

a place for herself

by Chris Casson Madden



No Stress Allowed!

"My tree house refreshes my eyes and my spirit," says writer Maxine Paetro of the five-sided structure perched in the trees at the edge of her upstate New York garden. "The Tree House of the August Moon is a peach-stucco folly with lots of windows and doors and built-in seating that looks out over distant hills," she notes.

Working from her sketch on a paper napkin, a local craftsman-carpenter brought her plans to life. The deck seats six with rocking chairs, she explains, "perfectly

placed for conversation and for passing a bowl of chips."

"I'm often asked if I sleep up here, but I prefer the house with its bed, fridge and other amenities," says Maxine. "However, the tree house is the best spot for a predinner drink with friends as the sun goes down. My cats perform acrobatics on the handrails, and deer graze in the meadow below. I love this place. It restores my energy and gives me peace."

CHRIS CASSON MADDEN's newest book is *Chris Madden's Guide to Personalizing Your Home: Simple, Beautiful Ideas for Every Room*.