

SolarVenti

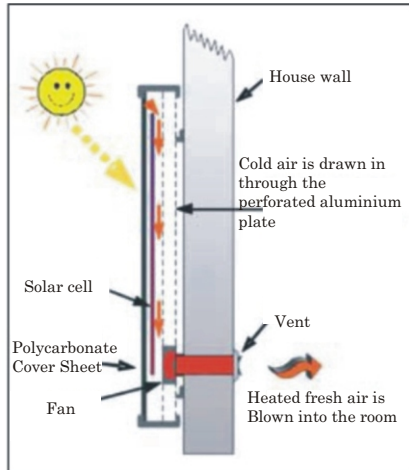
Everyman's solar energy system ?

We have got a friend in Denmark. A special friend. His name is Christensen, it's a common name in the DK, but he is certainly not common at all, and to pin down a suitable title for him is difficult. He busies himself with the most multifarious activities: You could say he's an economist, a piano player, a sing-a-song writer, a publisher of books on philosophy – but first and foremost he is an inventor!

Since 1973 when the Arabs caused chaos in non-petrol-producing countries, he has been deeply involved in issues related to the use of sustainable energy. And one of his ideas has now spread into many countries, and may also be of interest to readers of The Grapevine Magazine.

He wanted to use the sun's energy for airing and ventilation, but it should be very safe simple, - without radiators, water or mains electricity. At first he was aiming at thousands of holiday homes on the west coast of Jutland, - houses left alone and unheated for longer periods, - houses with damp problems, mould and bad odours, - houses leaving their owners with discomfort, lots of work and expense.

Slowly "the warm-air-solar-ventilation-system" came together: A framework of aluminium, a transparent polycarbonate sheet, a photovoltaic solar cell, a 12 Volt fan and a switch were the main components. The name



SolarVenti was obvious and the principle WAS simple: the sun heated the air inside the solar air panel, and started a fan that was powered by the solar cell, introducing the warm dry air into the house. The flow rate achieved was at 20 to 60 cubic metres per hour, which proved sufficient to keep the cottages dry, even with the limited sunshine hours available in Denmark during the winter season.

Now, more than 20 years later, the 3rd generation of SolarVenti has experienced an international breakthrough that calls for

attention. The do-it-yourself enthusiasts in Scandinavia have taken it to their heart, and in Southern Europe and Australia the SolarVenti is used both for ventilation, dehumidification and as a substantial supplement to existing heating systems, - all by using a free renewable heat source: Our sun.

Congratulations, Christensen. It has been a long haul. Keep persisting, and both our environment and your customers will benefit from your good ideas.

Hanne & Asger Mundbjerg
Técnicas Maro