

BUILDER NEWS

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Local boy shows architecture skills by building toy Mansion

Special Projects by Carson L. Priest
• [Christmas in Germany](#)



Carson Priest of Kennesaw, Georgia and The Bullard School builds the above mansion with lincoln logs, wood blocks and big legos.

How to Build a Tree House

When the kids are out of school you may be tempted to build a treehouse for them to play in during the summer. Before you head off with hammer, nails and planks in hand, plan your design to minimize damage to the tree. A few summer's of enjoyment could lead to the death of a prized landscape specimen. Dr. Kim Coder, Extension tree guru, has these tips for treehouse construction:

- No nails or screws should be put into the tree trunk.

There's an attraction between trees and children.

A tree's constant motion, even in still air, and its great size and reach make it fascinating. At some time in your life you've imagined, or maybe even built, a tree house.

When you see your 10-year-old headed toward your yard tree with a hammer, nails and scrap lumber, immediate decisions need to be made.

The only major concern is the child's safety. But there are some

minor tree issues to think about.

Tree houses should be designed to rest on major branches and nestle around the tree trunk. Never wound the tree with nails, screws and saw notches.

Trees bend and twist in the wind. So simply jamming or wedging boards between branches or into crotches will lead to failure. Use rope to make sure a tree house stays snug against a branch.

Attaching it to branches with rope can keep windstorms from blowing it away. It can keep ambitious and ingenious children from changing design concepts and injuring themselves, too.

Carefully consider how children will enter the tree house. Don't nail ladder rungs into the trunk. Use a self-supporting ladder tied to the tree or a heavy, unlooped, knotted rope. For many trees with low

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