

EXPERIMENTING LANDSCAPES

Testing the Limits of the Garden

Métis International Garden Festival | Emily Waugh

TREE STANDS

relais Landschaftsarchitekten

2010–2011

Abstract

Tree Stands appropriates a traditional European hunting infrastructure to create a treetop perch where visitors can contemplate the sensations of the boreal forest.

Method

As woodland hunters wait silently in the trees, they develop a heightened awareness of their surroundings. Every smell, every sound, and every movement is amplified. This installation offers festival visitors the same sharpened focus on the local environment as they sit 3 metres (or 6 metres if they dare) up in the trees. From this elevated perspective, people will feel connected to the winds of the St. Lawrence River as the trees bend and sway beneath them, they will tune in to the shrill call of the white-throated sparrow, and will suddenly become very aware of the absence of civilization around them.

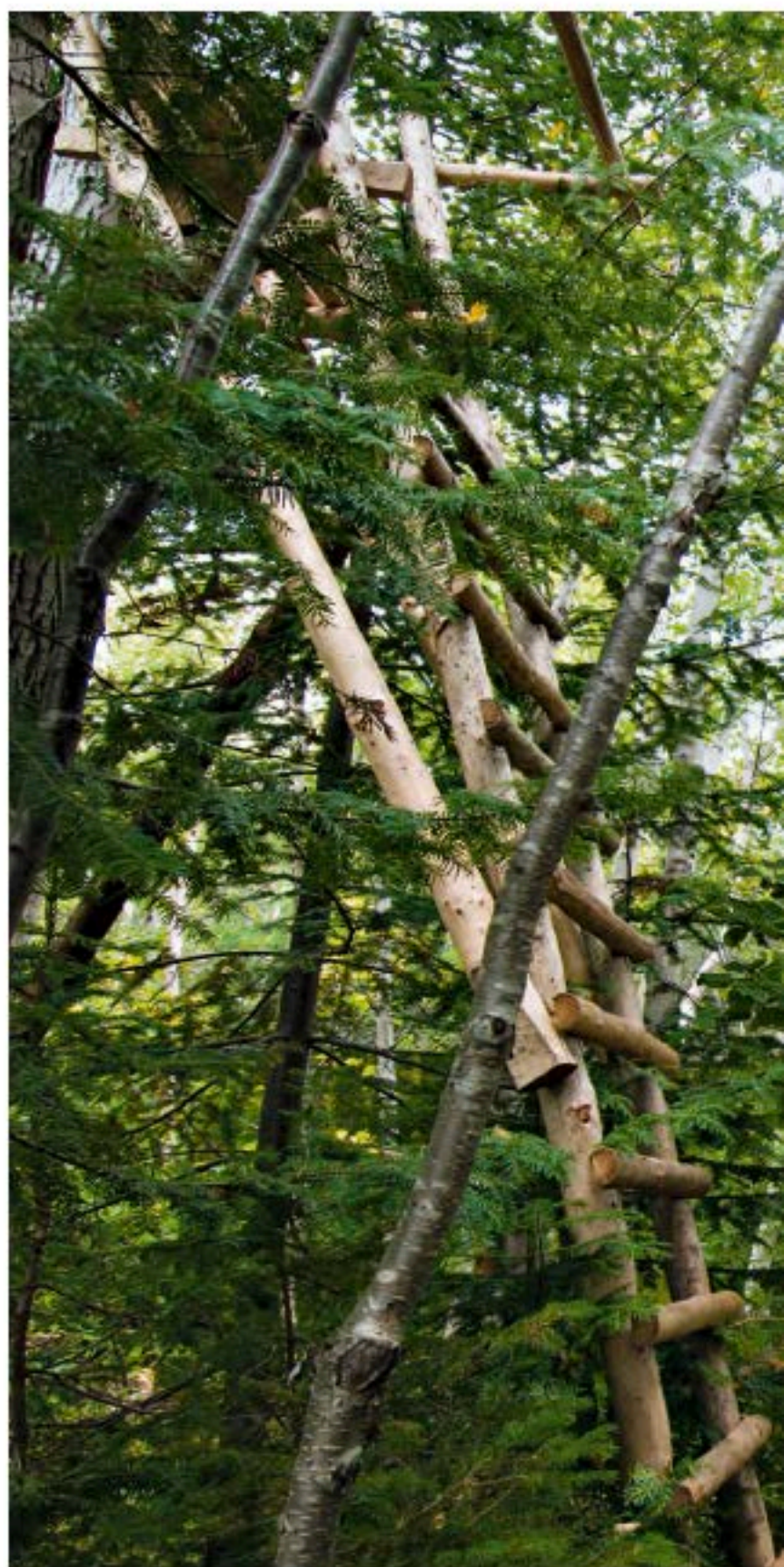
Without explicit directions, visitors will happen upon this curious collection of ladders in the forest and can choose whether to climb one of the two 3-metre-high stands or one of the four 6-metre ladders. From there, they can create their own experiences as they connect with the environment. Some visitors scramble up and down as many ladders as they can, others rest in one place, silently taking in this new perspective.

Result

By simply offering a different way to occupy the forest, *Tree Stands* provides visitors with an intensified awareness of the environment around them.

Materials

Trees cut and harvested on site





Visitors discover a collection of ladders in the forest and can choose to climb the 3-metre high stands or the 6-metre high ladders.



"From this unusual position, you are almost obliged to feel what is happening around you."

Gero Heck



Rope ladders are added for the 2011 edition of the festival.