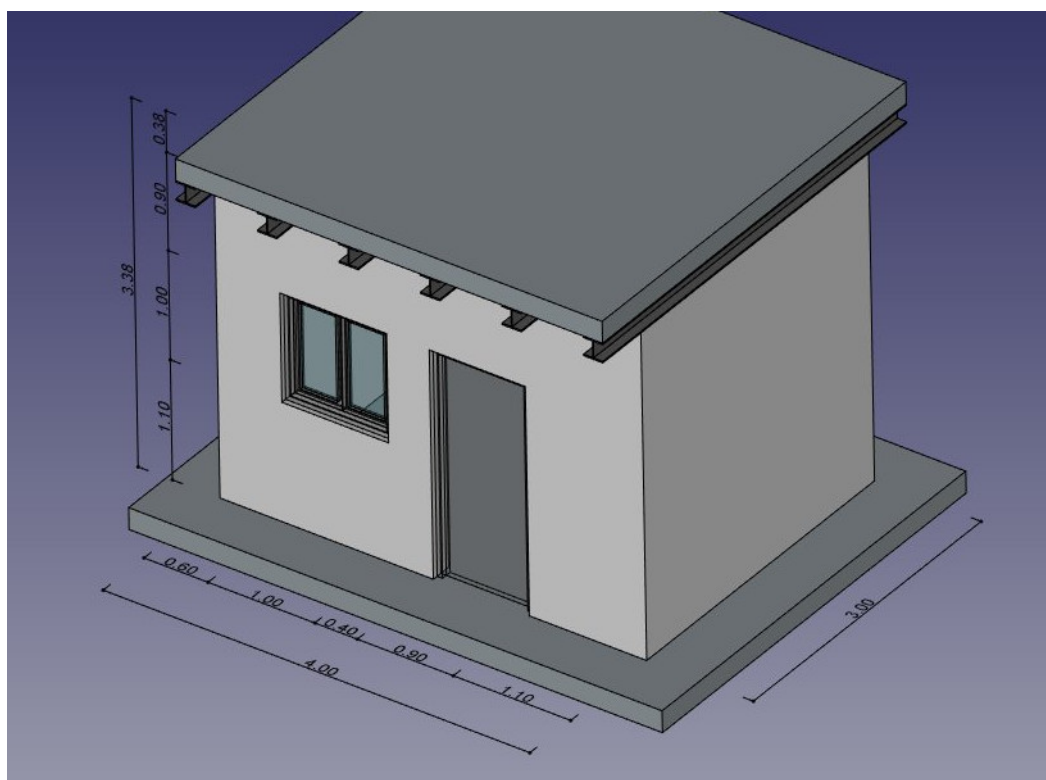


Free technology in housing and construction

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When building, self-building, renovating or extending a home, software and hardware products are almost indispensable.

For floorplans and CAD drawings there is FreeCAD and LibreCAD. The former, FreeCAD, appears to offer more features for 3D and a BIM workbench for Building Information Modelling. Even if you use architects and engineers to do most of the drawing and design work, it can be really helpful being able to view their drawings at home using one of these tools.

Once you have a plan for a building it is important to make calculations about energy requirements. One of the most well known tools for this is the Passive House Planning Package (PHPP). Some web sites refer to it as open source software but it is neither free nor open source. It is a spreadsheet and there is a charge for downloading it. There are discussions about an equivalent feature for FreeCAD and another discussion in OSArch.

For the construction phase, some of the tools promoted by Open Source Ecology offer the possibility to help with everything from earthworks to decorating.

[2]

[Software](#)

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