



DIFFERENT OUTLOOK: An artist's impression of the proposed new country house at Westleton. "How refreshing," says Marion Halsall

Support for modern house in countryside

Sir, - How refreshing to see plans for a proper modern home in the Suffolk countryside as opposed to yet another mock medieval hall (EADT, August 14), and how depressing to hear that planning officers at Suffolk Coastal District Council are recommending rejection by the development control committee.

There is often mute homage to architecture when new homes are built, so that we end up with a grotesque pastiche of "heritage" styles with oversized garages that are thought to reflect the Suffolk vernacular.

I have had the pleasure of visiting Jim Cadbury Brown's flat-roofed house in Aldeburgh, a wonderful example of contemporary architecture, ordered yet uplifting in its use of space and light. When it was put forward for listing in August 2000, a development

control officer with Suffolk Coastal was quoted as saying: "Quite frankly I wish we got more approaches with good, innovative modern designs."

Sara Low's architects have come up with an original and exciting design that appears from the artist's impression to be in complete harmony with the landscape. Strong support comes from leading British architect Sir Michael Hopkins.

I am at a loss to understand how the planning officers have concluded it does not meet the criteria laid down in 1997 revision to the planning rules as quoted in your article. What exactly did they have in mind as arbiters of what is truly outstanding?

MARION HALSALL,
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Sir, - I write in support of Mrs Sara Low's application to build a contemporary country house



ORIGINAL: Sara Low Photograph: SPIKE POWELL

in Darsham, details of which were in the EADT, August 14.

I agree with the views of Sir Michael Hopkins and Mr John Gummer and see no justification for rejecting this application.

My own house in Aldeburgh has a flat roof with floor-to-ceiling windows, all of which, with modern standards, far surpass the standards of 100 plus years ago. It was built forty years ago, is listed Grade II, and is to be visited next week by the 20th Century Society.

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