

Little hideaways delight owners

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

From camouflaged secret hideaways to freshly painted little shelters with curtains and carpets, clubhouses come in as many sizes and shapes as their owners.

Exterior conditions aside, in the words of Brad Guyton, 6½, of Farmington Hills, "it's neat" to have a clubhouse.

Along with sister Kristen, 4 and friends, Kirk Chivas, 5, and Dana Chivas, 8½, Brad enjoys the use of a clubhouse that includes a secret passage—a ladder attached to an inside wall leading to a trap door in the roof.

The clubhouse's interior lends itself to playing house, reading, conducting imaginary school sessions and that hallowed childhood pastime, sleeping out in the backyard.

Because of cold evening weather, the Chivas-Guyton clubhouse has yet to be inaugurated into the mysteries of sleeping out. In the meantime, the clubhouse is nicely decorated with green carpeting, a small chair and yellow and orange crates for shelves.

KRISTEN HELPED paint the little structure that Jack Chivas and Tom Guyton built for their children in three evenings. In addition to the trap door in the roof, they gave the clubhouse a window with a shutter that locks; a favorite with Brad.

Clubhouses can be handed down from one generation of residents to another as in the case of Jennifer and Bunny Young's Farmington hideaway. About 10 years and eight residents ago, when their brothers first sawed it, the house was shaded by a tree. The tree has since been removed so the sisters and their friend Cindy Martin, 13, hope to install a screen door or windows that open.

Bunny, 11, and Jennifer, 6, moved into their house after cleaning out the debris left from the boys' occupation. Lately it was used to store the boys' motorcycle parts. The girls removed bunk beds from the house, added their own mailbox on the tree stump and put in blue gingham curtain.

Instead of chrome and metal, the house is decorated with small benches, books and King Kong and Elton John posters. A metal box which served as a medical kit now has a second life as a refrigerator in the small household.

Now that they've rejuvenated the house, they're trying to panel the plain plank walls inside the hideaway.

IN SPITE OF THE work, the clubhouse gives the girls the privacy they want.

"We used to sit on a swing and talk but everyone heard what you were

(Continued on page 15A)



Enjoying a tree-top view is Brian Lewis (top left). Craig Arnold (at right), Rick Patterson (left to right) and Peter Soronen congratulate each other on keeping the location of their clubhouse a secret. Kristin Guyton (far right) helped paint her clubhouse. (At right) Dana Chivas (left), Kirk Chivas and Brad Guyton enjoy their hideaway. (Staff photos by Harry Mauthe)



(Top, left) Cindy Martin (left), Jennifer Young and Bunny Young chat on the steps of their little house. (Middle) Strutting in front of their fort are (from left) Kurt Mochacek, Kevin Edwards, Pat Nolan, Bob Loeffler, David Loeffler and Chris Nolan. David Blackmer uses his clubhouse (left) to get away from it all. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

INTERNATIONALISM

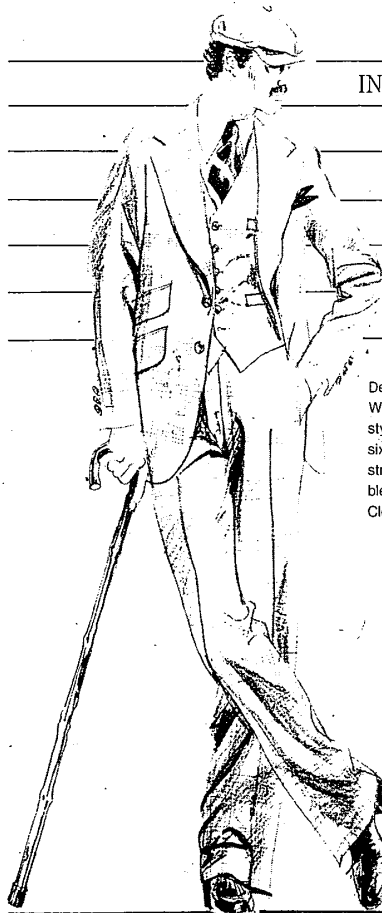
BY JOHN WEITZ

MEANS A SUIT

WITH BRITISH

RESTRAINT AND

AMERICAN EASE.



Designer suitings from our John Weitz collection, impeccably styled with a ticket pocket and six-button vest. Plaids and pin-stripes in wool and wool/nylon blends, \$175 and \$185. Men's Clothing, at Hudson's.

hudson's fashionscope