

The architect's design statement reads thus: *Conceived as an interior space for self-reflection, Dream House proposes a relationship between an urban tree and an interactive sensitive piece, which transforms the natural element into an introspective human refuge. The refuge emerges from the tree as an illuminated chrysalis, establishing a reflection on the relationship between man and his built and natural environment. The piece proposes new ways of occupying and imagining space. It suggests making use of nature as the main element in creating a dialogue between nature, human beings and man-made space.*

Such words are unlikely to have helped or hindered the Jury's decision. There were no details of how or why it was made, or indeed how you were supposed to get into the space. Any discussion on how you might naturally be inclined to use the space, if fully pursued, may have revealed more about the Jury than would have been appropriate (swinging meaning different things to different people). Needless to say, however, there is an emerging fascination in such projects. This year a number of tree houses were submitted. The only conclusion was that this image drew the Jury's attention; some finding it horrific – a torture chamber from where screams would never be heard – others seeing it as peaceful and tranquil. Like the structure itself, therefore, the ultimate decision was left hanging in the balance ... R. G.

Architect

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Project team

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Photograph

Iván Juárez

HANGING ABOUT

Portable refuge, or portable prison? The decision is yours ...



I
Trapped or tranquil?
Or simply a nice garden
ornament?

HONOURABLE MENTION

TREE HOUSE, HUESCA, SPAIN

ARCHITECT

EX.STUDIO