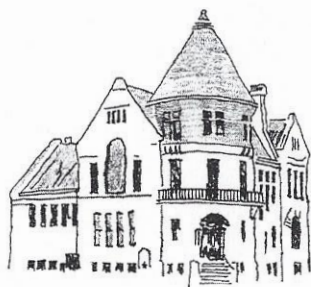


BEHIND CLOSED DOORS - OCTOBER 18, 1997



**The Gardner Museum of Architecture and Design
Formerly the Free Public Library and Reading Room
332 Maine**

Construction Date: 1888

Richardsonian Romanesque

Architect: Patton and Fisher

Built in 1888, the Free Public Library and Reading Room was designed by the Chicago architecture firm of Patton and Fisher. In 1974, the Gardner Museum of Architecture and Design was organized to encourage the preservation of Quincy's rich architectural treasures. The former library building was restored at that time for its conversion to a museum. The museum not only serves as an educational tool with its displays, but provides research materials and assistance for those seeking historical information about local buildings.

The Richardsonian Romanesque style was shaped by the late 19th century architect, Henry Hobson Richardson. The style was popularized by public and commercial building types because of the strong, dominant feel the heavy masonry structures evoked. The style also became a popular residential building style. Besides the materials, other elements of 332 Maine are clearly of the Richardsonian Romanesque style, such as the round arched openings, the large corner tower and the decoratively carved stone panels.