

30 JUN 1966

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

BENTLEY HOUSE, 200 EUSTON ROAD, LONDON, N.W.1



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THE FOLLOWING NOTICE APPEARED IN

Times Literary Supplement

of *12th May* 19*66*

Architecture

BOYD, ROBIN. *The Puzzle of Architecture*. 188pp. Melbourne University Press. London: Cambridge University Press. £3 5s.

The puzzle is *modern architecture*: twenty years ago the layman took modern to mean simplicity, clean lines and box-like shapes. Since 1950 the pendulum of fashion has been swinging like an over-heated metronome and now he does not know whether to expect a modern building to look like a shoe-box, chunks of concrete, a pleasure dome or a tethered bird. Mr. Robin Boyd (of *The Australian Ugliness*) describes with his own amusing blend of cynicism and erudition what has been happening to modern architecture since the war and where it is likely to go next. The new battle, as Mr. Boyd sees it, is not between Classical and Romantic, but Romanticism versus Realism—Functionalism in a more human form. His competent illustrations hit off all styles from Gaudí to Guèdes (not to mention Googie—derived from a Californian restaurant chain—and Gimmick).