



Judy Fuller's Art Deco-style home stands as a beacon at the top of a hill in Waukesha. The structure was completely transformed, but the shape and height offer a glimpse of its water tower past.

Plenty of people often drive by their dream house and imagine how their life would be different if they could actually live there. Judy Fuller did the same thing, with one important difference — her dream house was a 46 foot tall, 675,000 gallon water reservoir.

Though the finished home has gained notoriety in the news and in the community, as Judy has opened her doors to raise money for organizations including Waukesha Memorial Hospital Foundation, hers is a tale of true re-imagination that is worth re-telling.

In the beginning, the tower was seen as an eyesore to many, but Judy believed the 1934 Art Deco-style structure had potential. In 2003, she learned that the city planned to tear it down at a cost of \$125,000, so she convinced the Waukesha Water Utility to sell it to her for \$1,000 instead.

The effort necessary to convert the reservoir into a luxurious single family home was tremendous, not least of which included cutting doors and windows into 24-inch thick concrete walls. Fortunately, Judy is used to this type of work. She is the owner of Pinnacle Building Inc., which has renovated several homes in the area.

The transformation took three years and the results are dramatic. From the outside, if you look beyond the sunny yellow paint and the attractive landscaping, you can still see the original shape of the water tower. But once inside, it feels more like you've stepped into a luxurious, highly livable home in Miami than Waukesha. And that's just the effect that Judy was going for.

"Art Deco/South Beach was my inspiration!" she says. "And the tranquility of the informal and formal aspects of the home makes it comfortable for entertaining."

The home has three levels of living space, each accessible via the sweeping staircases and an elevator, installed by John Lex of Lex Elevator Co. in Madison. A five-car garage is built out underneath.

The first floor features a sun-drenched living room with brightly colored furnish-

ings, a marble fireplace and windows by Jefferson Glass. The adjacent dining room leads guests to the kitchen, with stainless steel Thermador appliances, a sparkling glass block wall behind the range hood, and natural cherry cabinets. An Egyptian-themed powder room near the front entrance completes the circle.

Contemporary artwork and black and white landscape photography lead the way upstairs. The second level houses the two guest bedrooms and a Jack and Jill bath. The rich, cherry cabinets and glass block accents are seen again here, giving a feeling of continuity to the design.

Continuing up, Judy says the master suite on the top level is her favorite part of the house, and it's easy to see why — the space includes a large walk-in closet, comfortable sitting room, a library and great views of downtown Waukesha and beyond. "I call it 'The Queen's Quarters,'" she says. "I love the feeling of being on top of the world!"

Large windows fill the living room with light (top). A sweeping staircase leads the way upstairs (center). The luxe kitchen (bottom) features glass block accents and cherry cabinets.

