

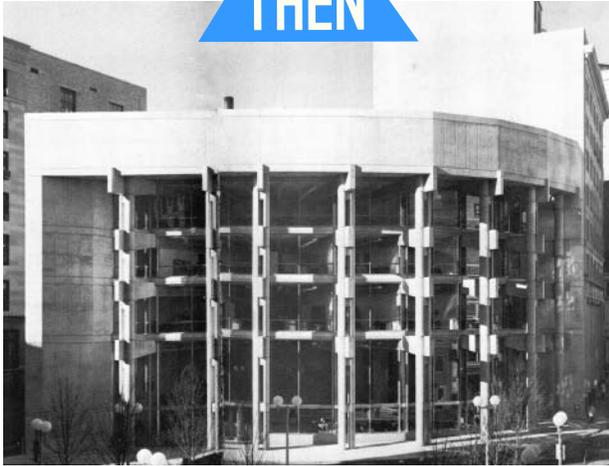
# 10 SCHOOL ST

10 SCHOOL STREET

EST. 1972

GERHARD KALLMANN &  
N. MICHAEL MCKINNELL, ARCHITECTS

THEN



NOW



## HISTORY

Located at the busy intersection of Washington and School Streets, 10 School Street was built in 1972 as office and retail space for the Boston Five Cents Savings Bank located in the adjoining 24-32 School Street building. Built by architects Gerhard Kallmann and N. Michael McKinnell in 1972, the modern concrete and glass building is one of only a couple of examples of midcentury modern architecture in Downtown Boston. Kallmann and McKinnell, architects associated with Harvard's Graduate School of Design, had made a name for themselves with the recent completion of Boston City Hall just up the street. Though it aesthetically and materially contrasts with its architectural context, its dimensions were deliberately calibrated to align with features of the early 20th century bank building next door.

10 School Street's innovative use of glass and concrete, including eight 65-foot-tall "cast-in-place" concrete columns, garnered considerable attention for the building in the 1970s. Soon after its completion it was described by Architectural Forum magazine as having "a rugged airiness best appreciated at night." Along with contemporary material choices and design decisions, the building is notable for its pie-wedge shape. This was not an architectural whim but a response to the former alignment of School and Milk Street. This street extension was eventually removed and the space was transformed by the Boston Redevelopment Authority into a much-loved public plaza. The building's curved setback currently provides a backdrop for the Irish Famine Memorial, dedicated in 1998, and also allows generous views of the historic Old Corner Bookstore and the Old South Meetinghouse. Borders Books renovated the building in 1995, occupying the space through 2011. Walgreens has plans to make the building's retail storefront its flagship Boston location this fall.