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HIGH-RISE STYLE

WIDE OPEN SPACES



JOHN GURZINSKI/REVIEW-JOURNAL
Brenda Calvin sits in the parlor outside the bedroom of her loft at Metropolis, a luxury high-rise on Desert Inn Road near Paradise Road.

Loft living offers clean canvas for creative homeowners to make their mark



JOHN GURZINSKI/REVIEW-JOURNAL
This is the view from the second floor of Brenda Calvin's loft.



JOHN GURZINSKI/REVIEW-JOURNAL
The living room of Brenda Calvin's loft is shown.

Brenda Calvin lives in a spacious loft at Metropolis, a luxury high-rise on Desert Inn Road near Paradise Road. One of the coolest things about Calvin's loft isn't just the view of the golf course behind Wynn Las Vegas that she enjoys from her window. It's the sight of all that rolling greenery from a window that's nearly two stories tall.

Southern Nevada has become a mecca for those seeking a high-rise lifestyle. And, for some opting to go vertical, luxury digs are taking the form of lofts.

Several high-rises that incorporate lofts are either on the drawing board or under construction. At two that are open — SoHo Lofts in downtown Las Vegas and Metropolis, just east of the Strip — loft dwellers say this luxury-minded twist on a classic East Coast concept offers a more laid-back, creative alternative to high-rise condos.

Calvin, a real estate agent who specializes in high-rise sales, notes that lofts came out of New York City, where artists and other creative types would refashion unused manufacturing facilities into airy living — and, often, combination living-and-work

▶ SEE LOFTS PAGE 2E
Living spaces marked by large rooms, high ceilings and industrial look



Chris Shelton's two-story loft is photographed at downtown's SoHo Lofts.



Dean Elyacoubi's living room is seen from the second floor of his loft at Metropolis.

JOHN GURZINSKI/REVIEW-JOURNAL



A stairway leads to the second floor of Dean Elyacoubi's loft.



The westward patio at Chris Shelton's loft is shown.

▶ LOFTS: Living spaces marked by large rooms, high ceilings and industrial look

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— spaces.

In Las Vegas, the typical characteristics of the classic loft — large rooms, high ceilings, an industrial look owing to such touches as exposed ductwork and unfinished surfaces — are wedded to such staples of the luxury high-rise world as concierge services and purchase prices that can top \$1 million. For instance, lofts at SoHo and Metropolis range from \$500,000 to \$1.7 million.

Generally speaking, those who opt for lofts are attracted by “the uniqueness of the living space. When you have guests over, their jaws drop because it’s so unusual, so special,” Calvin says.

Calvin moved into her loft at Metropolis in March but became familiar with the development in 2003, when she relocated from Houston — she sold high-rise condos there for 19 years — to sell units for the project’s developer.

It’s Calvin’s first loft. She says she likes the art-deco look of Metropolis and, surprisingly, the intimacy the living space affords. Although the entryway of her loft opens into an expansive room with a 19-foot ceiling, it’s “actually quite warm and inviting,” she says.

The loft’s master bathroom and bedroom are separated from the main room by walls, and a sitting area above the living room is delineated by a half-wall. Other than that, the space is open.

“It’s inspiring,” Calvin says. “It just does not feel like any home I’ve lived in.”

Dean Elyacoubi, who also has a loft in Metropolis, works in the mortgage business.

“I’ll be honest with you: When I first bought it, I bought it as an investment, and I thought I’ll just probably rent it out and turn it around and sell it,” he says.

But, during the three years it took for construction, he’d stop by occasionally to see how things were progressing. “It started to appeal to me (that) I’d like to live there,” he says.

Elyacoubi hews to a traditional loft feel by incorporating relatively few dividing walls in his design. That helps to retain “the openness and the airiness,” he says. “You don’t get that in traditional (high-rises).”

“Loft living, I think, is a little bit more relaxed,” he adds. “When you’re in a traditional high-rise, it’s going to be real modern, and maybe they’re not using some stonework and wood. They’re doing your traditional carpet.”

Chris Shelton, 24, moved into his loft in SoHo Lofts almost five months ago. It’s a first loft for Shelton, a real estate developer and former contestant on the TV reality



A spare bedroom is photographed at Chris Shelton's SoHo loft. Shelton says he became used to an urban downtown ambience while living in Manhattan as a contestant on "The Apprentice."

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Shelton says SoHo Lofts' downtown location was appealing, as were design

horizontally, when placing furniture and artworks. But, Calvin notes, larger pieces can be placed in a loft with no fear that they might overwhelm the room.

While Pittman likes the

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DEAN ELYACOUBI
METROPOLIS LOFT OWNER

features in the units that create a New York City type of vibe.

"The way it's set up, there really are no walls," he says, although "I do have sliding room partitions that open and close on the downstairs master and one upstairs master."

Robert Pittman, hotel manager at Wynn Las Vegas, has been living at SoHo Lofts for about five months. For Pittman, loft living is all about the flow created by having no real barriers.

About 1,600 of his loft's 2,000 square feet make up pretty much one room, Pittman says. "There's nothing separating any space. You do the laundry, the cooking, everything at one time, and it's easily manageable."

He, too, has opted for a minimalist decor. "No rugs. It's just a concrete floor," he says. "Exposed ductwork. It really gives the impression of a kind of low-maintenance, bachelor lifestyle."

But the sheer glut of open space in a loft can require rethinking some traditional notions of decorating a home. For example, high ceilings mean thinking vertically, as well as



Chris Shelton says he enjoys the New York-style touches available in his unit at SoHo Lofts.



Dean Elyacoubi sits in the living room of his loft at Metropolis. Elyacoubi incorporates relatively few dividing walls in his interior design.