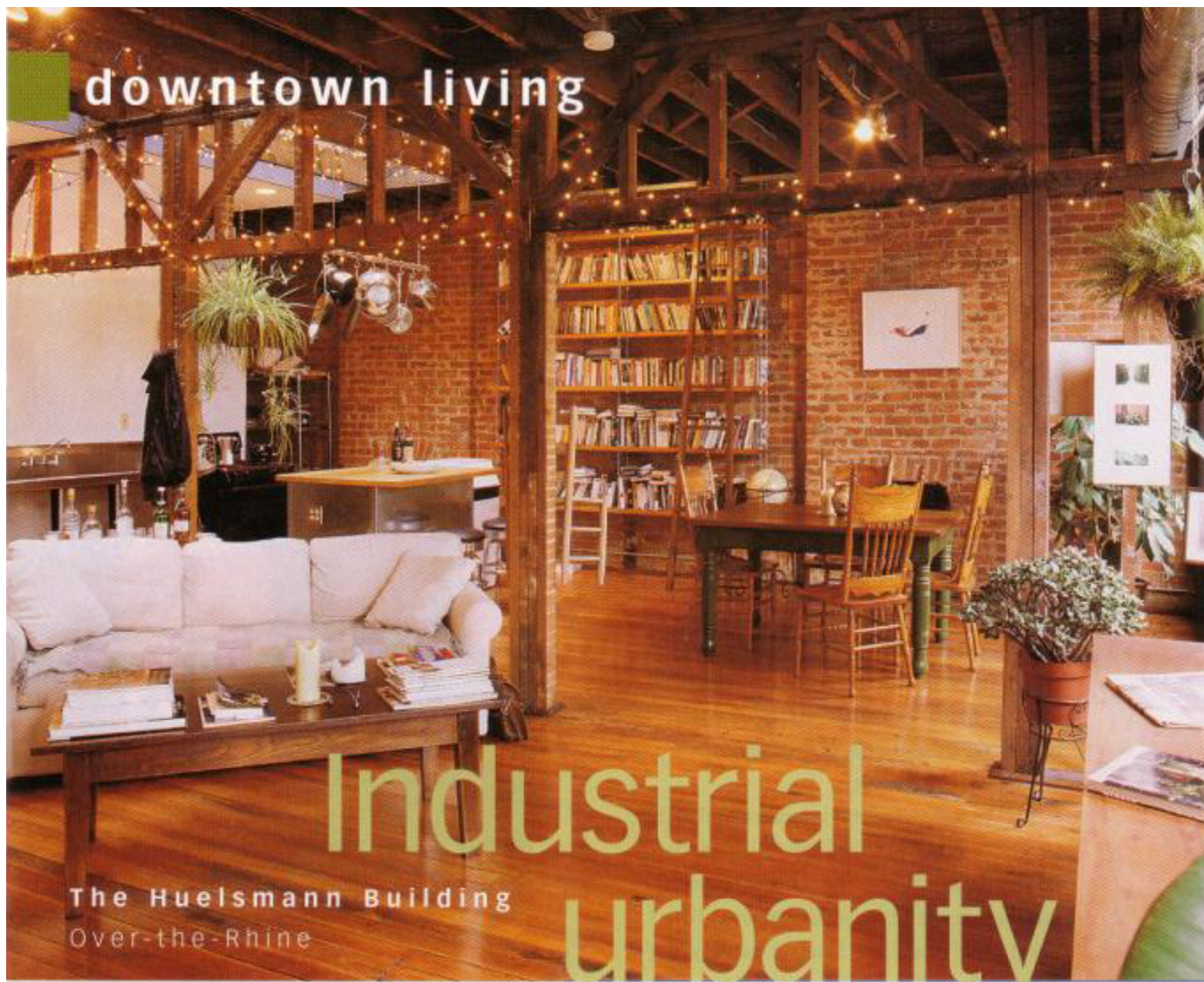


downtown living



The Huelsmann Building  
Over-the-Rhine

# Industrial urbanity

**Why downtown?** "Because the suburbs are so horrible!" Jerry Stepp contends. "If you really like to go to Kings Island, they're convenient."

**The place** Vacant for years, the building has served as an ice cream factory, pool hall and even a funeral parlor. The 1,600 square foot loft space is two floors high with a stair between the levels. Stepp saw the space about three years ago before it was finished and asked the developers not to overdo it; he wanted open rooms, old wood floors, exposed brick and timbers.

"A lot of downtown developers seem to be trying to create suburban-type apartments in these urban spaces. You feel you almost have to stand guard with a shotgun to prevent them putting up drywall."

**The pleasures** "(Living downtown) is always interesting. You see everything here, from men in suits to kids with bolts through their heads. I don't need a TV. I have all these windows!"

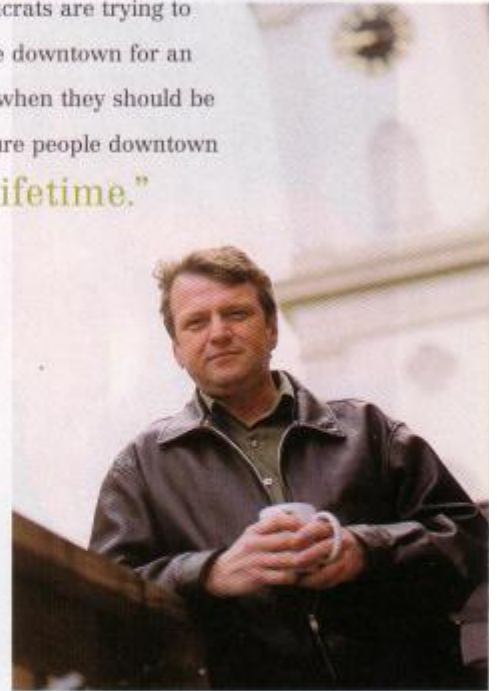
**The perils** "Cincinnati is the least pedestrian-friendly city in the world. Drivers speed up to run red lights and ignore pedestrian crossings. Your life's at risk if you bike, run or walk."

**The wish list** More ethnic restaurants, a good supermarket and light rail transportation. "All Kroger executives should shop at the Vine Street Kroger—things would be cleaned up overnight!"



**EXPOSED BRICK AND TIMBERS** add to the raw industrial feel of this classic loft space. The open first level holds living and dining areas, a fireplace and spacious kitchen. On the second level, a section of floor was removed to bring light from the roof skylight down to the main floor, and five tall sash windows suck sunlight into the interior. A stairway leads to the open-plan bedroom, office and skylit master bath. Out the window, there's a view of St. Mary's. A rooftop deck with grill has space for outdoor dining.

"It's so **much better** than a decade ago, but still way behind. [With the stadiums] the bureaucrats are trying to lure people downtown for an afternoon when they should be trying to lure people downtown **for a lifetime.**"



**Jerry Stepp,**  
corporate consultant

