

House proud – even before it is approved

Controversial plans to feature at London show

By Sarah Chambers

PLANS for a new country house in Suffolk will feature in an exhibition to be held at the Royal Institute of British Architects in London next month.

The proposals for a luxury eight-bedroomed home in a contemporary design are due to be considered by Suffolk Coastal District Council's development control sub-committee when it meets today.

Sara Low, of Darsham House, Darsham, near Yoxford, wants to build the home in the countryside on part of her land.

Planners are recommending refusal of the application, because they do not believe the architectural style and landscape improvements are sufficiently outstanding to meet planning guid-

ance on allowing isolated houses in the countryside. But the plans have attracted praise from MP John Gummer, architect Sir Michael Hopkins and the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment.

The proposals will feature in The New English Country House Exhibition from September 1 to

'We've been working on this project for six months'

September 25.

The show takes a look at the recent boom in country house design, generated by the controversial paragraph in Planning Policy Guidance Note 7, which was introduced in 1997.

It states such homes may be "exceptionally jus-

tified" if they are "clearly of the highest quality", "truly outstanding in terms of architecture and landscape design" and would "significantly enhance" the immediate setting and wider surroundings.

The exhibition will be opened by John Gummer on September 1.

Paul+O Architects Ltd, which drew up the plans for Mrs Low, said: "We have been working on this project for the past six months and will attend a planning meeting on August 20 at which the fate of the house will hopefully be decided by the local councillors."

They said that with the support they had they were "hopeful" that the planning committee would approve the scheme.