

WATER TOWER HOUSE



Encouraged by a Sunset Beach, Calif., historic-preservation group, George Armstrong purchased this old water tower, which had an imminent date with a wrecking ball. That was in 1980. After four years of red tape and frustration, the 50-year-old structure was converted into a house. Keeping the design as close as possible to that of the old tank, Armstrong and his partner, Dr. Robert Odell, now have one of the highest homes on the California coast. The round house was built and finished out on the ground; then it was hoisted into place atop the tower. Three floors of living space include a spa, two bedrooms and a game room, with access by elevator. The tower stands 80 ft. high and offers a ten-mile view from Long Beach to the Huntington Beach pier. Aside from getting lots of attention from tourists, it also serves as a navigational guide for boaters. —William Quinn

Photos: Lawrence Crandall

