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Surf Turf

Design/builder **Steve Lazar** (lazardb.com) is an avid surfer, so it makes sense that he'd take your classic lifeguard tower as architectural inspiration for the ultimate beach house. Completed in late 2009, this Hermosa Beach house—a 3,600-square-footer that melds contemporary flair with rustic materials—isn't just about form. It's also about serious surf-condition function from its privileged watchtower perch. Not only can you check on the immediate wave conditions from the top floor, says Lazar, but you can also see surf “indicators” like white water and residual spray as far away as the Palos Verdes Peninsula.



MAKING WAVES Steve Lazar's Lifeguard Tower house in Hermosa Beach.