

~~Wastebec~~ Sigal
Post-walk interview

(Conception of Boston) I'd say that this is very "Bostonian", tempered perhaps by the fact that I've lived here, and some of these ideas back of this were what brought me to the area in the first place.

(What was particularly Bostonian about it?) The superimposition of the old, the very old, and the new which you don't really find in many other cities in the U.S. I'll point out to you several of the stores which I felt were the originals of the chains in the area here. Otic Clapp I always get a chuckle out of. One gets the impression, although one knows better, I mean I know the history of the Back Bay, I know how old it really is, but one gets the impression that it is much older than it really is. Was the Public Gardens also part of the reclamation project or was that original? . . . One must not forget, of course, the very strong influence of the Ritz Plaza being located right in this area, with its cosmopolitan trade, with the shops tending, particularly along Newbury St., to cater to the type of trade that (a) stays at the Ritz Plaza, or (b) would like to stay there and be associated with that type of class.

(Do you feel at ease in this area?) Oh, completely at ease.