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THE ARCHITECTURE OF WATER TOWERS: A Bibliography

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THE ARCHITECTURE OF WATER TOWERS;

A BIBLIOGRAPHY

by

Donald H. Dyal

While it may seem pretentious to some, there is or has been an attempt to clothe the prosaic and utilitarian water tower with aesthetic values through design. This bibliography is evidence of that effort inasmuch as virtually all of the periodical articles listed come from architectural, design or art journals. Of course, for some, good construction is also good design. Many of the examples in this bibliography go beyond construction, however, Charles A. Fracchia's "Converted Into Houses" describes a water tower on top of a San Francisco apartment house which was dramatically converted into a stunning penthouse apartment. It goes without saying that the converted receptacle was not one of the ubiquitous steel tanks with which everyone is familiar. Similarly, the "Elevated Tank Designs" competition, sponsored by the Chicago Bridge and Iron Works, contains 152 plates of water tower designs which run the gamut from the bizarre and bombastic to the severely pragmatic. Sponsored over fifty years ago, the Chicago and Iron Works competition nevertheless spawned some timeless designs.

This is not an exhaustive bibliography on water towers: omitted are treatises on construction techniques or engineering, for example. Instead, this bibliography concerns itself with the design of water towers as revealed principally in the architectural literature.

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