

MONKEY BUSINESS

FOR ONE WINNETKA FAMILY, CHILDHOOD DREAMS ARE ENCOURAGED—AND SOMETIMES FULFILLED.

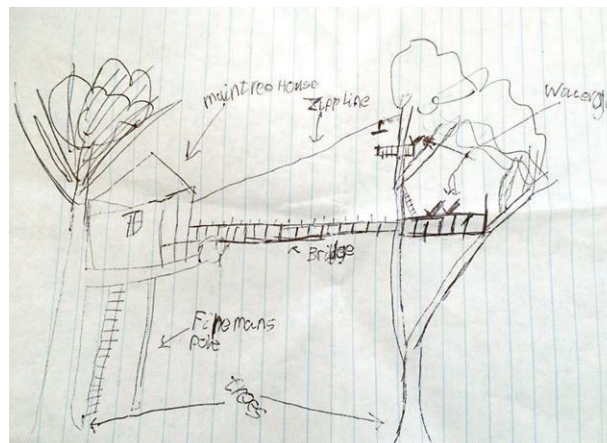
By Katie Ann Orr

For 9-year-old Jack Forrest, superpowers are alive and well. His artistic work using a black ballpoint pen and lined notebook paper was transformed into a real treehouse mansion: a sturdy Western Red Cedar creation of gadgets and snares that turn afterschool life into an adventure. “There’s a superfast slide, two trap doors and a crow’s nest at the top where you can see everything!” he says. “The whole thing is really cool.” Jack’s younger brothers and sister—ages 7, 5 and 4, respectively—pipe up about the fireman’s pole (25 feet long!), bucket on a pulley, orbit net swing, rock climbing wall and monkey bars. This treehouse is effectively a tree fortress.

When the family moved to Winnetka all the way from Singapore in 2014, dad John promised the kids a treehouse. Little did he know that Jack would dream up and draw something so elaborate it would involve multiple stories. Gauntlet thrown, the family enlisted landscape architect Jim O’Brien—a man whose handy wisdom of many years belies a heart that remains young. “When I was a kid, I always loved being in a tree, climbing it, being a part of it. Then I went to summer camp and learned how to build a treehouse, which expanded that love,” he says. “Twenty-five years later, married with kids of my own, here I am.” Along with construction mastermind Virgil Aguilar and Design Assistant Roger Castro, O’Brien used branches for railings, repurposed a dead elm for posts and sealed overlapping cedar planks for a waterproof roof—to build the ultimate Robinson Crusoe-like creation. Thick black deer netting encloses the crow’s nest, so the kids can camouflage themselves (but mom JP knows they can’t launch any rocks or fall out and break bones). “It honestly feels like you’re living in the canopy of a tree, watching birds fly by on a horizontal level,” says O’Brien. “It was fun to create an heirloom structure that will still be around when the kids return home from college. I believe it’s important to grow older, but you should never grow up.”



DREAM HOME
From top: A similar treehouse would cost about \$25,000 to construct; the drawing that started it all.



Beth Weitzman
Vice President, Editorial Director

David Zivan
CS Group Editor

Laura Hine
Editor-in-Chief

EDITORIAL

Group Executive Editor Mike Espindle

Entertainment & Bookings Editor Meg McGuire

Group Managing Editor Ela Sathern

Interim Group Managing Editor Misty Milioto

Associate Managing Editor & Web Editor Kelsie Allen

Contributing Assistant Managing Editors
Jessica Charmoli, Elizabeth Harper

Senior Consulting Editor Jennifer Thornton

Senior Consulting Copy Editor Melissa Howsam

Copy Editor Meryl Howsam

Contributing Editors Andrea Mills, Allison Mitchell, Sarah Ryan,
Jessie Sardina, Lisa Shames

Contributing Writers
Wendy Altschuler, Matt Bell, Nate Chapnick, Thomas Connors,
Tate Gunnerson, Andrea Guthmann, Becca Hensley,
Kerrie Kennedy, Marjie Killeen, Kelly Konrad, Liz Logan,
Marie Look, Aja Mangum, Katie Ann Orr,
Stephanie Smith, Michael Wren

Editorial Interns
Abby Addler, Jessica D'Oro, Jake Miller, Sarah Perkins,
Francesca Tamburello

Advisory Board
Jill Alberts, LeAnita Ragland Brooks,
Abby Dunn, Cindy Galvin, Whitley Bouma Herbert,
Michael Loeber, Kiki Luthringshausen,
Jennifer McGregor, Frank Ponterio, Shannon Ridgeway,
Ronna Streiff, Regina Verdico

FASHION

Fashion Director James Aguiar

Market Editor Jacqueline Z. Grossnickle

Fashion Assistant John Monaco

DESIGN

Creative Director Scott Glick

Managing Art Director Melinda Zabroski

Senior Art Director Elizabeth Carlisle

Group Photo Editor Greg Gillis

Senior Photo Editor Jeff Millies

Designers Michael Bodor, Alexandra Kamischke,
Claire Keating, Christopher Lynch, Melissa Miller,
Tahiti Spears-Fitzpatrick, Chelsea Vaccaro, Antonio Valverde

Contributing Photographers & Stylists
Neil Burger, Nathanael Filbert, Frank Ishman, Michael Lipman,
Jason Little, Cynthia Lynn, Carlos Ruiz, Anthony Tahlir,
Veronique Tristram, Katrina Wittkamp

MODERN LUXURY REGIONAL SALES OFFICES

ASPEN

503 East Hyman Ave., Suite D
Aspen, CO 81611
970.300.3071
Contact: Alan Klein

ATLANTA

3280 Peachtree Road, NE,
Ste. 2300 Atlanta, GA 30305
404.443.0004
Contact: D'Anne Cagle-Heckert

CHICAGO

33 W. Monroe St., Suite 2100
Chicago, IL 60603
312.274.2500
Contact: John Carroll

DALLAS

3090 Olive Street West Victory Plaza,
Ste. 430 Dallas, TX 75219
214.647.5671
Contact: Blake Stephenson

HAWAII

1001 Bishop Street, Suite 900
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
808.924.6622
Contact: Meredith Low

HOUSTON

4306 Yoakum Blvd, Suite 100
Houston, TX 77006
713.622.1116
Contact: Peter C. Remington

LOS ANGELES

10250 Constellation Blvd., Ste. 2710
Los Angeles, CA 90067
424.253.3200
Contact: Christopher Gialanella

MIAMI

3930 NE Second Ave., Ste. 202
Miami, FL 33137
305.341.2799
Contact: Diana Riser

NEW YORK & THE HAMPTONS

261 Madison Ave., 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10016
212.582.4440
Contact: Andrea Greeven Douzet

ORANGE COUNTY

3200 Bristol St., Ste. 150
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
714.557.2700
Contact: Jessica Cline

SAN DIEGO

875 Prospect Street, Ste. 300
La Jolla, CA 92037
858.366.9721
Contact: Ken St. Pierre

SAN FRANCISCO

243 Vallejo St.
San Francisco, CA 94111
415.398.2800
Contact: Paul Reulbach

SCOTTSDALE

6991 E. Camelback Road, Ste. C-310
Scottsdale, AZ 85251
480.522.2200
Contact: Michael Hiatt

WASHINGTON, DC

4400 Jenifer Street NW, 4th Floor
Washington, DC 20015
202.408.5665
Contact: Peter Abrahams

OUR OFFICES ARE LOCATED AT:

33 W. Monroe St., Suite 2100, Chicago, IL 60603 | Phone: 312.274.2500 | Fax: 312.274.2501

To subscribe: modernluxury.com

To contact the editor: lhine@modernluxury.com

2015©DM LUXURY, LLC, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED MODERN LUXURY® IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF DM LUXURY, LLC



MODERN LUXURY

Lew Dickey
Chairman

Michael Dickey
Chief Executive Officer

Beth Weitzman
Vice President,
Editorial Director

John Dickey
Chief Operating Officer

Alan Klein
President/Group Publisher
Custom Content

JP Hannan
Chief Financial Officer

Richard Denning
General Counsel