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## SUSTAINABLE DUO

This pair of semi-detached Victorian houses in Chorlton, Manchester are the first homes in Europe to achieve the Passivhaus EnerPHit Plus standard. This has been devised for very low-energy retrofit projects, where the architecture and conservation issues make the Passivhaus standard unfeasible. Designed as a test case by Kit Knowles, director of sustainable property developer Ecospheric (0161 533 0965; ecospheric.co.uk), the houses are so energy-focused they don't have central heating. Photovoltaic panels on the roofs power the lighting and appliances and heat the hot water. A hundred pallets' worth of insulation was required, mainly made from recycled newspapers, to maintain an even temperature all year round. The cost of bringing a similar semi-detached period home to EnerPHit standards is around £60,000, plus individual renovation expenses. »

