



## **Kent Hicks, CPHC, Licensed Construction Supervisor**

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Principal  
East Branch Studio  
P.O. Box 57  
634 Main Road  
West Chesterfield  
MA 01084

**Phone:** 413.296-0123 (office)  
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**Website:** <https://www.eastbranchstudio.com/>

### **Accreditations**

Certified Passive House Consultant

Certified Deep Energy Retrofit Contractor through Building Science Corporation

Energy Crafted Homes Certified Contractor

### **Professional Experience**

**Principal:** East Branch Studio [formerly Kent Hicks Construction Co.], (1983 – Present)

Materials and Indoor Air Quality Consultant, (2016 – Present)

Energy, Envelope, and Mechanical Systems Consultant, (2012 – Present)

Building Science Corporation Summer Symposium [invitation only attendee], (2010- present)

Passive House Modeling, Design and Construction, (2009 – Present)

Energy Retrofit Services [full and phased], (2005 – Present)

Design/Build Services for Energy Efficient/Net Zero Energy Structures, (1992 – Present)

Building Science, Energy, High Performance Mechanical Systems Classes, (1990 – Present)

Energy Star Homes Contractor, (1990 – Present)

Custom Furniture and Cabinetry, (1983- Present)

Energy Crafted Homes Contractor, (1992 – 2000)

Passive Solar and Double Envelope Homes, (1985 – 1990)

## **Expertise**

My introduction to energy efficient construction began with building passive solar and double envelope homes in the 1980s. The larger shift in our company toward high performance assemblies and mechanical systems came in the early 1990s through The Energy Crafted Homes program as we integrated building science, air tight envelopes, non-toxic materials, ground source heat pumps, ventilation systems, and blower door testing into all of our buildings. This program sponsored by the utility company unfortunately came to an end, but we maintained the performance metrics in our structures as we moved forward.

In 2009, I became one of the first Certified Passive House Consultants in the U.S. and it signaled another shift in our company as we had been exploring pathways toward greater reductions of carbon emissions in the built environment as the data on climate change became clearer and more alarming.

During the last seven years, we have been working on making high performance homes more affordable while continuing to lower operational and embodied carbon. These efforts have resulted in the hybrid-prefab East Branch Homes division of our company.

In more recent years, we have also been focused on environmental and climate equity while collaborating with non-profit organizations who are doing great work locally and globally. We have learned a great deal from these organizations in supporting education, employment and community engagement in the various projects while lowering carbon emissions and planning for climate resiliency.

## **Publications**

Berkshires Net Zero Ready Home: Digs.Net (2021), Yellow Trace (2021), Trendland (2020), Design./Visual (2020), Anniversary Magazine (2020)

Net Zero Ready Home: Dwell Magazine (2020), Dezeen (2020)

18th Century Deep Energy Retrofit and Historic Restoration: Daily Hampshire Gazette (2018)

Historic Grist Mill Energy Retrofit and Historic Restoration: Daily Hampshire Gazette (2018)

A Barn for all Seasons: Boston Magazine (2018)

Energy Retrofitting Strategies: Metal Construction News Magazine (2018)

17th Century Historic Restoration and Energy Retrofit: A Simple Life Magazine; Cover Article (2017)

Passive House Buildings- New England Forges Ahead (2017)  
Mechanical Systems in a Deep Energy Retrofit: Green Builder Magazine (2017)  
Net Zero Energy Buildings: Passive House + Renewables (2016)  
Efficiently Green- Passivhaus: Preview Magazine: Cover Article (2014)  
17th Century Historic Restoration and Energy Retrofit: Early American Life Magazine (2010)

### **Presentations**

Net Zero Energy Forum: Center for Ecological Technology (2021)  
Personal Career Path: UMass/Amherst, Building and Construction Technology Career Class (2021)  
Moving Toward Net Zero: Deerfield Climate Change Forum (2020)  
Personal Career Path: UMass/Amherst Building and Construction Technology Career Class (2020)  
Supporting Girls' and Young Womens' Education- Locally and Globally: WMAIA Annual Meeting; Keynote Speaker (2020)  
Making Net Zero Homes and Energy Retrofits Affordable, Healthy and Low in Embodied Carbon: UMass/Amherst Building and Construction Technology Lecture Series (2019)  
Strategies for Phased Energy Retrofits: Forbes Library Lecture Series (2019)  
Drawing Down Carbon: Forbes Library Lecture Series (2019)  
High Performance/Hybrid Prefab Assemblies: Green Consortium (2019)  
Living Rural; Building Green for Climate Resiliency: Chesterfield Council on Aging (2018)  
Healthy Indoor Air Quality: Forbes Library Lecture Series (2018)  
Passive House for Occupants with Chemical Sensitivities: Northeast Sustainable Energy Association Conference Boston (2016)  
Energy Retrofitting Existing Buildings with Marc Rosenbaum Smith College (2014)  
Modeling and Monitoring Moisture and Drying Cycles in High Performance Assemblies: Green Consortium (2012)  
Air Tightness Strategies for Deep Energy Retrofits: National Home Performance Conference Baltimore (2012)  
Ice Dam Remedies: Forbes Library Lecture (2011)

## **Education**

Northern Oklahoma College, Tonkawa, Oklahoma  
1977-78, Liberal Arts

## **Teaching**

BCT 598 Design/Build Practicum; UMass/Amherst: Co-Instructor (2020)

Passive House Principles and Mechanical Systems; Berkshire Community College: Instructor (2018)

Historic Restorations + Energy Retrofits- Preservation, Repurposed Materials and Low Carbon Assemblies; Northeast Sustainable Energy Association Professional Tour: Instructor (2017)

Passive House- Healthy Indoor Air Quality; Northeast Sustainable Energy Association Professional Tour: Instructor (2017)

## **Service**

Board of Directors Mirleida Fund [Research and Funding for Nonprofit Organizations working on Social and Environmental Equity, Climate, Voter Rights, Food and Housing Security and Girls' Education], (2018-Present)

Coordination with International Institution of Rural Reconstruction in East Africa; Southern Ethiopia Department of Education and Bule Hora University; Funding for Design/Build of New School Project, (2019-Present)

Chesterfield, MA; Edwards Museum Historic Preservation, (2021)

One Holyoke CDC; Affordable Housing, (2021)

Funding and Construction of Solar Pavilion and Youth Participation Training Program; Gardening the Community, (2020)

Senior Housing Committee; Chesterfield, MA, (2016-2018)

General Contractor and Fundraiser of a New ADA Compliant Home for a Severely Injured Veteran from the Conflict in Iraq; Homes for our Troops, (2009)

Municipal Buildings Planning Committee; Chesterfield, MA, (2005-2008)

Library Restoration; Worthington, MA, (2003)

New Historical Museum; Worthington, MA, (1996)

### **Professional Affiliations**

Mirleida Fund (through The Community Foundation); Board of Directors

Passive House Alliance; member

Northeast Sustainable Energy Association; Life Member