

MOVIN' ON UP

HGTV's *Out on a Limb* showcases tree houses for the child in all of us **BY LAURA SICILIANO-ROSEN**

REMEMBER THAT one lucky neighborhood kid whose backyard boasted a tree house? Ever catch yourself gazing wistfully into the branches of a beech? It's never too late to fulfill the fantasy of playing – or even living – high in the treetops, and the HGTV special *Out on a Limb* might just inspire you to abandon your oh-so-grounded existence for good.

Tree houses, it turns out, aren't just for kids. This one-hour program introduces adventurous, imaginative adults who have created functional, often lavish dwellings anywhere from 10 to 50 feet off the ground. Engineering advances in recent decades have made it possible to build safe, tree-friendly tree houses with all the comforts of home. The results are not the makeshift playthings of your youth.

From a chalet-style guest house complete with gas fireplace near Seattle to an 1,800-square-foot full-time abode in Georgia made of airplane and submarine parts and other junkyard finds, viewers are taken behind the scenes of real tree houses to gawk, admire and learn about their construction.

Not that kids are overlooked in *Out on a Limb*: These days they're getting customized, top-of-the-line tree houses with rock-climbing walls and rope nets, averaging \$45,000 apiece. One family of five waits patiently for weeks for their "monkey mansion" from a California-based company that specializes in building whimsical tree houses for children. They even come with a tree.

Elegantly exotic, playfully silly or outrageously eccentric, these tricked-out tree houses make it easy to wonder "what if" – and start sizing up the oaks in your own backyard.

WATCH IT *OUT ON A LIMB* PREMIERES APRIL 9 AT 8 PM ET ON HGTV **229**



5 THINGS YOU CAN LEARN BY WATCHING TV THIS MONTH

1 Three fashion designers are always better than one.



WATCH: *Stylelicious*

WHEN: Thursday at 2:30 pm ET, beginning April 6

WHERE: DIY Network **230**

2 How to save at the grocery store by growing your own (better-tasting) fruit and berry crops.



WATCH: *Fresh From the Orchard*

WHEN: Monday at 4 pm ET, beginning April 3

WHERE: DIY Network **230**

3 It is possible to go on vacation without actually leaving work.



WATCH: *This Job's a Trip*

WHEN: Thursday at 8 pm ET, beginning April 27

WHERE: Travel Channel **277**

4 People all across America are saying, "Pimp my pool!"



WATCH: *Big Splash*

WHEN: April 9 at 9 pm ET

WHERE: HGTV **229**

5 Cheetos and candy do not a breakfast make.



WATCH: *Honey, We're Killing the Kids*

WHEN: Monday at 9 pm ET, beginning April 10

WHERE: TLC **280**