

# 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.