NESTS
NEARLY TWENTY years ago, in a house I had moved into, a friend left behind a very old, small, Japanese lacquer and glass cabinet. The glass is fragile, and the sides hardly hold together. The base is covered with faded, thin, green felt. The back wall of the cabinet has a pair of ginkgo leaves incised in the wood. One is still coated with tarnished silver leaf.

A branch of birch stands in the centre but does not reach the ceiling of the cabinet. Two fragile glass shelves are hinged by fitting into nicks in the branch. They are at different levels. The birch branch is untouched by tools, except to have cut its length. How many hundred years ago did the maker know, in some noumenal way, that this one rustic element makes aesthetic sense, that it does not undo the elegance of the cabinet, and know, too, that to please the eye it must not act as a structural element, not fit from the base to the ceiling. Although it stands as a tree trunk might, the birch does not pretend to represent a tree.

I live somewhere else now, a long way from that house. How carefully the lacquer cabinet had been packed. I think that it should not house more than two or three things, small things, but in it I have placed five nests.

One nest sits on the highest thin glass shelf, on a slip of paper which came with it in the post, signed by the friend who left me the lacquer cabinet, a fitting way for a nest to arrive.

How do I explain the size of the nest? To say it is the size of a medium size bowl suggests the solidity of fired clay and glaze. To give an approximate measurement would be to dismiss the haphazard nature of the collection of twigs which is not to misrepresent the driven intelligence of the nest maker. An exact diameter would ignore the fragile, uneven perimeter with thin twigs interwoven to become a near perfect circle but with each straight or only slightly curved twig not entirely woven into the nest so that nearly every one has an end which sticks out from and seems to decorate the useful structure.

Inside the nest, one or two dry leaves are caught and one bit of fluff, a baby's feather. The nest is light yet unimaginably solid for all its fragility. I suppose it is plain compared to others but its beauty lies in the slightly leaning cup shape, and the fact that this shape is made by nothing else but grey-brown twigs. In some places one is able to see through the nest.

Another nest ('from my family's home, N'), is the same size as the first but higher and more cup shaped. It still sits in the fork of the small branch which holds it. If I tried to take the nest from the branch it would probably fall apart. The...
A bird nest. A night heron building a nest. A nest is a structure built by certain animals to hold eggs, offspring, and, occasionally, the animal itself. Although nests are most closely associated with birds, members of all classes of vertebrates and some invertebrates construct nests. Define nests. nests synonyms, nests pronunciation, nests translation, English dictionary definition of nests. nest nesting Japanese figures n. 1. a. A structure or shelter made or used by a bird to hold its eggs during incubation and to house its young until...

Nest - definition of nests by The Free Dictionary. https://www.thefreedictionary.com/nests. Printer Friendly. Dictionary, Encyclopedia and Thesaurus - The Free Dictionary 12,460,601,598 visitors served. Nest, structure created by an animal to house its eggs, its young, or, in some cases, itself. Nests are built by a few invertebrates, especially the social insects, and by some members of all the major vertebrate groups. The social insects (termites, ants, bees, and wasps) build the only true nests. Encyclopaedia Britannica's editors oversee subject areas in which they have extensive knowledge, whether from years of experience gained by working on that content or via study for an advanced degree. See Article History. Nederlands-Engels Technisch Woordenboek > nest. 2 Nest. n; -(e)s, -er. 1. nest; fig. ein Nest von Dieben — a den of thieves. das Nest leer finden — to find the bird has/the birds have flown. 3) (fig = Heim) nest, home. sein eigenes Nest beschmutzen — to foul one's own nest. sich ins gemachte oder warme Nest setzen (inf) (durch Heirat) — to marry (into) money; (beruflich) to move straight into a good job. da hat er sich ins gemachte oder warme Nest gesetzt (inf) — he's got it made (inf). 4) (fig inf = Bett) bed. NESTS (ネスツ) was a secret syndicate that used the King of Fighters 99-2001 tournaments to carry out their plans for world domination, being the main antagonists of the second KOF story arc. Their ultimate plan was to collect fighters' battle data in the tournament and defeat them by using another team or one of their agents. Once the world was ridded of its only protectors, the cartel would then conquer it, using the data obtained to make their army of unstoppable fighters. Their main headquarters was