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## Living downtown provides more time to dream

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Since 2000, the downtown Cincinnati population has doubled to just over 7,700. It's on track to increase to 12,000 by the end of the decade, according to Downtown Cincinnati Inc.

High-end condos with sweeping river views are in varying stages of construction and interest is percolating in the Gateway Quarter's 15 renovated buildings in Over-the-Rhine. Examples of both will be part of the Downtown Tour of Living & Dining Sept. 30, amended this year to include complimentary tastings from eight downtown restaurants.

Near the top of Colin Groth's list of reasons to live downtown are the "unbelievable" sausage at Avril & Bleh Meat Market on Court Street, shopping at Findlay Market, walking to work and easy access to restaurants and bars.

But at the very top of his list is "an extra hour of sleep."

He used to set his alarm two hours before he was due at his job in community/government relations at Metro, in the Kroger building, downtown.

"Now I can get up an hour before work, have coffee, watch the Sports Center. I get an extra hour of sleep," something every 25-year-old could use.

He started thinking about moving downtown "since the day I got back from Columbus," says the Ohio State grad and Indian Hill native who moved from Hyde Park in June to a fourth-floor walk-up in the Bremen Lofts. The Lofts are part of the Gateway Quarter between Central Parkway and 12th Street and Race and Vine streets in Over-the-Rhine.

"I wanted to be close to a lot of new things that I felt were going on downtown," Groth says. "At more and more community events I went to there was more buzz about making downtown the regional heart of the community.

"And I've always been excited about the potential of Over-the-Rhine."

He spent about nine months looking at property, some farther north. He considered buying a multifamily building and fixing it up himself.

"But I wasn't sure I had the time. And, at the end of the day, I wanted to be able to walk to work."

### ALL THE AMENITIES

Groth purchased his building-top unit with the rooftop view of Music Hall in January before it was finished by the Model Group and moved in June. The parking lot is under construction.

His 1,400-square-foot space has the latest amenities, including granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, bamboo floors, an open floor plan and 200-square-foot deck

The main floor's kitchen is separated from the living room by a bar-height dining table and built-in stacked laundry center. The 20-foot ceiling is open to the rafters. A sweeping curved wall of frosted glass and wood creates an office/bedroom, and the master bedroom and bath are down the hall. Upstairs, curved columns create a loft space that can be used as another bedroom or study with an extra bath.

Groth took advantage of several shops that have popped up in the Gateway Quarter and furnished his condo with interchangeable cocoa-colored upholstered pieces by Sixth Avenue from Metronation and plants from City Roots, both a half-block away on Vine Street.

## FULFILLING A DREAM

He's become an unofficial cheerleader for the burgeoning neighborhood that now boasts nearly 100 lofts in 15 new and renovated buildings. The residences are priced from the low \$90,000s to \$300,000.

"I literally never need to use my car," says Groth. "I walk to (Fountain) Square, to restaurants or I hop a bus. It's the convenience of getting around town and being able to shop and relax and have a nice dinner then walk home. My whole dream is to get rid of my car and ride streetcars and buses.

"And I love my view."

*The Gateway Quarter information center is at 12th and Vine streets.*

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