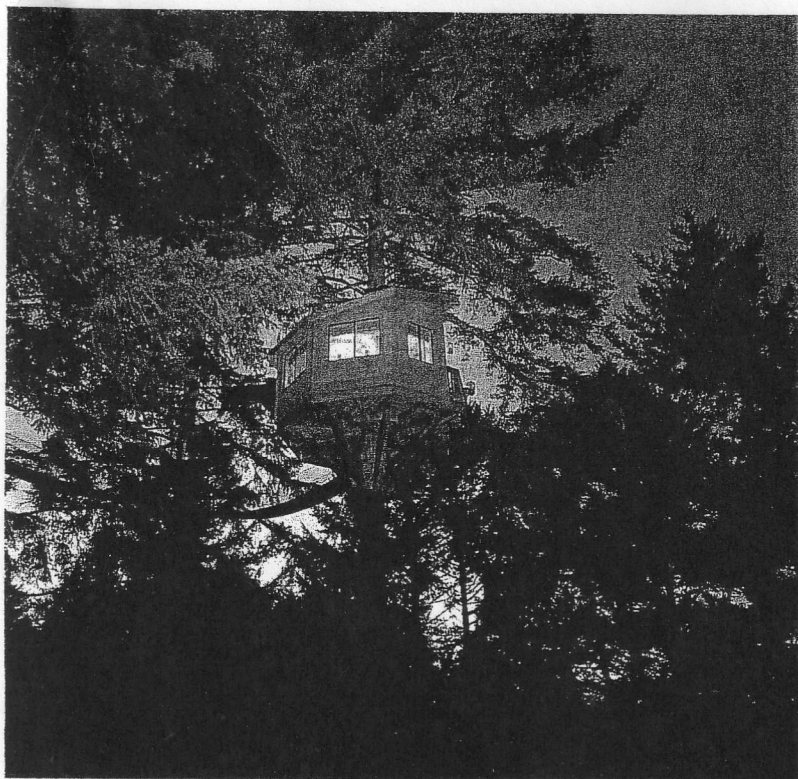




"LIVING IN THE TREETOPS, THAT'S THE ALLURE" — JAY HOLLAND

THE APPROACH to the tree house isn't for the acrophobic, although the Swiss Family Robinson would surely approve. To get to the cedar cabin, which is located 50 feet up a Douglas fir tree in Bodega Bay on the northern California coast, you must first ascend a 50-foot spiral staircase. This connects to a 60-foot-long rope bridge, which you teeter across until you reach a transition tree, then make the final 40-foot journey across a second footbridge to the arboreal hide-away. "It's as much fun getting up to it as it is being in it," says Jay Holland, who shares the tree house with his brother, Guy, and his father, Jack.

Spending time in this lofty lair is fun of a more relaxing kind. The brothers, who run the San Francisco leather goods company Mulholland Brothers, have furnished their cabin with the kind of macho swankery that is the hallmark of their firm. So, once you've proven your mettle getting there, you slide into a chair covered in hand-glazed saddle leather. (Mulholland Brothers uses the tanning process they say was developed for the old Pony Express.) Guy mixes you a Scotch on the rocks, while, out on the terrace, Jack grills his specialty: steak marinated in vodka. "Just because something is aesthetically pleasing," says Jay, a former cowboy, "doesn't mean it has to be frail." It's the perfect motto for three men who like to live life out on a limb.

