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Lofted living

Downtown residencies offer luxurious living

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The old Salvation Army building on Crockett Street has been turned into loft apartments. / Val Horvath Davidson/The Times

Written by [Derick Jones](#)

Loft living is a great way to enjoy the city life of downtown Shreveport.

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Take a moment and imagine your style, then your price and finally location. If a loft style apartment is calling your name, it may be time to consider the options.

Usually found in older warehouses or commercial buildings, loft apartments tend to have fewer walls that give the space an open concept. Exposed beams, polished concrete, wood and varied metals make up the DNA of these historic buildings.

Pam Netherton lives in one of those spaces, a downtown structure situated at 710 Crockett St. Originally rented as an escape from her day-to-day Dixie farm life, the loft has become a true home with

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Sliding walls divide the sleeping space for the main living space in one of the spaces at the Ogilvie Hardware Lofts in Shreveport. / Douglas Collier/The Times

LOFT APARTMENTS

What: 710 Crockett Street Lofts.
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unique charm.

"I've always wanted to live in a loft," Netherton said, who began living in the building four years ago. She used her space as a painting retreat and her current loft is her second in the 710 complex. The building houses seven total apartments.

To accommodate the proportions of her loft, Netherton opted for higher shelving and other vertical items in her room, like a reclaimed ladder from her farm.

"I hang things really high," she said. "A lot of people are afraid to hang things at different heights but I think you can go way high."

When decorating a loft, it's important to consider the character of the space. 710's lofts are built in the 1932 Salvation Army building, and the owner, Leon Dayries Jr., has taken the building to a contemporary level.

"I like the volume of space, I like the tall ceilings, the openness and the flow of things," he said.

Most of the apartments come standard with brick flooring, exposed ductwork and plenty of wall-to-wall windows.

Dayries takes up residence in the 3,800-square-foot top floor, a complete wonderland of architectural creativity.

His space originally housed the Salvation Army gymnasium, and above his kitchen an original piece of the goal is mounted.

One amenity that his apartments offer are raised platforms, usually designed for the bedroom area.

"I built one, then everybody wanted one," he said. No two apartments are the same at 710, and the square footage available is between 1,200 and 1,800.

Sharon Luckenbaugh, property manager for Ogilvie Hardware Lofts, offers reclaimed apartments as well, a newer option to the downtown area.

"It's not set up like a regular apartment," Luckenbaugh said.

"In a loft style apartment, your kitchen, dining, living rooms are one big area and you have to be creative in decorating."

Like 710, no two Ogilvie apartments are the same and range in size from studios to two bedroom, two bath units. The average apartment size is 800 square feet.

One way to utilize and create your space is by using transitional furniture, pieces that can double as different entities.

Edward Nader, co-owner of Nader's Gallery in Shreveport, said they offer plenty of multipurpose items to fit in most loft spaces — especially smaller ones.

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“We have a fantastic piece that we have sold before that doubles as a desk, a dining room table — it opens up, it flips around, fits against the wall,” Nader said. “It’s things like that, that have multi-uses.”

As for wall art?

“If you have a bunch of small pieces and you’re moving from one place you can also do a grouping like a collection that will encompass and make one giant piece,” Nader said.

To define the different living spaces, area rugs can help transition with the lack of walls. Ideal places include in front of the sofa and another underneath the dining room table.

“This is a historic building so we cannot do anything to the floors,” Luckenbaugh said of the original concrete. “We have to leave them just the way they are.”

In the Ogilvie studio apartments, metal partitions are hung to give the illusion of a specific space.

Amenities in the lofts include stainless steel appliances, built-ins and washer/dryer units.

Another loft option in downtown Shreveport: the Lee Hardware Apartments.

The building was built in 1904 as a wholesale grocery and cotton warehouse, but in 1910 was taken over by the Lee Hardware Company.

Joshua Porter, public arts director for SRAC, lived in Lee Hardware for two years.

He said what drew him to the building was that no one tried hiding the charm of the warehouse it once was.

“The fact they left the industrial stuff exposed, they didn’t try to cover everything and make it pretty,” Porter said. “It’s raw.”

He said he didn’t have to do much when it came to decor, other than the usual necessities.

“That was what I enjoyed about Lee Hardware — it had its own character and anything I did was to enhance that,” Porter said.

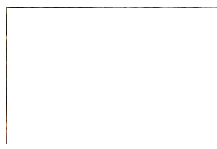
With one or two bedroom floor plans, all apartments offer exposed brick and beams, along with open living and dining areas. The floors are even restored to their original hardwood luster.

Lee Hardware lofts are one and two bedroom, and are between 721 to 1,292 square feet.

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