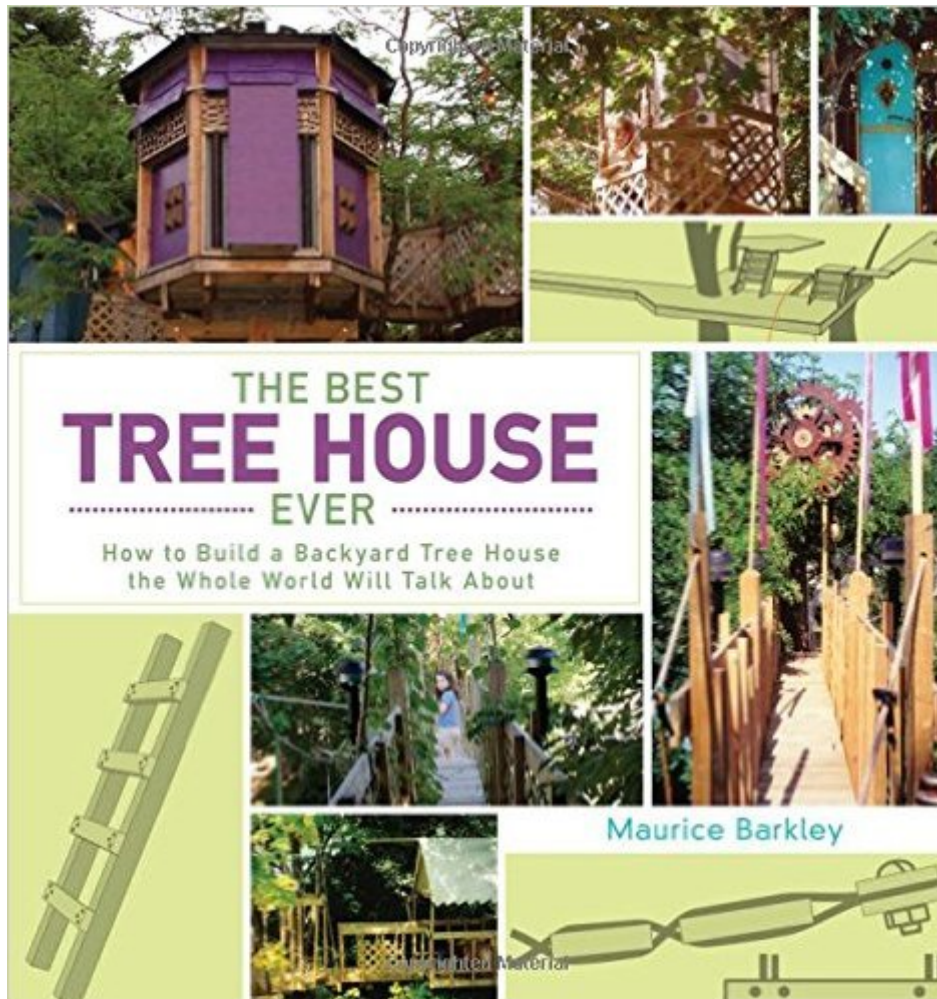


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# The Best Tree House Ever: How To Build A Backyard Tree House The Whole World Will Talk About



## Synopsis

When his two young grandsons clamored for a hideout in the trees, what could Maurice Barkley, a sixty-something retiree, do but grab some wooden beams and a level? Now, more than ten years, seven tiny houses, and a spiral staircase later, Barkley's grandkids can truly say they have the best tree house ever. With a backyard that has become a tourist destination and the delighted cries of children playing pretend sounding in his ears, Barkley shares his pro building tips, floor plans, and how-tos in an easy-to-use guide anyone with a hankering for nature and a set of basic carpenter's tools can follow. *The Best Tree House Ever* records the creation and growth of a child-sized village built high above the ground and documents the wonderful, unexpected consequences—the visitors, the excitement, and the hundreds of friendships made—that occurred along the way. Filled with plans and construction details of Barkley's entire tree house village, *The Best Tree House Ever* leads adventurers of every age to explore the magical worlds hidden amongst the foliage.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I had (just) finished building a backyard clubhouse for my own grandkids when I came across this interesting and well-presented book in the library, so it was with interest that I gave it a quick read. I'm probably about the same age as Mr. Barkley, and my grandkids had also "clamored" for a clubhouse until I up and built it. Accordingly, after exploring this book I can only say that Mr. Barkley's dedication, talent for design, and skills at construction are remarkable (the book's quite

good, too). As regards the tree house, itself, if you're looking for detailed construction plans for duplicating this project, you won't find them in this book. Indeed, unless you're already a bit experienced with woodworking and construction, this may not be the book for you, other than as a fun, interesting and potentially inspiring read (it is all of these). If, however, you have some experience, and can plan out your own projects and designs, the nice diagrams in this book, with some dimensions provided, may prove useful. Barkley explains and shows how to make tree anchors, zip lines, ladders, staircases, walkways, etc. (his spiral staircase is especially impressive). All in all, this is an excellent book. I envy Mr. Barkley's skills for design and construction. The only thing that I would have included in the book is a guide to how much the various components in this masterpiece cost to build. By comparison, the materials for my rather modest backyard clubhouse (8'x 8'x 8', mostly treated lumber, with LP siding and no frills other than an upper deck, screened windows and a Dutch door) cost something in excess of \$1,000(!). By that reckoning, I'd venture to guess that Mr. Barkley's entire tree house complex cost at least 6 or 7 times that much.

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