

The mark of Robin Boyd

By KEITH DUNSTAN

THE buildings pictured here show the remarkable Robin Boyd style.

An architect dies, but his impact lives on.

All were buildings which made an impact.

Boyd died on Friday night. He was 52.

Robin Boyd believed passionately in the

purity of design and use of the most simple possible materials — no unnecessary adornments, no flamboyance. For example, he would be enraged by the sight of a hotel redecorated with mock Tudor.

Concrete, bare brick, unstained timber. These were honest materials which could be beautiful in themselves.

Yet all his buildings were different — each showed

an extraordinary originality in the way he solved a problem.

Some of his critics say that the Fishbowl in South Yarra was the very antithesis of the Boyd teaching. But this was a fun thing and the purity of the Boyd design was still there.

The great fibreglass bowl was an ingenious piece of design, a world first. It was the first time a ball had been put together in this manner, self-supporting with no inner structure.

It is actually the ceiling of the building and provides light and color.



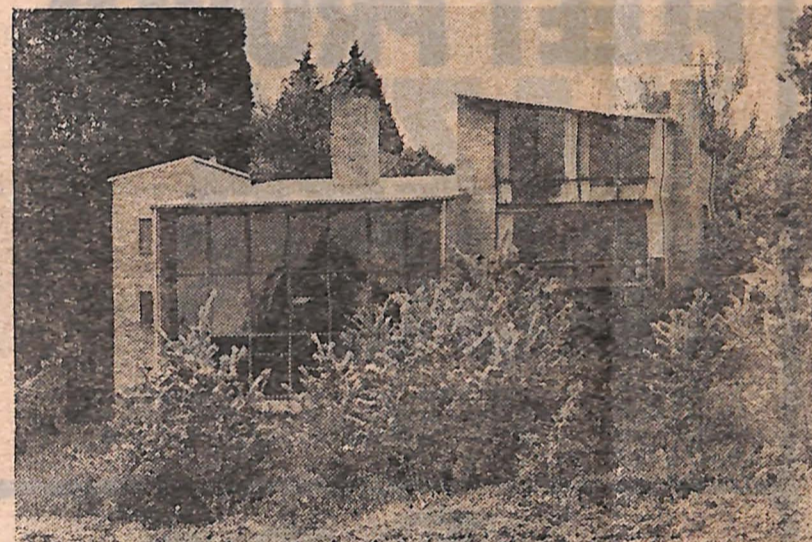
ROBIN BOYD (left) was born on January 3, 1919, and educated at Malvern Grammar School and Melbourne Technical College. He was a practising architect from 1947 and in 1970 received the Gold Medal, highest award of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects. He was a Life Fellow of the RAI, an Honorary Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.



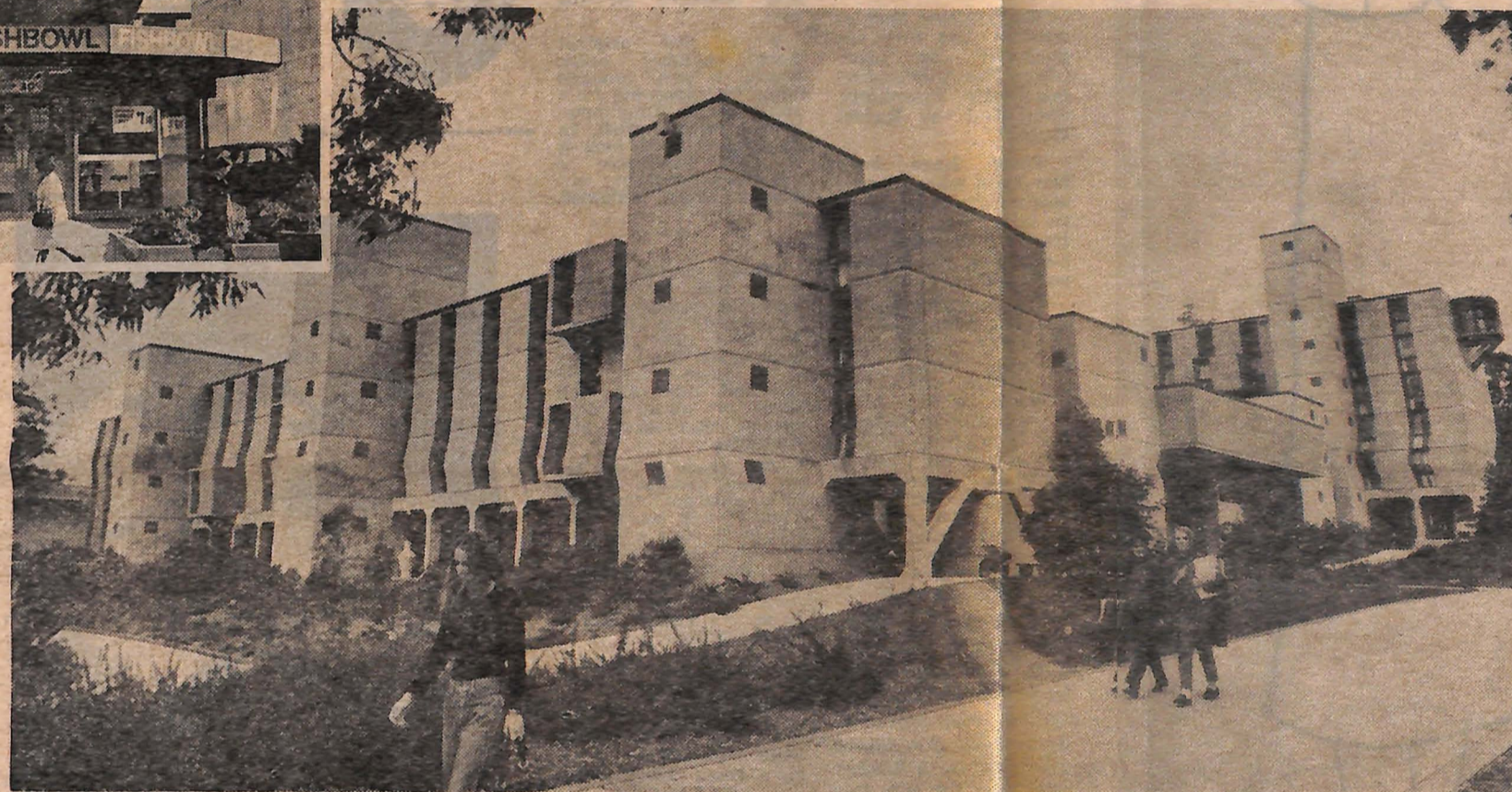
JOHN BATMAN MOTOR INN, Queen's Rd., was one of the first motels to get away from dull, box-like lines. The curved ceiling houses a two-level penthouse apartment.



THE FISHBOWL was Robin Boyd's most criticised creation. Yet this was up with the world's most modern in pop architecture. The bowl, completely unsupported, was a world first.



MR GRANT FEATHERSTON'S house in The Boulevard, Ivanhoe, was one of Boyd's favorite designs. It has large, air-conditioned living spaces at different levels and has an indoor garden underneath.

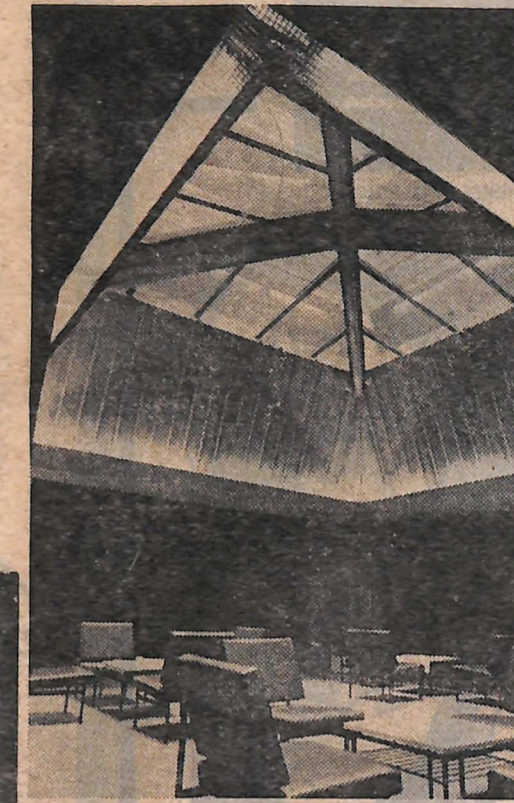


MENZIES HALL at La Trobe University is a classic example of Boyd's style. It is almost medieval in design. It has no frills and no unnecessary ornaments. The building's beauty is in its simplicity.



APPLETREE HILL was a Boyd dream that financially never took off. The houses were positioned to give privacy, yet there were no front or side fences. There were no telegraph poles or overhead wires.

Pictures: JOHN CASAMENTO



THE ground-floor lounge at McCaughey Hall, Melbourne University. The light-well treatment is simple, yet has a cathedral-like quality. The outside view of McCaughey Hall shows that bare concrete can be beautiful.

