

Gardner Museum of Architecture & Design

Spring
1997

*Let your heritage not be lost, but bequeath it as a Memory;
Gather the lost and the hidden and preserve it for thy children*

Christian Metz

Dear Members,

As the new director of the Gardner Museum, it is somewhat embarrassing to say that I almost didn't survive my first visit to Quincy. The town is not dangerous in and of itself, but the architecture of the city has a tendency to draw people's eyes away from the road. Craning my neck, turning the wrong direction on one way streets, and slowing down suddenly did not endear me to Quincy drivers.

There was a good reason for my absent mindedness; Quincy is a remarkable city in the scope of it's architectural heritage. I have never seen a city of it's size with the same number of wonderful buildings.

Cheyenne, Wyoming was my home town. We did have several old buildings but none dated further back than 1870. Even so, the city's rich heritage, both historical and architectural, sparked my imagination. As a result, architecture and history have been an interest of mine for as long as I can remember. Serving internships at the Wyoming State Museum, the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office and Mystic Seaport Museum in Mystic, Connecticut have helped me prepare for a career in museum work. I hold an Associates degree in history from Laramie County Community College in Cheyenne, and a Bachelor's degree in historic preservation from Southeast Missouri State University. For the past two years I was the curatorial assistant at the Mark Twain Museum in Hannibal.

Through my experiences I have grown to appreciate older buildings and what they mean to their communities. They are time-capsules, reflecting the tastes, ambitions, fears and dreams of those who occupied them. I believe the Gardner Museum is providing a unique and important service to the community of Quincy. While there remains a large number of structures that still inspire wonder and awe from our visitors and ourselves, many buildings are now gone or being threatened. It is my pleasure to be a part of the on-going efforts to preserve Quincy's architectural heritage.

I look forward to meeting you all at the Annual Meeting on April 24, 1997. The Gardner Museum would not be able to fulfill it's role for the community without support from it's members.

I value your insights and encourage you to stop by and share your ideas about the museum's future with me. Together, we will do wonderful things for the museum and Quincy.

Sincerely,



Michael Kassel