

# National Trust plans to add Boyd house to its portfolio

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In an impressive shift of policy, the National Trust is embracing modern architecture.

Following its recent foray into open houses designed by Robin Boyd, it is now planning to purchase Boyd's own house in Walsh Street, South Yarra, to join 23 other places it owns and manages, including Como House, La Trobe's Cottage and Old Melbourne Gaol.

The difference with this house is that it was designed and built in 1959 and is even now a contemporary individual design built for a private family.

The house is small, with parents' and children's quarters separated by a large enclosed

courtyard. The planning is overlaid with Japanese nuances: open planning, understated spaces, patterns of sunlight over big brick walls, connections to the courtyard vegetation and a discerning use of cupboards as sculptural pieces.

Its roof is an inventive concept of cables and timber over which a flexible membrane has been laid; it moves and leaks.

The trust plans to establish the Robin Boyd Foundation, using the house as its base for a number of activities associated with Boyd. It will be open to the public on occasions.

Partners with the trust to enable this will be the Boyd family, the State Government, Melbourne City Council and Melbourne University.



Robin Boyd's home in Walsh Street, South Yarra, above and left, reveals a Japanese influence in its design. The National Trust intends to buy the property.