

## The treehouse

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**Abstract:** *The treehouse.* Treehouses although not popular in Poland are of great interest in other European countries that means that wood products producers are interested in their production. This kind of production needs usually an individual project and a great deal of hand work during assembly in a tree which results in measurable advantages to producers. Also treehouses themselves are a great attraction for children as they can be equipped in chute, treillage, tightrope, climbing wall which except for superb fun is also a possibility to versatile and harmonious development of a child.

*Keywords:* treehouse, play in a garden,

### INTRODUCTION

Treehouses gain in Poland more and more followers. The base of their popularity are advantages of the construction material – wood that is its construction durability, good isolation, small thermal inertia and high aesthetical value.

Wood makes possible construction of treehouses of different dimensions, architecture and technologies.

A great number of firms processing wood have wide range of products such as timber houses for whole year living, summerhouses, garden sheds and treehouses.

These are mainly to be constructed on the ground most frequently on four legs and very often connected with playground elements such as chute, treillage, tightrope, climbing wall etc. The natural need of children playing in the garden is climbing trees. It might be caused by atavism as according to some theories our ancestors moved from living in the heads of trees on the ground which was much more dangerous place to live.[3]



Fig.1. Examples of wooden houses for children constructed on four legs [11]

At present some native tribes which live in forests in Indonesian part of New Guinea build their unusual treehouses up to 40 meters high for safety reasons.[6]

Hence there is no surprise in childrens' dreams about a treehouse which is an area to play out of sight of grown ups. Such a treehouse is also an area where a child can test its physical durability thanks to such elements like: chute, treillage, tightrope, climbing wall and cobweb which are additional attraction of such a place (Fig.2). The biggest attraction of a treehouse is of course its high location. A very popular supplement of treehouse arrangement is so called cobweb – constructed from specially lace-up ropes which appropriately fixed enable climbing so adored by children. They can also be element protecting against falling down [ 1,2,4].

Equipping a house in chute, treillage, tightrope or climbing wall one can not only provide great entertainment for a child but also possibility of versatile and harmonious development of a child. A child can also hide there his or her “treasures” and has a fantastic place for playing and meeting other children. Such a house can be an alternative to a tent very often pitched in gardens.



Fig.2. Play elements round a treehouse



Fig 3. Treehouse for one tree [9]



Fig.4. Treehouse for several trees [

The design is not so modern but have very exclusive interior. Blue Forest is producer of wooden houses destined both for ecological purposes for example treehouses for pupils (nature observation) as well as very exclusive hotels and entertainment parks. Price of these houses is also vry high and ranges from 170 to 250 £ for square feet! which equals ffrom 1828 to 2688 £ for one square meter [7,8,9].

Only few Polish firms which produce treehouses offer their production according to different projects. The main condition to have a treehouse executed is having an appropriate tree by a customer.



Fig. 5 and 6. Treehouse without additional supports

Construction projects on websites are only outlines of ideas possible to process. One should keep in mind that as there are no two identical trees there are no two identical treehouses. A treehouse in the garden is always unique one.

Treehouses can be divided according to:

- a) number of trees used as support
    - treehouse for one tree(Fig.3)
    - treehouse for several trees (Fig.4)
  - b) construction of support
    - without additional support (on limbs) (Fig.5)
    - with supports based on trunk (braces) - (Fig.2 i 3)
- with additional supports based on ground (Fig.4)



A treehouse can of course be self-constructed. The cost of such a house is around from 2000 PLN (cost of materials) and 250 hours of work. At least two people have to work together because of work at a height above ground. The best place to choose is strong, healthy trunk preferably with extensive limbs. The best kind of trees for such constructions are oaks, beeches, ashes although they can also be constructed on lime-trees, chestnuts, pines, firs, willows and old fruit trees.

## CONCLUSION

Treehouse production is a part of wood production, which is of low interest in Poland. Processing of such houses is executed either by carpenters or by people themselves. The aspects limiting production are lack of suitable trees or fear that children can harm themselves.

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**Streszczenie:** *Treehouses*. W niniejszym artykule opisano domki na drzewa dla dzieci. Produkcja tych wyrobów jest z reguły produkcją wymagającą indywidualnego projektu, a także dużego wkładu pracy ręcznej w czasie montażu na drzewie. Daje to wymierne korzyści producentom. Stąd produkcja ta wydaje się bardzo atrakcyjna. Również same domki stanowią niemałą atrakcję dla dzieci. Gdyż można je wyposażać np. w zjeżdżalnię, drabinkę gimnastyczną, linę do wspinania czy ściankę wspinaczkową, co oprócz wspaniałej zabawy zapewnia również możliwość wszechstronnego i harmonijnego rozwoju dziecka

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