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# 'COMPUTER' CITY TAKING SHAPE

**PLANS** for Melbourne's "computer" satellite city at Sunbury are beginning to take shape.

And after six months' intensive research, the planners are convinced all future Australian cities could be modelled on it.

The idea of the city was conceived by the late Mr Robin Boyd when he was president of the Victorian chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects.

He said in June this year that he wanted a city that would not be "swamped by suburbia."

Now the chapter, which has been working with the State Government, local authorities and a team of 20 experts, has come up with its first findings on how Sunbury should look.

Each researcher has fed his findings through a computer to gain an overall picture of how the city would look.

So far the picture is of extensive green belt zones, hazard-free residential areas with pedestrian walk-ways and a transport system that would put people within 20 minutes of Melbourne.

The researchers have included conservationists, ecologists, transport experts, town planners, industrialists and sociologists.

They have found that, while some wildlife and flora have been destroyed, platypus still thrive in Jackson's Creek.

"If we can build a city for 100,000 people and preserve the platypus then we will have been successful," the acting vice-president of the chapter, Mr Reg Grouse, said yesterday.

Mr Grouse said the destruction during the gold rush days of sheoak

trees had left the area bare and windswept.

"An extensive replanting program would change the whole character of Sunbury dramatically," he said.

"The whole concept is different from anything we have had in Australia before.

"It is essentially being planned through public participation.

"While we might give our professional view, the people themselves will decide what they want.

"The whole thinking behind the project is that we are breaking from the traditional autocratic method of presenting a static plan."

The findings and others to come, plus alternatives, will be displayed at Sunbury when the institute holds its national convention there next May.

Mr Grouse said Sunbury was chosen because it provided a rare oppor-



• ROBIN BOYD . . . city was his idea.

tunity for a city to be researched, planned and built as a complete entity.

"This opportunity has been lost in the south and east of Melbourne where there is room only for corridor development along the existing traffic routes," he said.