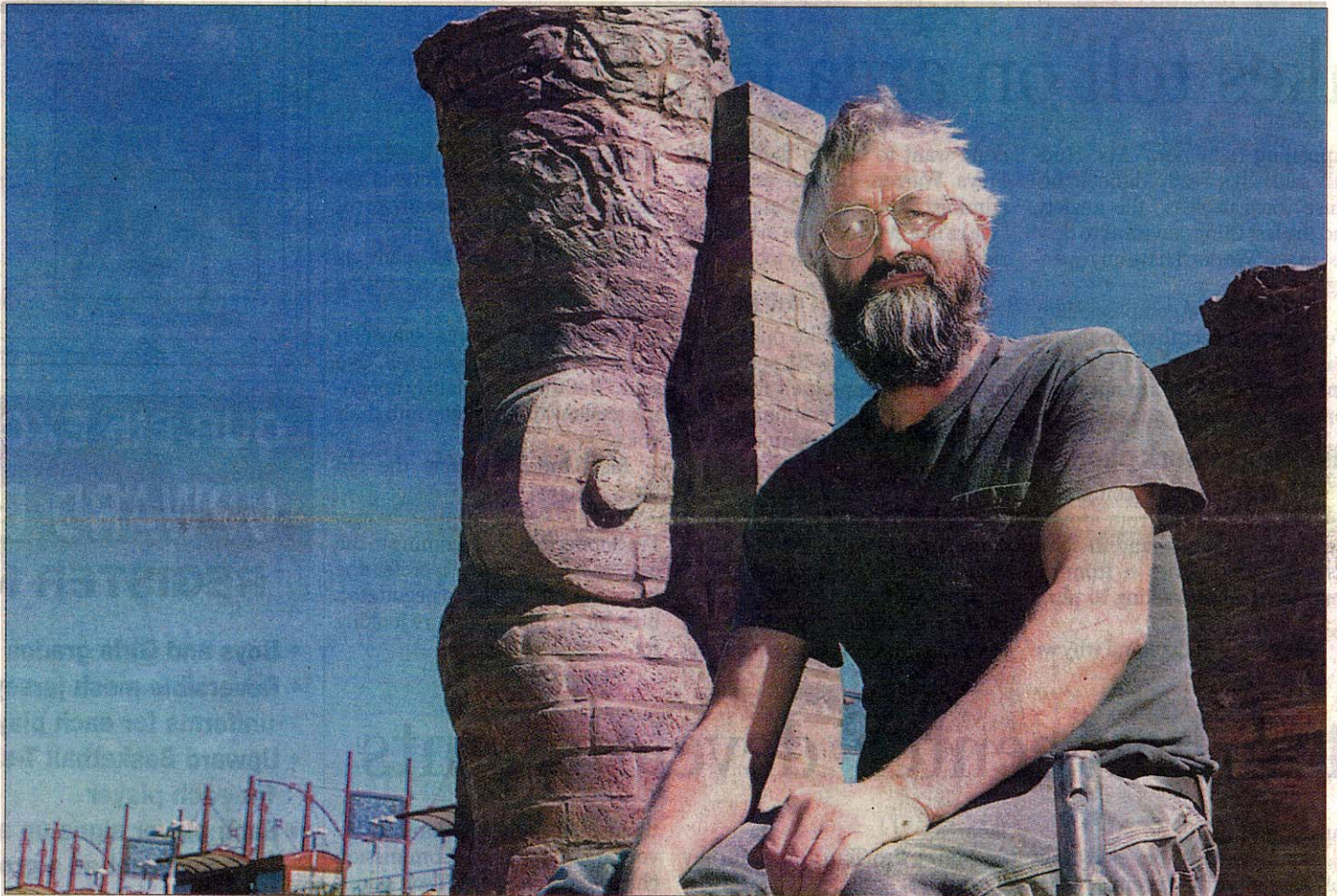


ART

A new avenue for sculpture



MARK M. HANCOCK/Staff Photographer

For the last two weeks, artist Michael Morgan has been building two 10-foot-high brick sculptures that will serve as a gateway to the light-rail station near Spring Valley Road. He uses a unique brick-carving technique to obtain a natural look.

Area's farming history is reflected in artist's carvings at rail station

By SARAH POST
Staff Writer

The city and DART want their rail stations to make a good impression.

So they worked together commissioning artists to beautify the stations, to give each one a spe-

cial flair.

At Galatyn Park Urban Center, the theme is technology because the station will serve Telecom Corridor companies. The Arapaho Road station is meant to serve as a grand entrance to the city's governmental and civic center.

Things at Spring Valley Road station are getting back to nature. The area's American-Indian history is reflected in the station's design. Some elements are de-

signed to remind visitors of a trellis or arbor, adorned with "vegetation."

The artwork of Michael Morgan will remind travelers of Richardson's farming days.

"This is about having things grow out of the ground, but with urban materials," Mr. Morgan said Tuesday as he prepared his two 10-foot-high brick sculptures for an acid bath, the final touch.

For two weeks, Mr. Morgan has been assembling the sculp-

ture on a strip of earth adjacent to Spring Valley Road at the station site. The bookend-like structures are meant to represent a gateway to the station.

Though made of brick, the columns vary in diameter in an undulating, almost spiral pattern.

"They're supposed to appear to come right out of the ground," Mr. Morgan said.

Mr. Morgan, 45, has perfected

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Area's history reflected in art for rail station

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a unique brick-carving technique to obtain this natural look. "Green" unfired bricks are delivered to his studio, where he carves, fires, and assembles them. He then numbers the bricks and takes the sculpture apart. He uses the numbering sys-

tem to put the sculpture back together again on-site.

Mr. Morgan calls his latest work "Spring Valley Terms," because it is at the "terminus" of Dallas Area Rapid Transit's Dallas line.

Mr. Morgan, from Lincoln, Neb., studied 3-D design at Wol-

verhampton Polytechnic in England in 1988.

Examples of his work can be seen at www.michaelmorgan.net/ flash.

He was picked to provide the artwork by a three-person panel that included former Richardson City Council member John Swee-

den, a DART staff member, and an artist who provided work for another DART station.

The station is expected to open next summer.

Staff writer Sarah Post can be reached at 972-234-3198, ext. 124, and at spost@dallasnews.com.