



FLAGSHIP DESIGNS

Part 5

If you're eager to build a home that not only looks great but is energy efficient and comfortable to live in, too, look no further than the Classical design from Hanse Haus, says **Sophie Hoyland**

Hanse Haus homes have been popular among self builders in Europe for over 80 years, but it wasn't until 2006 that the company made its mark in the UK. Hanse specialises in designing sustainable houses. It's known for ensuring its homes are not only virtually airtight, but have excellent thermal insulation, too. So what is it that makes them stand out design-wise?

Classical good looks

The most popular design in the Hanse Haus portfolio is the Classical house. "In essence it looks like a box. It's typically two storeys

high with dormer windows and a 45 degree saddleback roof," says Bruno Kleinheinz, technical director for Hanse Haus. "The Classical design is a timeless look that's favoured by many of our customers for its efficient use of space. It's often regarded as the 'best-value' option in our portfolio because you can get everything you need on a very tight footprint."

"You enter the dwelling through a porch and walk into a light-filled home, due to the vast amounts of glazing incorporated into the design," explains Bruno. "Features such as glass walls, roof lanterns and well-positioned windows are all reminiscent of a

Case study Chard in Somerset



When space inside Richard and Helen Gurd's chalet bungalow became tight, they knew it was time for something bigger. But with their camping and caravan business on their doorstep, moving away wasn't a viable option, so they knocked down their home and rebuilt a Hanse Haus on top.

With a business to run, a park to maintain, and three children to add to the mix, the couple wanted a spacious, functional and low-maintenance home. A Hanse Haus architect suggested with the Classical design. There were issues regarding size, with planning officers stating the new build couldn't be more than 15% bigger than the original home. However, after consultations, they ended up with a design that was 25% bigger!

The Gurd's new Classical Hanse Haus measures 236m². The ground floor is accessed through a front porch that leads out into a spacious dining hall, and then into an open-plan kitchen/diner, with the lounge on the other side. A WC and large utility room are located on the ground floor. Upstairs, there are four spacious bedrooms – one with ensuite – a family bathroom and a playroom/guestroom.

Key features include triple-glazed PVC windows, underfloor heating, an air-to-water boiler, mechanical exhaust air system, a rainwater harvesting system and Rockwool insulation in the walls, ceilings and roof. The majority of the materials used in the construction are chemical-free, too.



The entrance

Every Classical home includes a traditional porch which is the central focus for the property's exterior. It usually reaches the same height as the first floor. The same material is typically used to finish the porch walls as for the main house, though in some cases picking a different yet complementary cladding works well



The roof

A signature design detail of the Classical look is its 45° saddleback roof – a double sloped covering with a ridge and gables at each end. Classical homes are usually covered in either concrete tiling, zinc or natural slate. For a harmonious exterior look, the porch is topped in the same material as the roof



The walls

Choosing the right cladding is critical to the success of a Classical-style Hanse Haus build. Common materials to choose from are brick, stone and wood (as pictured). The choice is entirely up to you, but for some inspiration, take a look at what's been used to finish other buildings in your local area



Passivhaus

A Passivhaus is comfortable to live in and requires minimal heating thanks to its energy efficient construction. Sunlight, human occupants, household appliances and extracted air cover most of the heating demand. Good thermal insulation and well thought-out use of solar gain both help to reduce the need for heating

home of the classical period. Yet they give the house a modern appeal, while helping reflect light around the interiors to create the illusion of a large internal space.”

Where to start

The first step, once you've chosen to build a Classical home with Hanse Haus, is to meet a representative in your local area. He or she will take you to view current building sites or finished homes in the style to help you gain ideas and inspiration.

You're then invited to travel to Germany to visit the show home and factory. Once you arrive, you can discuss ideas with a specialist Hanse Haus architect to decide upon the design possibilities for the plot of land that you've purchased, depending on the budget you have. It's at this point where you can choose to build your Classical home

to Passivhaus standards (more details in box above). If you do go down this route, Hanse Haus offers certification – so every aspect of the project, right down to the fabric, is verified by the Passiv-haus Institute in Darmstadt, Germany.

Hanse Haus will produce drawings and specs, so a price can be fixed, and then submit the planning application on your behalf. “As a bespoke company, we offer many options and our customers can pick and choose exactly what features they want to be included in their home,” says Bruno. “Fundamentally, our homes make for a pleasant, comfortable house to live in, and are also cost effective to run.”

Once you've picked the features for your Classical home, you then need to decide what level of service you want. Hanse Haus offers three different customised packages,

depending on how much involvement you want in the actual build. The options are: 'starter', 'system', and 'turnkey'. A starter package provides a water and weatherproof house for hands-on self builders to finish, while a system house is erected and equipped by Hanse Haus, with the opportunity for self builders to have a limited DIY involvement. A turnkey house includes everything from electrics to decoration, ready for you to move straight in.

Construction

The Classical home is a timber frame construction built with precision engineered, pre-manufactured structural insulated panels (SIPs). The SIPs panels consist of two outer leaves sandwiching a layer of insulation, all bonded together with waterproof glue that is heated to 130°C. The external 8mm OSB boards are glued to vertical studs as well as the internal insulation. This construction method means the insulation will never shrink or sag. It also makes the walls load bearing, giving you endless opportunities for different internal layouts.

The build process

Hanse Haus arranges the clearing of the site, as well as the laying of foundations and the concrete slab. The company then sends a site manager – a suitably-qualified German craftsman – to oversee the construction.

Over in Germany, the final measurements are inputted to enable the machines to build the precision-engineered SIPs wall panels. As soon as these are on the assembly line, all the other products, such as the windows, any additional insulation, doors and window sills, are added step-by-step. The whole house is check-assembled over in Germany and all the components are delivered to the UK, ready for the Hanse Haus construction team to slot together.

On site, a 180m² Classical home can be completed in just five to six weeks. The ceiling and roof elements are built with the outside membrane already installed, which means that the roof can be made waterproof within just three days.

Cost options

This depends on the internal fit out and architectural design, but the estimated cost of a turnkey Classical house is £1,200 per m². Expect to pay £1,400 per m² if you opt to build to Passivhaus standards. ●

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