

Titanic Fairy Cottage Design Fact Sheet

DESIGN:

Each fairy cottage was carefully sketched out by hand by their creator, Jeanne Waters-Hill, prior to construction. Jeanne was inspired by first researching fairy houses and then added her own customized elements based upon her expertise in art, architecture, and interior design. Each house evolved further during the entire construction process.

MAIN FAIRY COTTAGE STRUCTURAL MATERIAL:

All cottages bases/stands are ¾” wood construction.

Titanic Hope, Moss Manor and Birch Cottage

House formed from a ¾” thick wood base structure w/heavy duty cardboard tubes (Sonotube) for curved and tower elements.

Swallow Hollow Cottage

Used an 8” dia. Sonotube at the top and a 14” dia. Sonotube at the bottom to create the log structures.

Secret Garden Cottage

The base was formed from a 14” dia. Sonotube mitered up with smaller tubes. The gourd was carved from a large foam block.



Moss Manor Cottage

BASE LAYERS:

Titanic Hope and Moss Manor Cottage:

Corner log elements were hand sculpted from aluminum foil and masking tape. Papier-mâché was spread across the top of these layers with paper to create lines and texture. Siding was built from a “mud” created from a mixture of damp sawdust (black walnut lumber sawdust from an Ozarks sawmill), flour, glue, and drywall mud. Salt was added as a preservative. This mixture was stirred and applied to the sides with a trowel to make the bark-like texture.

Birch Cottage

Corner log elements were hand sculpted from aluminum foil and masking tape. Papier-mâché was smeared on top of these layers with paper create the lines and texture. Siding was made from sheets of real birch bark skins with aluminum foil molded papier-mâché tree elements.

Swallow Hollow Cottage

The heavy bark look was created from shredded paper mulch added to the sawdust “mud” to create a deeper texture.

Secret Garden Cottage

The carved foam gourd shape was covered with papier-mâché.



Birch Cottage

FINISHES:

Shingles

Real miniature cedar shingles

Titanic Hope Cottage

Turret roof formed from paper and sawdust “mud.”

Bricks – real miniature fired clay bricks.

Titanic Hope, Moss Manor and Swallow Hollow

Entry – premade fairy elements and customized further by hand.

Birch Cottage

Handmade from scraps of wood and plastic.

Secret Garden Cottage

Customized miniature door kit.

Windows – handmade.

Secret Garden Cottage– mushrooms and leaves are hand formed papier-mâché.

Moss – real preserved moss

Lighting – LED Fairy Lights

Stained Glass – paint over frosted plastic

Finishing touches and color – hand applied acrylic paint

Misc. décor elements - premade fairy elements customized further by hand.

Miniature books, signage, and posters provided by Titanic Museum’s graphic artist in collaboration with Jeanne Water-Hill.



Secret Garden Cottage

INTERESTING FACTS AND FIGURES:

Hours creating the houses:

Titanic Hope Cottage

– 85 hours

Moss Manor, Birch Cottage, Swallow Hollow, and Secret Garden Cottages

– 45-50 hours for each house.

Weight: Heaviest

Titanic Hope Cottage about 120 pounds.

Weight: Lightest

Secret Garden Cottage about 40 lbs.

Materials:

80 lbs. of “mud” mixed up (weight before drying)

65 gallons of shredded paper mulch used.

65 gallons of black walnut lumber sawdust used.

At least 30 trips to Hobby Lobby and assorted hardware stores to gather supplies.



Swallow Hollow Cottage