

Waldsee BioHaus BRIEF

WILLKOMMEN IM WALDSEE BIOHAUS!

A one-of-a-kind teaching tool that gets 7-18 year-olds, and learners of all ages, excited about German language, culture, and world-class sustainable living.

Waldsee BioHaus Environmental Living Center in the German Language Village of *Waldsee* at Concordia Language Villages in Bemidji, MN, is the first of its kind in North America.

Bringing the mission of Concordia Language Villages to life – “to prepare young people for responsible citizenship in our global community” – Waldsee BioHaus dazzles a new generation of students with a rich immersion experience in German language and culture that involves learning about energy use, natural resource use and new ideas on how we can all live in a more holistic sustainable global community. This entire educational experience is taught in German, in the metric system, in the fun, natural playground of the Minnesota North Woods.

“This is *Übercool!* It’s not boring and abstract,” says Dan *Karl* Hamilton, Dean of the German Language Village of *Waldsee*. “Kids will eat, sleep, cook, clean and play in the most modern new residence you can imagine. This is the right way to experience the German language and German culture.”

Waldsee BioHaus also serves as a powerful catalyst for debate and sustainable design innovation, producing a new generation of students and architectural, construction and environmental professionals committed to creating new methods of sustainable design and quality of life in the buildings we inhabit.

Taking the pulse of first-ever certified German Passivhaus in North America.

Under the guidance of architect Stephan Tanner of INTEP, LLC, a Minneapolis- and Munich-based consulting company for high performance and sustainable construction, Waldsee BioHaus Environmental Living Center is modeled on Germany’s Passivhaus standard: a highly-efficient building design (beyond that of the U.S. LEED standard) which improves quality of life inside the building while using 85% less energy than comparable U.S. structures.

To measure the ongoing, real-time Passivhaus performance of Waldsee BioHaus, students are able to take the pulse of the building through monitors, gauges, webcams and other instruments. As a fully-networked house, online displays of all these metrics will engage and inspire students to compare and contrast the Waldsee BioHaus with North American standards – all while improving their proficiency in speaking German.

Through this interactive learning curriculum and its holistic design philosophy, Waldsee BioHaus will shift perspectives and become a hub for a new global network of students and teachers of language, culture, science and environmental studies.

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First-ever grant to North American institution by world’s largest environmental foundation helps build “green generation” connecting Germany and U.S.

Through innovative educational curriculum, specifically around the topic of sustainable living in Germany, Waldsee BioHaus is sparking the exciting transfer and exchange of environmental education across the Atlantic between the U.S. and the German-speaking world.

Since Germany is a leader in environmental practices, Dan Hamilton, Dean of *Waldsee*, and Christine Schulze, Executive Director and CEO of Concordia Language Villages and Vice President for International Development of Concordia College, proposed a partnership with the *Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt* (DBU), the largest environmental foundation in the world, to build Waldsee BioHaus. The DBU approved a grant of more than \$650,000 (its first grant to a North American institution) to build Waldsee BioHaus Environmental Living Center based on the German Passivhaus standard and to be a showcase of German technology and innovation in North America.

In addition to the DBU, other foundations contributing to Waldsee BioHaus include Cherne Foundation, Home Depot Foundation and Kresge Foundation.

In addition to INTEP, LLC, key materials and construction partners include Amvic, BASF, Optiwin, Siemens, STO and REHAU North America/REHAU AG & Co..

Living and learning in Waldsee BioHaus will be *unvergesslich* – unforgettable!

“This is a building for kids,” says Dan Hamilton. “It is fun, it is comfortable, it is interactive, it is cool. There’s simply nothing like it on either side of the Atlantic.”

Waldsee BioHaus is the newest way to live the experience and promise of Concordia Language Villages: from the moment you wake up in the morning to the time you collapse in your bed at night, you’ve had an amazing day of unbelievable experiences learning a new language, meeting new friends, and changing your understanding of the world -- forever.

About *Waldsee* and Concordia Language Villages

Waldsee, Concordia’s German Language Village, and North America’s oldest and largest immersion program in German language and culture, was the first of 14 Language Villages sponsored by Concordia College of Moorhead, MN, a private, four-year liberal arts institution. Concordia Language Villages is accredited by the North Central Association on Accreditation and School Improvement and the American Camp Association. *Waldsee* offers programs in German language and culture for beginning through advanced levels. The German Village is devoted exclusively to the training of young people, and people of all ages, beginning through advanced levels, to become linguistically and culturally proficient in German. *Waldsee*’s innovative curriculum materials are distributed across North America. *Waldsee* is the finest educational facility in North America devoted exclusively to the training of young people to become linguistically and culturally proficient in German.

Concordia Language Villages, established in 1961, annually welcomes over 11,000 participants world-wide to its language and culture immersion programs for youth ages 7 to 18, adults and families. These programs include participants from all 50 states and 36 countries. The Villages offer one-, two-, and four-week living and learning experiences some which award high school and college credit, year-round week and weekend programs for school groups, adults and families. Special seminars are available to teachers to learn how to adapt immersion techniques to the classroom setting. The Villages also are available for private workshop, seminar and conference rentals.

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