

About Barbara Butler Playhouses, Play Structures and Tree Forts for Residential Use

It is all about giving you choices!

Both pre-designed and custom-designed structures available

- **Materials:** We make our play structures from natural redwood lumber that we grind smooth (to prevent splinters), then hand-carve, and finish in beautiful non-toxic, tung-oil stains (both inside and out) in the color palette of your choice. We route the ends of all footing posts and insert them into powder-coated metal sleeves to prevent rot from contact with the ground. We use sustainable materials that will last a lifetime. Please check out our [sustainability](#) section on our website.
- **Design:** We offer both Standard and Custom Design Options:
 - **Standard Designs.** Our Standard pre-designed structures, such as our [Play Forts & Playhouses](#), are tried & true! These designs can be purchased exactly as seen on our website or with slight modifications. You can select your own color palette and Barbara is happy to help! We provide a plan view showing the structure from an overview perspective and the recommended "use zone" for bark chip or other resilient surface material of your choice. Because we build to order, even our pre-designed structures are very flexible, allowing you a great amount of choice up front.
 - **Custom Designs.** Barbara's specialty, however, is working with the family to design a Custom Play Structure or Treehouse that fits the landscape and everyone's "wish list".
 - If interested, please call or email with a brief introduction to your project. We will set up a first meeting with Barbara, which is free of charge if Barbara is in the area. For locations further away, we can set up a zoom call.
 - After the first meeting, we ask you to sign our Custom Design Agreement and pay a design retainer. The amount of the retainer is based on the estimated hours required to complete your design process. Barbara's design time is billed hourly against the design retainer. Travel time & expenses are additional.
 - Barbara's goal is to provide 2 to 3 conceptual designs, with artist sketches and detailed features & pricing, within 20 to 30 design hours.
 - For out-of-state locations, we recommend an initial site visit with follow-up correspondence or a weekend 2-day site visit to accomplish most of the design in a compressed time frame (Barbara's favorite way)! We can also look at scheduling a design visit when Barbara is going to be in your area to minimize any travel expenses.
 - **Plans.** We have a select number of plans available on our [website](#). Unfortunately we are unable to offer plans for any additional designs.

Barbara Butler Artist-Builder Inc.

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- **Fabrication & Lead-time:** Because we make our play structures to order, the lead-time is generally 8 to 12 weeks (depending on size & complexity of your structure) from date of signed Construction Agreement to date of shipment. During this period, we will create or modify the AutoCAD construction documents, purchase materials, build your design, carve, hand-stain and then pre-assemble your play structure at our shop to ensure a perfect fit. We then detail (hang all the doors & shutters, add the rock holds, trims, play features and play accessories), disassemble and apply a coat of our BBAB Clear Tung Oil Solution in preparation for shipping.
- **Delivery & Installation:** We build each play structure using our unique modular system for easier delivery & assembly. *Delivery & installation costs are in addition to the fabrication cost (all prices on our website are for fabrication only.)* We will provide a quote as part of our pricing package:
 - **Delivery:**
 - For shipments within the continental United States, we deliver by truck. Each piece is "blanket-wrapped" for protection. Our crew will unload everything and walk all pieces into your yard.
 - If you live out-of-state, we will provide a quote for delivery via a commercial carrier. Or, we may have one of our own trucks already scheduled to travel near your area on its way to another job. Our driver is a skilled builder/installer. If you are flexible on your delivery date and can wait for delivery until our truck is ready to go, then this cost is generally 20% less than the cost of delivery via a commercial carrier.
 - **Installation:** When possible, we offer several installation options: 1) full crew installation (only option available for Treehouses), 2) one of our skilled builders/installers working with your crew, and 3) detailed, written assembly instructions. Costs vary depending on size and complexity of play structure, location, ease of access to the site, difficulty of terrain and type of installation chosen.
- **International:** We have extensive experience shipping and installing outside of the United States. Past project locations include Canada, England, France, Amsterdam, Saudi Arabia & South Korea.

Please let us know if you have any additional questions. We will be happy to help!