

THE PANORAMIC VIEW, top, from Doug Ashenbach's downtown Columbus condominium at the Condominiums at North Bank Park was a certain draw for him. The photo resulted from blending together multiple separate pictures using a software program. They were taken at 8 a.m. March 21. Above, a welcoming entryway.

M O R N I N G

Looking out from Doug Ashenbach's home at the Condominiums at North Bank Park, one gets an east to west sweeping view of downtown Columbus and an understanding of why people have always had a fascination with living in urban areas.

An executive vice president at Campus Partners, Ashenbach, 48, had been thinking for a while about moving downtown from his previous home in Victorian Village.

No stranger to the ways of urban areas, Ashenbach says he was still surprised by the grandeur and vibrancy of what his eighth-floor condominium offers.

"I like the openness of it," he says. "You get much more of the meandering river view."

Standing on the balcony of Ashenbach's condo, the larger buildings that dot the Columbus skyline – the LeVeque and Huntington towers, the Franklin County government building – are clearly visible. Scanning west, Ashenbach's view takes him across the Scioto River to Mount Carmel West hospital. Finally, heading north, the executive has a grand view of the construction going on at West Nationwide Boulevard and Neil Avenue where Huntington Park, the new ballpark of the Columbus Clippers, will sit.

The constants in this visual vista are the Scioto and the Norfolk Southern railroad tracks, whose presence didn't surprise

Ashenbach, though the activity did.

"You wouldn't believe it; it's non-stop," he says.

The Condominiums at North Bank have certainly been one of the more talked about projects to come around for the downtown area. Its window facades – which afford the spectacular views – sit in steely silence, towering up 20 floors, at Spring Street and Neil Avenue where the building perches over North Bank Park.

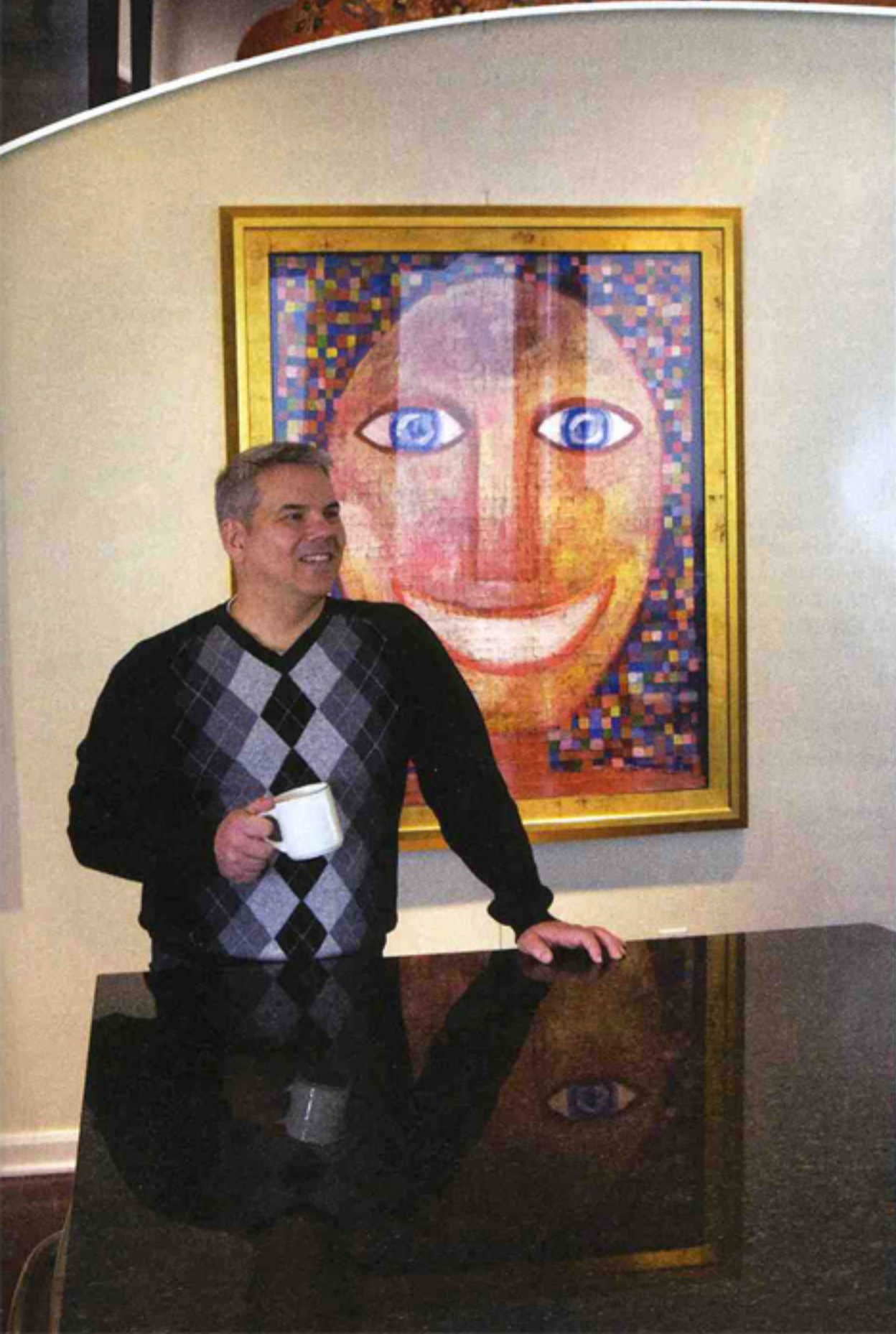
Still in transition from moving in four months ago, Ashenbach's 1,800-square-foot condo, for which he paid a little more than \$525,000, is sparsely decorated with furniture from his previous home that gives the interior a warm and more traditional look. Ashenbach says he and his decorator have been arguing about that.

In addition to living in a condo, Ashenbach also bought another as an investment, which is already being rented.

When he chose to buy at North Bank, the building was still in the throes of construction, and early on a March morning as daylight began illuminating the landscape, contractors were taking measurements to fit the multiple windows of the condo with blinds.

"It was in pretty unfinished condition," he says.

As wondrous as the view is from his place, Ashenbach does like the more practical aspects to living there such as the walkability and nearness to the amenities found in the Arena District. |||



Doug Aschenbach moved into the Condominiums at North Bank Park in December. Coming with him were several pieces of art by Craig Carlisle, a Columbus College of Art & Design graduate, above and left, that Aschenbach describes as whimsical.