

STATESMANHOMES

Couple's urban experiment at Milago freed them from 1-acre lot

By Kathy Adams
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The Milago — 54 Rainey St.

Ron and Lois Langsweirdt bought a 10th floor unit in the Milago 16 months ago. She works in marketing information at 3M Co.; he's a retired marketing manager for the company.

Where did they live before?

Tonkawa Springs, near Round Rock, where they had a house with a 1-acre lot.

Why did they move?

Because their four children had grown up and moved out, the couple wanted to move into a low-maintenance residence before retiring, Lois Langsweirdt said. They also wanted a convenient location.

"We had lived on a 1-acre lot and we were ready to try something different and let someone else take care of the land," Lois Langsweirdt said. "We thought it would be kind of a neat experiment to see what it would be like."

Was their condominium a good investment?

"It was a substantial amount, but we have a good location because we overlook Town Lake," she said. "We're looking at this as an adventure and an experiment and an investment as well."

What are the advantages of urban living?

The couple likes the convenience of living downtown while not being too close to the sometimes rowdy crowds on Sixth Street, she said.

"We're on the (hike-and-bike) trail and we like being outdoors as well, so this really gives us an opportunity to walk to the local restaurant or to the farmers' market for instance, or just to get out and get some fresh air and exercise," she said.

What are the disadvantages?

Traffic delays and constant construction.

"I guess the construction downtown is a pain factor for everyone," she said.

What's their view?

The Langsweirdts have a nearly panoramic view.

"I think we have one of the best locations of all the units in the building," she said. "We get to watch the Austin sunset. We get to watch the bats when they come out of the Congress Avenue bridge because they fly right over our building."

Who are their neighbors?

The residents include retirees, professionals of every age and a handful of families.

"We've never really lived in a condo before but I think we've adapted quite well, and a lot of that I attribute to

. . . end(ing) up in a very nice condo community where it's a very diverse group," she said. "We have all ages and all types of people, but it's a little community. . . . I like that."

Details on the project

The 13-story Milago has a rooftop pool, fitness room and a ground floor Wi-Fi lounge.

Courtesy of JB Goodwin