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**'Boyd one of the greats'**

"Robin Boyd was one of Australia's greatest architects," the former President of the Victorian Branch of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, Mr Peter McIntyre, said yesterday.

Boyd died in the Royal Melbourne Hospital on Friday night after a four week illness.

"He was an architect with an international reputation," Mr McIntyre said.

"Although he criticised Australia and its buildings, Australia was his first love."

Robin Boyd had a world-wide reputation for his building designs.

He won the Victorian Institute's citation for the best educational building in 1968.

The design was of McCaughey Court, a seven story flat block at Melbourne University.

His Fletcher house in Brighton won the citation for the best domestic building in 1969.

Mr Boyd was severely critical of many designs prominent in Australian architecture.

Of St Kilda Rd, he once wrote: "Once (it was) a leafy road with hardly one bad building.

"What they have done to St Kilda Rd is like someone putting a maxi-skirt on the Venus de Milo . . . the gaudy strip of petty new, comic carnival buildings . . . I don't think the word tragic is too emotional."

Among the other buildings Mr Boyd designed are Domain Park, Melbourne's first air-conditioned high rise apartment block, the John Batman Motor Inn, the Zoology Building at the Australian National Univer-

sity and Menzies college at LaTrobe University.

In 1969 he won the Australian Institute of Architects gold medal while he was still working on the "dinosaur" - Australia's building at Expo 70 in Osaka.

Boyd loved Melbourne even though he hated the ugliness that has grown up around the city's beaches.