Feb. 16, 1932. H. M. FANCHER 1,845,254

COLLAPSIBLE PLAYHOUSE

Filed June 18, 1930 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1

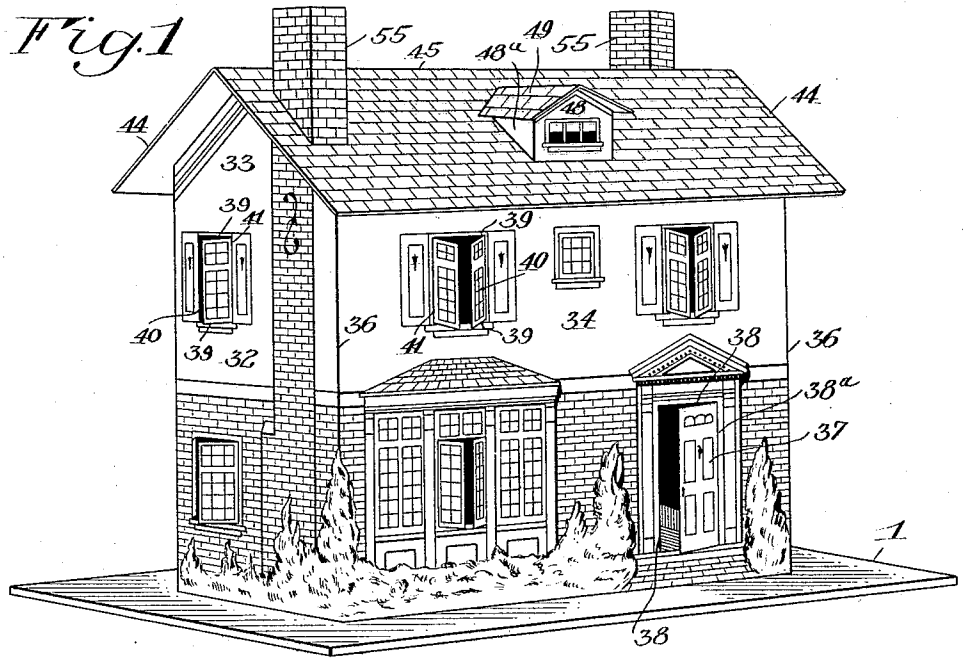


Fig. 12

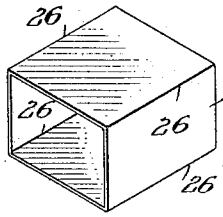


Fig. 8

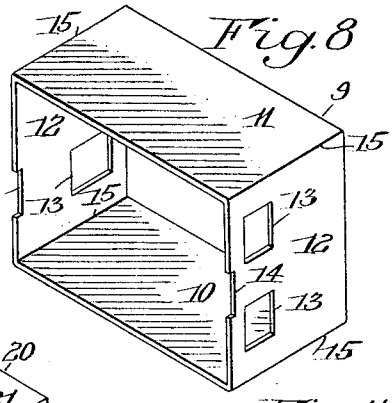


Fig. 10

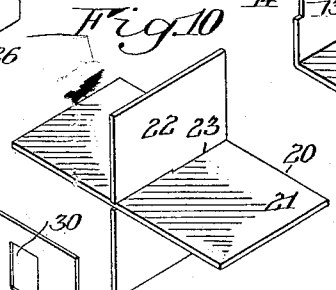


Fig. 13

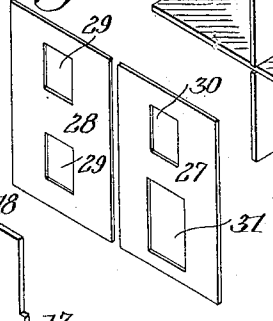


Fig. 9

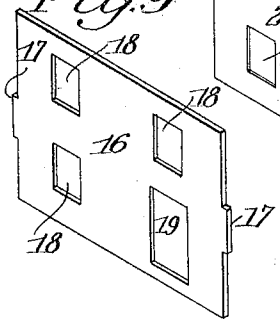
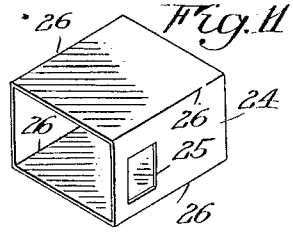


Fig. 11



INVENTOR
Howard M. Fancher
BY Edward H. Quimpton
his ATTORNEY

Feb. 16, 1932. H. M. FANCHER 1,845,254

COLLAPSIBLE PLAYHOUSE

Filed June 18, 1930 3 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 2

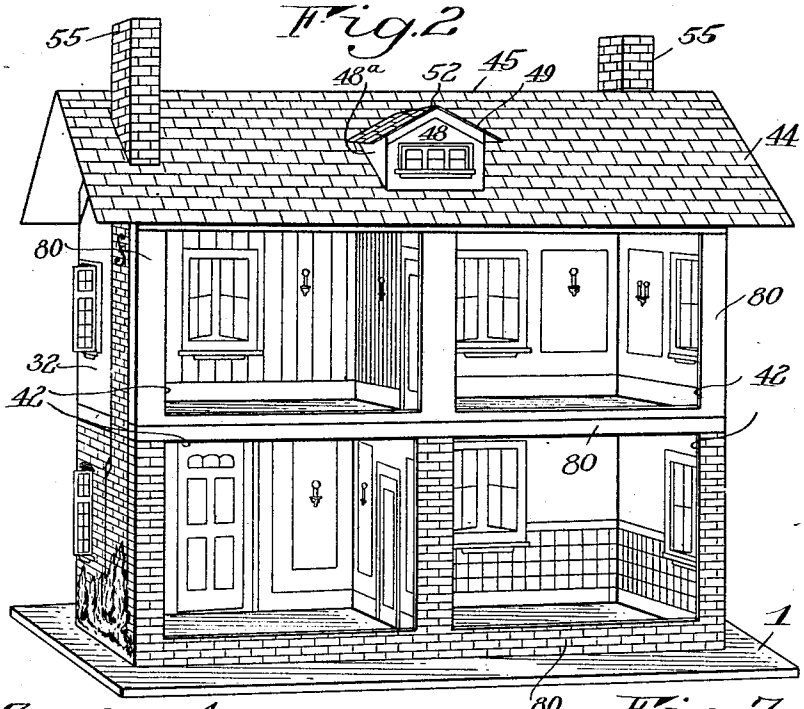


Fig. 3

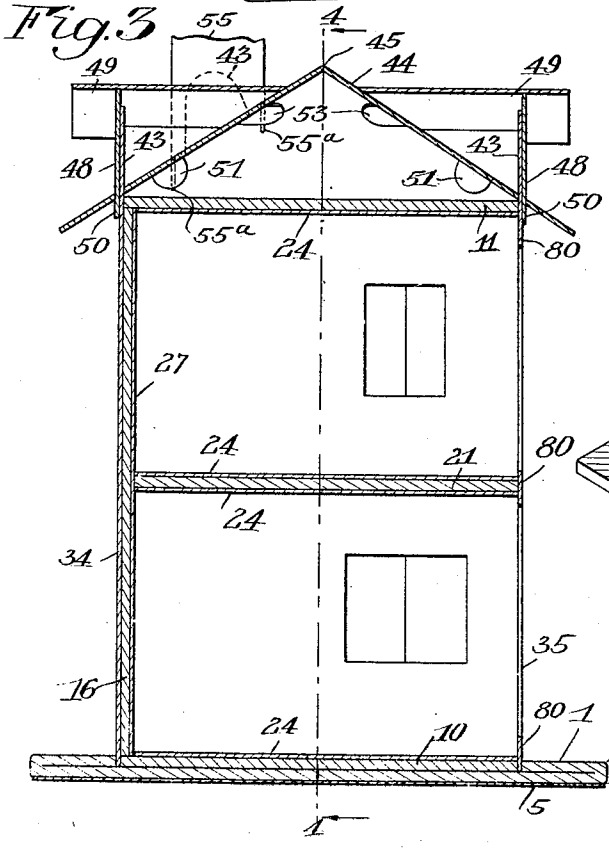


Fig. 7

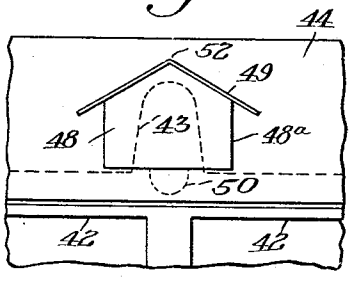
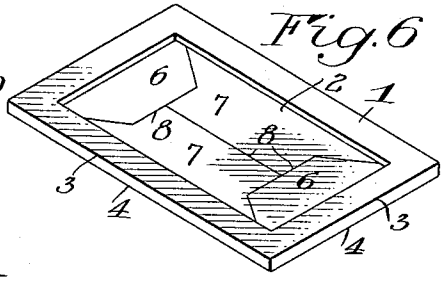


Fig. 6



INVENTOR
Howard M. Fancher
Edward A. Crumpton
his ATTORNEY

Feb. 16, 1932. H. M. FANCHER 1,845,254

COLLAPSIBLE PLAYHOUSE

Filed June 18, 1930 3 Sheets-Sheet 3

Fig. 4

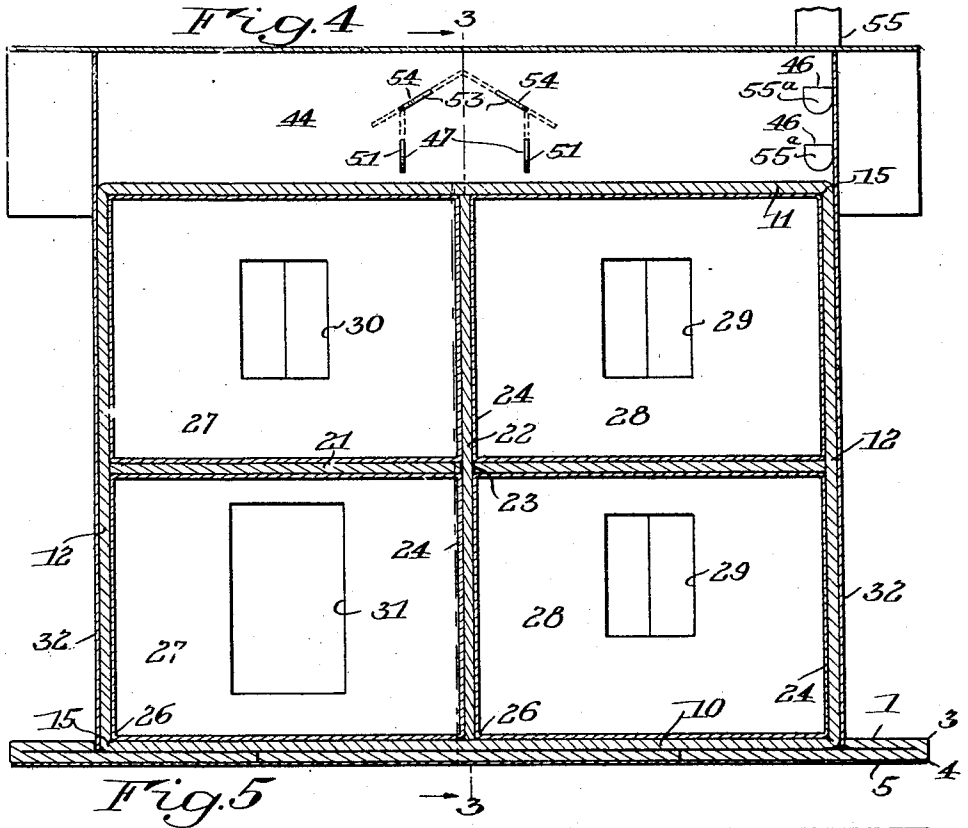
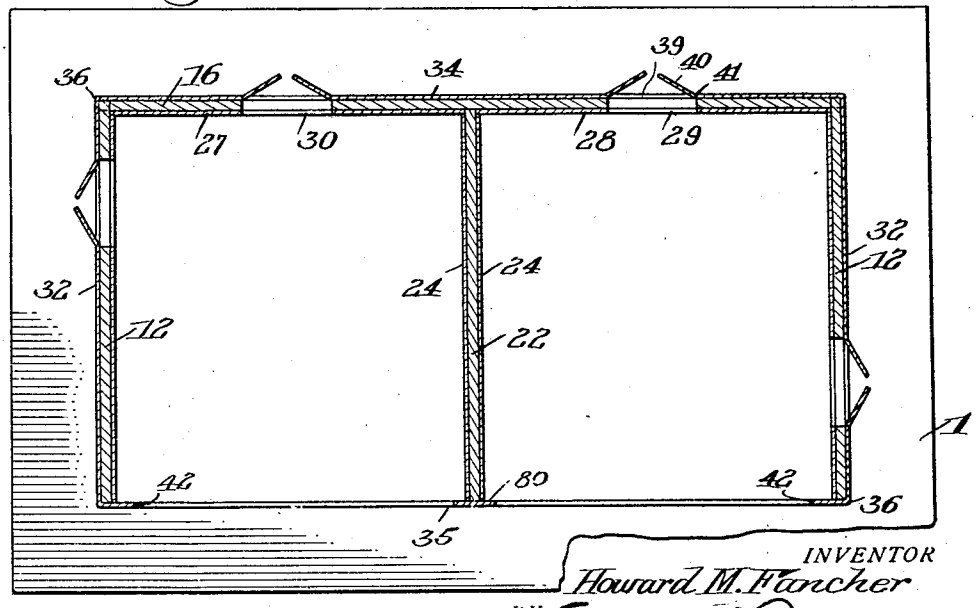


Fig. 5



INVENTOR
Howard M. Fancher
BY Edward H. Dumpston
his ATTORNEY

Patented Feb. 16, 1932 1,845,254

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

HOWARD M. FANCHER, OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK, ASSIGNOR TO THE ROCHESTER FOLDING BOX CO., OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK, A CORPORATION OF NEW YORK

COLLAPSIBLE PLAYHOUSE

Application filed June 18, 1930. Serial No. 462,045.

This invention relates to playhouses, and more particularly to those constructed of cardboard or similar material, and of a collapsible nature.

One object of the invention is the provision of an improved playhouse of this character which is simple, practical, and inexpensive in construction.

Another object is the provision of a structure which is light and easy to handle and which may be easily and quickly erected, and when erected is securely held against collapse, and yet, which may be easily collapsed into a compact article when desired.

Still another object is the provision of a house, of the class described of such size and arrangement as to afford accessibility to the rooms so that the structure may be used as a doll house.

To these and other ends the invention resides in certain improvements and combinations of parts all as will be hereinafter more fully described, the novel features being pointed out in the claims at the end of the specification.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a front perspective view of a playhouse in erected position, embodying the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a rear perspective view showing the interior of said house;

Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view taken substantially on the line 3—3 of Fig. 4;

Fig. 4 is a vertical sectional view taken substantially on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a horizontal sectional view of the house;

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the base;

Fig. 7 is a fragmentary view of a portion of the roof showing the dormer and a roof member mounted thereon and also showing the connection between said roof, dormer, and wall structure;

Fig. 8 is a perspective view of the main portion of a frame employed in the structure.

Fig. 9 is a perspective view of a closure member for said frame;

Fig. 10 is a perspective view of a cross-shaped partition member;

Figs. 11 and 12 are perspective views of the cell members which make up the rooms of the house, and

Fig. 13 is a perspective view of the members which form the end walls of the rooms.

Similar reference numerals throughout the several views indicate the same parts.

The invention is embodied in the present invention, by way of illustration, in a collapsible playhouse, comprising a base 1, Fig. 6, made of strawboard or other similar material providing a main portion having an opening 2 centrally thereof, and end portions 6 and side portions 7 which are bent on the lines 3 and 4 and folded under so as to close the bottom of the opening, thus forming a base having a depression therein. The end and side portions are so shaped that when in position for closing the bottom of the opening they come together in abutting relation along the line 8 to form a smooth surface for the bottom of the depression, and are retained in this position by adhesive material 5. The edges of the depression thus formed retain the wall structure and frame in position, and the bottom supports these members as hereinafter described. The base is of sufficient strength so that it can be picked up, with the playhouse assembled thereon, and moved from place to place. The depression 2 is spaced from the sides so as to leave a portion around the wall structure to represent a lawn.

Mounted on the base 1 and in the depression 2 thereof is a frame comprising a main portion 9, Fig. 8, and a front closure member 16, Fig. 9. The main portion of the frame is made of one piece of strawboard scored and folded on the lines 15 which form hinged corners and enable this portion to be collapsd for shipping or storing, the ends being joined in any suitable manner, as by means of adhesive tape splicing. This main portion has, when erected, a substantially rectangular shape and comprises a bottom 10, top 11 and end walls 12. The end walls 12 are provided with openings 13 which register with similar openings in the wall structure and cell members hereinafter described. The walls 12 are also provided on the edges thereof with notches 14 which engage suitable lugs on the

front closure member. The notches and lugs are spaced unequal distances above the bottom 10 so as to assure the proper assembly of the main portion and the closure member. The bottom 10 and the top 11 are substantially the same dimensions as the depression 2 of the base so that when the frame is erected the bottom 10 is supported and retained in the depression.

The closure member 16 which constitutes a part of the frame is made of a flat piece of strawboard of such dimensions as to slidably fit into the main portion 9 thus retaining the latter in the erected position. The lugs 17, integral with the closure member, engage the aforementioned notches 14 of the main portion and thus hold the closure member in position as shown in Fig. 3. Openings 18 and 19 provided in the closure member register with windows and a door respectively of the wall structure and end portions 27 and 28 as hereinafter described. The main portion and the closure member thus constitute a box-like frame which is open on a side thereof corresponding to the back of the house.

A cross-shaped member 20, Fig. 10, is placed within and divides the space enclosed by the frame into compartments suitable for rooms of the house. This member is made of two pieces 21 and 22, preferably of strawboard, slotted intermediate the ends thereof and substantially half the width, and detachably joined at right angles by fitting each board into the slot of the other, as shown at 23. This member not only aids the closure member in maintaining the main portion of the frame in the erected position but also divides the space within the frame into compartments.

Figs. 11 and 12 show cell members 24 which are made of one piece of cardboard, scored and folded on the corner lines 26 to form a box-like structure, the free ends being joined in any suitable manner. When not in use they can be readily collapsed, by reason of the corner hinges, substantially into a plane. The interior of these members are so decorated that when placed in, and lining, the compartments formed by the cross member they represent the side walls, floor and ceiling of the room. The different cell members are decorated to represent different rooms of the house, for example, a kitchen, a dining room, a bed room, etc. These cell members may however be made of heavier material, such as strawboard, in which case the cross-shaped member may be eliminated if so desired. Openings 25 are provided in the portion of the cell members which represent the side walls of the room. These openings register with the aforementioned opening 13 of the frame and the hereinafter described windows of the wall structure. The position of the cell members in the compartments is clearly shown in Figs. 3. 4, and 5.

Securely held in place between the cross-shaped member and the closure member, are the end portions 27 and 28, Fig. 13. These portions are decorated on one side thereof to represent the end walls of a room, each portion providing an end wall for an upper and a lower room, which in conjunction with the cell member makes a complete room which is open on the side corresponding to the back of the house. The portion 28 has openings 29 which register with the openings 18 of the closure member 16 while the portion 27 has openings 30 and 31 registering with the openings 18 and 19 respectively of the closure member.

A collapsible unitary wall structure encloses the frame and is retained and supported in the depression 2 of the base 1. This wall structure is made of one piece of cardboard scored and folded on the corner lines 36 so as to provide end walls 32 having gable portions 33 integral therewith, a front wall 34, a back wall 35, the free ends of the wall structure being joined in any suitable manner. The corner lines 36 of the house thus provide hinge like portions which enable the wall structure to be collapsed suitable for storing. The exterior of the wall structure is decorated to represent a modern house. This wall structure may, however, be made of heavier material such as strawboard, in which case the frame portion may be eliminated if desired.

The front wall 34 of the house is provided with a door 37 which registers with the opening 19 of the closure member and the opening 31 of the end portion 27. The door is formed by horizontal and vertical slits 38 and a score line 38*a* which provides a hinge for the door.

A plurality of windows are also provided in the wall structure. The window openings are preferably not cut out but formed by means of a top and bottom slit 39 and a vertical slit 40 and a score line 41 providing a hinge joint so that windows are formed which may be opened either inwardly or outwardly or which may be closed into the plane of the wall. The windows thus formed register with the aforementioned openings in said frame and cell members, thus affording a means for viewing the interior of the house through said windows.

The back wall 35 of the wall structure is provided with openings 42 which register with the compartments or rooms previously mentioned. The openings 42 however are slightly smaller than the compartments so that the wall structure securely locks the cell members in place as clearly shown at 80, Fig. 3. As these openings in the wall structure are substantially the same size as the rooms, being just enough smaller so as to lock the cell members in place, they do not obstruct the full view of the room nor do

they prevent the placing of suitable furniture in the rooms after the house is erected.

In order to secure the roof member 44, hereinafter described, to the wall structure, the latter is provided on the walls 34 and 35 and the gable portions 33, with upwardly extending tabs 43 which project through suitable slits provided in the roof. These tabs provide a means for securely retaining the roof member in place yet allow the roof to be easily and quickly disconnected from the wall structure.

The roof 44 is preferably made of one piece of cardboard scored centrally thereof at 45 so as to fit over the gable portions 33 of the wall structure, the upper side of said roof being decorated to represent shingles. When not in use the roof can be flattened into a plane suitable for storing. Slits 46, 47 and 54 are provided in the roof for securing dormers and chimneys thereto as hereinafter described. Additional slits are provided through which the tabs 43 of the wall structure project. This latter construction is clearly shown in Fig. 7.

Secured to the roof 44 are dormers comprising a window section 48 and a roof section 49, both being detachably secured to the roof. The window section is made of a flat piece of cardboard suitably cut and scored so as to provide a front and side portion for the dormer window section, the front portion having a window printed thereon. The front portion of the window section has a depending tab 50 integral therewith which projects through the same slit as the tab 43 of the wall structure, while the side portions have integral tabs 51 which project through the slits 47 of the roof as shown in Fig. 4. The roof portion 49 of the dormer is also made of one piece of cardboard scored centrally at 52 so as to fit over the window portion. This roof portion has one side thereof decorated to represent shingles similar to the main roof and is provided with integral tabs or portions 53 which project through slits 54 of the roof and thus secure the dormer roof portion to the roof. The dormers are so disposed on the roof as to effectively conceal the connecting means between the front and rear walls of the wall structure, and the roof.

Detachably secured to the front portion of the roof and adjacent one end thereof is a collapsible chimney 55 which forms a continuation of the chimney printed on the end wall 32. The chimney is made of one piece of cardboard scored and folded so as to provide flexibly folded or hinged corners, and decorated so as to represent a brick structure. Downwardly extending tabs 55*a* project through the slits 46 of the roof and thus securely and detachably retain the chimney in position. A similar chimney is located on the back portion of the roof and at the end of the house opposite to that of the first mentioned chimney. The position of these chimneys is such that they cover the connecting tabs of the wall structure as shown in Fig. 3. The dormer and chimneys thus provide a means for effectively concealing the connecting means between the roof and the wall structure.

The above description discloses a playhouse which when collapsed forms a compact package suitable for storing or shipping and when erected is substantial and of sufficient size to be used for a playhouse. The structure can be moved from place to place without collapsing and may be decorated in an attractive and realistic manner as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, thus furnishing an enjoyable toy for the children.

While one embodiment of the invention has been disclosed, it is to be understood that the inventive idea may be carried out in a number of ways. This application is therefore not to be limited to the precise details described, but is intended to cover all variations and modifications thereof falling within the spirit of the invention or the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A playhouse comprising a wall structure, and a detachable base of paper board or the like having a central opening therein for receiving and retaining said wall structure in erected position, said base extending beyond the wall structure and having side and end portions integral therewith and folded under so as to close the bottom of said opening thus forming means for supporting said wall structure.

2. A playhouse comprising a base having a depression therein, a wall structure received in said depression and supported by said base, and a supporting frame mounted on said base within said wall structure and retained in said depression.

3. A playhouse comprising a base having a depression therein, a wall structure supported by said base, and a collapsible frame disposed within and supporting said wall structure and having a portion thereof disposed in said depression, said frame comprising detachable parts retained in position by said wall structure.

4. A playhouse comprising a base, a collapsible wall structure supported by said base, a collapsible frame disposed within and supporting said wall structure and maintaining it in erected position, said frame comprising top, bottom and end walls connected together, a separable closure member cooperating with said frame to hold the latter in erected position, and interengaging notch and lug means for detachably securing said closure member to said frame.

5. A playhouse comprising a base, a wall structure supported by said base, a collapsible frame disposed within and supporting said

wall structure, said frame comprising top, bottom and end members and a separable closure member, said closure member retaining the frame in the erected position, and interengaging notch and lug means for securing said closure to said frame, said notch and lug means being so disposed as to assure assembly of said closure member in only a single predetermined relation in said frame and to prevent reversal thereof.

6. In a playhouse comprising a base having a depression therein, a wall structure supported in said depression, and a frame comprising separable parts disposed in said depression and supporting said wall structure, said wall structure being arranged to enclose and retain said frame parts in assembled relation.

7. A folding playhouse comprising a base having a depression therein, a wall structure mounted on said base and held in position in said depression, said base extending beyond the wall structure and having side and end portions integral therewith and folded under so as to close the bottom of said depression and support said wall structure, a collapsible frame supported by said base and disposed within said wall structure, a closure member for said frame, and interengaging notch and lug means detachably securing said closure member to said frame.

8. A playhouse comprising a base, a wall structure mounted on said base, a collapsible frame including a closure member disposed within said wall structure and supported by said base, said closure member retaining the frame in erected position, and a substantially cross-shaped member disposed within said frame and dividing the space therein into different compartments.

9. A playhouse comprising a base having a depression therein, a wall structure supported in said depression, a substantially rectangular frame having one side thereof disposed in said depression, a front closure member for said frame, said wall structure and frame being open on the side corresponding to the back of the house, and a cross-shaped member disposed within said frame and dividing the space therein into different compartments to represent rooms of the house.

10. A playhouse comprising a base, a wall structure supported on said base, a substantially cross-shaped member disposed within said wall structure and dividing the space therein into compartments, cell members located within and lining the space formed by said cross-shaped member, and an end wall for said compartment secured in place between said wall structure and said cross-shaped member.

11. A playhouse comprising a base having a depression therein, a wall structure mounted on said base and retained in said depression, a frame disposed within and supporting said wall structure, said wall structure and frame being open on the side corresponding to the back of the house, a cross-shaped member disposed within said frame and dividing the space therein into compartments, and cell members disposed within and lining said compartments, said wall structure having a plurality of openings therein on the side thereof corresponding to the back of the house, said openings in the wall structure being slightly smaller than the compartments so that said wall structure locks the cell members in position.

12. A playhouse comprising a base, a wall structure mounted on said base, a frame portion disposed within and supporting said wall structure, said frame and wall structure having openings on one side thereof, a cross-shaped member disposed within said frame and dividing the space therein into compartments, cell members lining said compartments adapted to be decorated to represent rooms, said openings in said wall member registering with said compartments and being smaller than said compartments so as to lock said cell members in place, a roof member on said wall structure, upwardly extending tabs integral with said wall structure, said roof member being provided with slits through which said tabs extend, and a dormer and a chimney member on said roof disposed to cover the connecting means between said roof and said wall structure.

13. A playhouse comprising a wall structure having sides hinged to each other to be collapsed in the direction of one plane, a base detachably secured to and supporting said sides, and a frame placeable within the wall structure and supported by said base for holding the latter in erected position, said frame including walls hinged to each other for collapse in the direction of a plane substantially perpendicular to said first mentioned plane, so that when said frame is within said wall structure it is held against collapse thereby.

14. A playhouse comprising a wall structure having sides hinged to each other to be collapsed in the direction of a horizontal plane, a base detachably secured to and supporting said sides, and a frame placeable within the wall structure and supported by said base for holding the latter in erected position, said frame including walls hinged to each other for collapse in the direction of a substantially vertical plane, so that when said frame is within said wall structure it is held against collapse thereby.

15. A playhouse comprising a frame including a hollow prism having its walls hinged to each other so that they may be collapsed and having its axis substantially horizontal, a plurality of cell members each in the form of a hollow prism insertable within said

frame by a substantially horizontal movement when the frame is in erected position, and a wall structure in the form of a hollow prism having its walls hinged to each other for collapse and its axis substantially vertical, said wall structure being placeable by a substantially vertical movement in an enveloping position with respect to said frame to maintain said frame against collapse and to hold said cell members within said frame.

16. A playhouse comprising a wall structure in the form of a hollow prism having its walls hinged to each other for collapse and its axis substantially vertical, and a plurality of cell members within said wall structure, each of said cell members comprising a hollow prism having its walls hinged to each other for collapse and having its axis substantially horizontal.

HOWARD M. FANCHER.