



ARCHITECT, journal of the Victorian chapter of the Institute of Architects, has paid the late Robin Boyd an extraordinary compliment.

It has brought out an entire issue devoted to his works.

Right in the front there is a letter written by a fourth-former, Martin Elks, of Peninsula Grammar.

Martin gently points out that Robin Boyd, the man who abhorred "featurism" and who coined the word, was guilty of it himself. If the New World Supermarkets and the Red Barns were horrid examples, then what about his Fish Bowl in South Yarra.

Robin replied: "Dear Martin ... I look mainly for an idea — that is one idea per building — instead of the more usual assortment of little ideas, typically the 'feature-market' with its many stale ideas mixed together.

"On the other hand, Red Barn is not a Featurist so much as an 'idea' building and I won't dislike it as much as I do a shambles like the New World Supermarket.

"The thing that I do find objectionable is that its idea is pretty weak; the stage setting it creates so unimaginative,



Robin Boyd (above) and the 'Fishbowl' (top) . . . one idea, simply carried through.

and unamusing.

"The Fish Bowl is not made to imitate a real fish-bowl, but the idea of a fibre-glass sphere as a memorable emblem, which may be associated with the idea of fish, seemed to be valid in this small commercial building.

"If you don't agree, if you think it looks as gaudy and silly as a New World Supermarket, that is a matter of taste; but I hope you will agree it has one idea, simply carried through."