

A Playful Forest

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Design Brief

I grew up watching a lot of western cartoons: Adventure Time, Clarence, Craig of the Creek, etc. In these cartoons, there was often one special space that, to a child, was the pinnacle of outdoor fun: the treehouse. Whether small or big, tree houses were always an awe-inducing idea; a paradoxical fusion of both the outdoors and indoors, treehouses presented fun, independence, and excitement. I often dreamt of having my own treehouse - my own personal kingdom of fun - but living in the apartments of bustling cities my whole life, I was never able to pursue this dream.

This design is meant to fulfill all the dreams of people like me (as well as myself) by creating a public playground featuring connecting treehouses and a series of rooms that bring the personal aspect of a treehouse to life. The many pathways that connect each of the areas gives children freedom and variety in exploration, two of the most desirable aspects of outdoor play to children. Consistency in material is quite important in a treehouse, so the man-made elements around the tree should be kept wooden.

To truly bring the outdoor experience to life, the surrounding areas incorporates natural elements, featuring sand/dirt/grass flooring, a fountain pond, a river, a leafy pavilion, and of course, plants. The leafy pavilion features wooden benches under a large roof of aesthetically pleasing flora(plants): a perfect environment for parents or other family members to watch their children under a shade. The flooring, river, and pond together create a diverse environment for children to play in that is accurate to real botanical environments. These details elevate the overall experience of the play space for all audiences.

References



Sketches





