

Architectural Artifacts in Lakeview

In warm weather master salvager Stuart Grannen of Architectural Artifacts moves some of his stock of stone, tile, and terra-cotta building ornaments, right, outdoors.

Sara Breiel in River North
Sara Breiel, a former banker, scours the South for antiques, then creates vignettes of domesticity, far right, for her cozy second-floor shop.



designers, architects, and artists in a 5,200-square-foot loft in the historic Haymarket neighborhood in the West Loop. Ab Imo, which gets its name from an abbreviation of the Latin phrase meaning "from the bottom of the heart," favors the "individualistic," Szarapka says. One example: a chair composed of wax candles.

Urban Gardener 2131 North Southport Ave. Chicago, IL 60614 (312) 477-2070

Urban Gardener, which opened last September in a Victorian storefront in West De Paul, both inspires and supplies gardening enthusiasts, whose passions flourish in this city of long and bitter winters. Landscape architect Philip Eichler and veteran gardener Timothy Newman stock old terra-cotta statuary, wrought-iron gates, and peeling painted shutters, as well as tools, topiary forms, books, and a few unusual plants. "My background is in native plants and wild gardening, so we try to keep things as organic as possible," Eichler explains. This

spring the partners will open a garden around the corner.

K. C. Larson Galleries 500 North Wells St. Chicago, IL 60610 (312) 645-0900

River North, an area packed with restaurants, design showrooms, and antiques shops, is also home to two fine sources for Biedermeier furniture. Unlike her more established competitor, Rita Bucheit, whose gallery across the street is period-perfect, Karen Larson also offers antiquarian books, turn-of-the-century Soumak rugs, and tables made from art deco wrought-iron grilles. "I'm always looking for things that will mix well with Biedermeier," says Larson. Best bet for budding collectors: books starting at \$35.

Sara Breiel 703 North Wells St. Chicago, IL 60610 (312) 664-8190

"People always say to me, 'Do you live here? This feels like a house,'" reports Sara Breiel. Until two and a half years ago she was, in fact, dealing in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century English and European objects from her house, but now she presides over one of the city's most charming shops. Her second-floor space in River North is a series of little rooms with arrangements of furniture and wonderful accessories that have decorators from the North Shore knocking on her yellow door. "My look is more tranquil and tailored than some you'll see," says Breiel, who finds many of her favorite pieces in the South.

Architectural Artifacts 4325 North Ravenswood Chicago, IL 60613 (312) 348-0622

"A renovator's candy store"—that's what Stuart Grannen calls the 30,000-square-foot Lakeview emporium he has filled with architectural antiques and anything else that catches his fancy, from stuffed sharks to Masonic regalia. "Chicago is the queen city of architecture," Grannen says. "But a lot of buildings get destroyed in the name of progress." That's where he steps in. Architectural Artifacts has an especially fine selection of garden sculpture.

RESTAURANTS

For lunch or dinner, the place to go near River West is **Vivo** (858 West Randolph St., 312-733-3379), where Cindy Crawford, Michelle Pfeiffer, and Bruce Springsteen have been spotted; **Jerry Kleiner's** happening Italian eatery is a short walk from his furniture gallery and just down the block from Ab Imo. In River North, **Home** (733 North Wells St., 312-981-7350) is a good place for sandwiches and salads, or call ahead for reservations at **Gordon** (800 North Clark St., 312-467-9780), where the new American cuisine is made with produce from the owner's Illinois farm. In Wicker Park stop at **Earwax** (1864 North Milwaukee Ave., 312-778-4019) for caffè latte and a bite of African stew or Moroccan couscous.

Chair by François
Frossard, left, at
Ab Imo.
Biedermeier
side chair, right,
at K. C. Larson
Galleries.

