

Chicago

MARCH 1993 \$2.25

GENERAL SALVAGE HOUSES

Architectural Artifacts (4325 North Ravenswood Avenue, 348-0622) serves as a haven for homeless mantels, gargoyles, pissoirs, and confessionals. It's disheartening to consider how many churches, theatres, and private homes were flattened or gutted to yield the accumulation you'll find here. A cardboard box filled with iron fence tips, \$10 each, begs the question, Whence the fence? "I don't like to see buildings get lost," says owner and salvager Stuart Grannen, "but if they do, at least we can save these things."

Just about everything here is in great condition and beautifully displayed. We're talking more select, more unusual, but not necessarily more expensive, than the other rescue shops in town. Find dozens of oak mantels in every size and degree of filigree (\$1,300 to \$2,500), iron mailboxes (\$25 to \$125), brass towel bars (\$25), chunks of wrought iron (\$250 to \$700), porcelain sinks (around \$500), Victorian stained-glass panels (about \$125), pressed-tin ceiling ornaments (about \$50), and an elaborate built-in oak cabinet (\$4,500), plus lots of light fixtures, most around \$100.

Best, at least for entertainment shopping, are the unique finds, such as the 25-foot-long bar from a defunct Chicago tavern called Bunky's Place, complete with NO CREDIT and NO CHECKS CASHED signs intact. It went for \$4,500. How about an embarrassingly florid wall-size painting of Bacchus, jug in hand, just \$365? Or an elaborate solid-oak tower of drawers and chests—the vestment cabinet from Sacred Heart Church (\$4,400)? If you've got a special something in mind, Grannen, who answered his calling to collect at age nine when he began buying up stained glass, will scout it out during his travels.



Architectural Artifacts
4325 North Ravenswood
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"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.



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.