

A whole new way of looking at salvaged treasures



"We don't see many of them around," revival's owner Mark Steinke says of this 19th Century carved limestone bust of an ancient philosopher (\$3,800). To its left, a blue ceramic Arts and Crafts jardiniere (\$495).

By Mary Daniels

Tribune staff reporter

The oldest pre-ComEd power plant in the city is now the home of one of Chicago's most electrifying concepts in how to present and sell architectural artifacts.

The uber-sophisticated interior of Mark Steinke's new "revival, architectural eye catchers" is an eye-catching architectural feat in itself. Light-filled, with floor-to-ceiling storefront windows and a clerestory that runs along one side of the store, the wares are lined up along pristine white walls in exemplary vignettes. A sharp contrast to the dark and dingy dungeons of previous incarnations of artifact warehouses.

Tony Kavanaugh, a world-traveled dealer in garden ornament, calls revival "a New York-type of space, like nothing else you see in Chicago."

"This is why it's taken so long, it is not your average space," says Steinke. "We were supposed to be open a while ago, but this project turned out to be larger than anyone anticipated. So we had a year to look around for things."

Steinke had approached Jerry Kleiner, the building's owner, to be a part of a project likely to seed other happenings in this Near South Side neighborhood.

"I fell in love with this building," says Kleiner. "I like taking old buildings, I like preserving old buildings, carving them up and making them look better than ever before." Kleiner is the visionary who created the Randolph Street and South Loop dining belts.

"This is a power plant with history," adds Kleiner. "When built in 1891, it was called the Chicago Illuminating Co." — a name Kleiner will retain for the rental space in the other half of the building, still under construction. "It is in the middle of nowhere, it's mysterious and when you come there, it is like *wow*."

He envisions it as a cultural center that will host performance art, galleries, fashion shows, food and wine tastings. Or as he says, "It is an open canvas to do whatever I want to do with it."

As it is, revival is his first tenant and the first retail store of its caliber in the yet-to-be-gentrified area. After an agonizingly long wait to open, Steinke did so on June 5. Though not everything is finished, it should be by the grand opening July 22.

Steinke, 43, was managing director of Leslie Hindman's Salvage One architectural artifact warehouse from 1998 to 2003. Before that, he was in international banking, managing auction house Sotheby's global account, which is where he met Hindman.

Unlike the old Salvage One (still in business at 1840 W. Hubbard St., under new management), which was Ali Baba's cave — but a dark and dingy one — revival has well-edited spaces and is light-filled, so one can imagine how the wares would look, say, in a loft.

The range of possibilities is wide and refreshingly unduplicated in this town — from small ceramic soap dishes from Morocco (\$12) to a new iron four-poster bed, designed by Kleiner (\$3,500).

A singular item in the lower level of the store is a Frank Lloyd Wright-designed bedroom suite from a William Martin House built in 1902 in Oak Park, an unusual find at \$42,000.

There is something for all tastes, such as the French market bags (\$95) in different weaves.



Above: A polychromed terra-cotta angel from the facade of a Chicago building (\$1,950).
 Left: A set of five painted tin orbs goes for \$125.



Outside revival, pieces of carved limestone capital from the Pabst family home in Milwaukee stand sentinel.

REVIVAL: Fresh twist on salvage

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As Steinke explains, "one weave means potatoes, one weave means zucchinis, and another says, you put apples in here."

There are 1970s Italian chairs, fire-escape grates, zinc planters, cement urn molds, terra-cotta fragments, doors — all displayed so you could see how they might work if you took them home. He explains his store's tagalong, "architectural eye catchers:" "In the 18th Century, eye catchers were beautiful things you put in the garden." And there is plenty of that, as well.

"We're not trying to be a museum here, but [offer] great an-

tiques in a modern setting. Nobody does a period room anymore. People are mixing antiques in a modern setting, but I find they need guidance," says Steinke.

As for Steinke's goals, he says, "I hope to sell everything because then I get to buy more stuff. Hopefully I will get to change the mix-up quite often."

Revival, Architectural Eye Catchers is at 19 E. 21st St. Hours: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays, noon to 4 p.m. Sundays. Call: 312-842-4002.