 2.4	Iron	0.6			
Bulk Density	Evnanded	Calcium	0.6			
loose weight)	2 - 25 lb/ft ³	Magnesium	0.2			
	32-400 kg/m ³	Trace	0.2			
	60 - 75 lbs/ft3	Oxygen (by difference)	47.5			
	960 - 1200 kg/m ³	Net Total	97.0			
Mesh Sizes	Available as desired; 4 - 8 mesh and finer	Bound Water	3.0			
Softening Point	1600 - 2000°F 871 - 1093°C	Total 100				
Fusion Point	2300 - 2450°F 1260 - 1343°C	All analyses are shown in elemental form even though the actual forms present are mixed glassy silicates. Free silica may be present in small amounts, characteristic of the particular ore body. More specific information may be obtained from the ore				
Specific Heat	0.2 Btu/lb•F 837]/kg•K					
Thermal Conductivity at 75°F (24°C) 0.27 - 0.41 Btu•in/h•ft2•°F 0.04 - 0.06 W/m•K		supplier involved.				
Solubility	Soluble in hot concentrated alkali and HF	ab				
	Moderately soluble (<10%) in 1N NaOH	Perlite Institute, Inc. www.perlite.org • (717) 238-9723 Copyright © 2011 Perlite Institute All Rights Reserved				
	Slightly soluble (<3%) in mineral acids (1N)					
	Very slightly soluble (<1%)					



RPA

Underslab Insulation Easy-to-install, light-weight bags are Using Perlite in Bags

Concrete slab floors with direct thermal contact to the ground can present challenges to the maintenance of personal comfort in homes and add to heating bills. A solution to break that direct thermal contact is to use a natural insulative material such as perlite.





Top: placing unopened perlite bags on grade. Above: perlite bags packed tightly in place. Below: compacted gravel and hydronic heating tubing in place over perlite bag insulation; ready to pour the concrete floor.



Perlite conforming to ASTM C549, and provided in easy-to-install, light-weight bags (either plastic or paper) may be used as insulation below concrete floors as demonstrated in the accompanying photographs and schematic diagrams.

Perlite underslab insulation is a natural, inorganic product that does not rot, support combustion nor provide a habitat for rodents. Because of its neutral pH, the product does not foster corrosion in piping and electrical wiring that may be in the underfloor area.

Benefits from installation of such a system can accrue in both summer and winter. During winter, heat loss through the floor of a building can be decreased, while in summer, differences (continues)

Loo	ckness of Penite se Fill Insulation	Conduc	tance "C"	Resistance "R"			
U.S.	(51)	U.S.	(51)	U.S.	(\$1)		
1 in.	(2.5 cm)	0.32	(1.82)	3.13	(0.55)		
2 in.	(5.1 cm)	0.16	(0.91)	6.25	(1.10)		
3 in.	(7.6 cm)	0.11	(0.61)	9.37	(1.65)		
4 in.	(10.2 cm)	0.08	(0.45)	12.50	(2.20)		
5 in.	(12.7 cm)	0.06	(0.36)	15.63	(2.75)		
6 in.	(15.2 cm)	0.05	(0.30)	18.75	(3.30)		
7 in.	(17.7 cm)	0.045	(0.26)	21.88	(3.85)		
8 in.	(20.3 cm)	0.04	(0.23)	25.00	(4.40)		
* "C" values maximum W/m+K) at	expressed in Btu/h thermal conductivit 75° F (24°C) mean 1	• ft2 • °F (W • ft2 • °F (W g "k" factor o temperature	/m+K) were or 0.32 Btu in	calculated ι /h+ft2 +°F (sing 0.046		

formula B = 1/C,

Underslab Insulation Using Perlite in Bags environment. This system is particularly useful when radiant under-floor heating is employ

between floor and air temperatures are minimized and condensation on cool floors is avoided providing a more comfortable and energy-efficient environment. This system is particularly useful when radiant under-floor heating is employed since the thermal resistance of the perlite will reduce heat loss from the heated slab to the ground below. In addition, perlite is dimensionally stable under varying temperatures and it is not combustible.







Pennsylvania Perlite



www.pennperlite.com

Perlite Institute





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NDUSTRIA

SUSTAINABILITY & THE ENVIRONMED PERLITE MINNO INFORMATION (USGS) PERLITE SUSTAINABILITY FACTS WHERE & HOW TO BLIY PERLITE DIRECTORY OF PERLITE INSTITUTE MEMBERS

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ABOUT THE PERLITE INSTITUTE
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 JOIN USI
 UPCOMING EVENTS



Pouring concrete floor slab over 8" perlite and 12" of EPS Type 9 foam







Homeowners Christie and Declan with contractor Rob Ciervo

2x4 OVE structural frame

Happy homeowners Christie and Declan

RPA PASSIVE HOUSE WALL ASSEMBLY

Why this wall?

- Is a proven Passive House wall assembly
- High R value
- Uses conventional methods and materials
- Has an excellent vapor profile
- All 4 control layers are continuous and clear
- Cellulose is hygroscopic
- Cellulose is cheap
- Cellulose has low embodied energy
- The primary air seal is rigid and protected
- Includes a service cavity
- Is thermal bridge free
- Allows for Duclos method testing

OSB sheathing over 2x4 structural frame with entry door opening

Setting raised heel roof trusses

Duclose Method

TEST 1

Initial test after slab/wall/ceiling close in

.25 ACH50
.20 ACH50
.15 ACH50
.10 ACH50

TEST 2

 Second air test after window and door installation

 Target benchmark

 < 10,000 CF</td>
 .45 ACH50

 10,000 – 20,000 CF
 .40 ACH50

 20,000 – 30,000 CF
 .35 ACH50

 >40.000 CF
 .30 ACH50

TEST 3

Third air test after MEP installation

Target benchmark	
< 10,000 CF	.60 ACH50
10,000 – 20,000 CF	.55 ACH50
20,000 – 30,000 CF	.50 ACH50
>40,000 CF	.45 ACH50

Mike Duclose DEAP Energy Group Newton, MA www.deapgroup.com

Prior to exterior or interior insulation

Prior to exterior or interior insulation

Sheathed and ready for blower door test #1

Richard Pedranti, architect and Pete Vargo, PHIUS+ energy rater performing initial blower door test

Leakage areas during blower door Test #1

- Second floor top plate / ceiling
- Second floor headers
- Missed field nails
- Mechanical penetrations
 - 1.15 ACH@50Pa

reduced to

0.93 ACH@50Pa

Preparing to positive test exterior after failed negative pressure test



Preparing positive pressure balloon test #1 on OSB panel and seam taped with SIGA wigluv

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Ballooning of polyethylene over OSB during positive pressure test #1







PHIUS + rater Pete Vargo - "I was right, we have leaky OSB"







Owner, Declan Mulhall and PHIUS + rater, Pete Vargo during balloon test #2 over OSB panel only

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Balloon test #2 over OSB panel only





Air leakage Solutions

<u>Concerns</u>

- Needs to be 100% effective
- Cost effective
- Has a warranty
- Labor friendly
- Compatible with SIGA wigluv

Liquid applied

- Prosoco R-Guard Cat 5
- Dow Corning Defendair 200
- BASF Enershield
- Elastormeric paint

Membranes

- Pro Clima DA menbrane
- SIGA Majpell 5











Installing SIGA Majpell 5 on exterior

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Richard Pedranti, architect and Pete Vargo, PHIUS+ energy rater performing initial blower door test

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Second blower door test with first window installed







WEYERHAUSER

MADE IN USA



RATED SHEATHING 24/16

SIZED FOR SPACING EXPOSURE 1 THICKNESS 0.418

537 (Elkin,NC) PS2-10

> HUD-UM-40C 7/16 CATEGORY





Taping window interior



Preparing window exterior



South windows



Completed window installation

















Renewaire EV200 ERV

HVI Certified

Static plate heat and humidity transfer

Can be mounted in any orientation

Merv 8 filter

At 157 watts produces 181CFM and 78%

Intermittent operation

Measured 0.93 W/CFM

Cost \$1,450 (unit, filters, and controls)



ERV single speed fan and Mitsubishi heat exchange core



Honeywell EARD motorized damper

Intermittent ventilation

Required = 94 CFM

Measured = 160 CFM

94/160 = 58%

Runtime = 60% or 40min/hr







































Scranton Passive House Duclose method test chart







Lessons learned

1. Based on our experience, OSB is nor a reliable air control layer. We are specifying <u>ZIP</u> <u>sheathing</u> as the air control layer on all ongoing and future projects.

2. The **Duclose method** is a very effective approach to assuring high levels of air tightness. It's also effective in teaching about air tight concepts to builders and stakeholders.

3. <u>**Perlite**</u> is a cost effective and easy to use sub slab insulation.

4. With carefully optimized design, it is possible to build an **<u>affordable Passive House</u>** in our region.







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Passive House cloud-based monitoring system







WYLIE WOODS PASSIVE HOUSE



South view of the Wylie Woods Passive House





WYLIE WOODS PASSIVE HOUSE



South west view of the Wylie Woods Passive House







South view of the Keffer Passive House











WEST ELEVATION



SOUTH ELEVATION





NORTH ELEVATION







Gravel setting bed



12" of EPS under slab foam



Pouring slab over perlite and EPS foam



Completed slab with plumbing in place







First floor 2x4 framing at 24" O.C.



First floor framing at entry



Northwest view of ZIP sheathing over 2x4 frame



Southeast view of ZIP sheathing over 2x4 frame











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Air tightness improvements

- ZIP sheathing
- Rolling the ZIP tape.
- Redundant air tight detailing at the intersections
- Better quality construction
















KEFFER PASSIVE HOUSE



Bill Case and his crew, Pat, Bill, Drew, and Chris





SCRANTON PASSIVE HOUSE







SCRANTON PASSIVE HOUSE











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