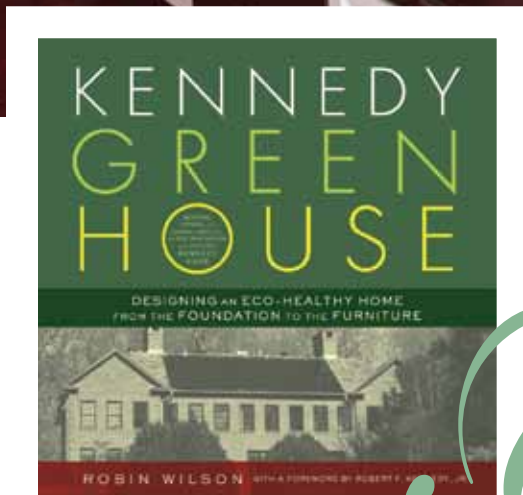


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Kennedy Green House

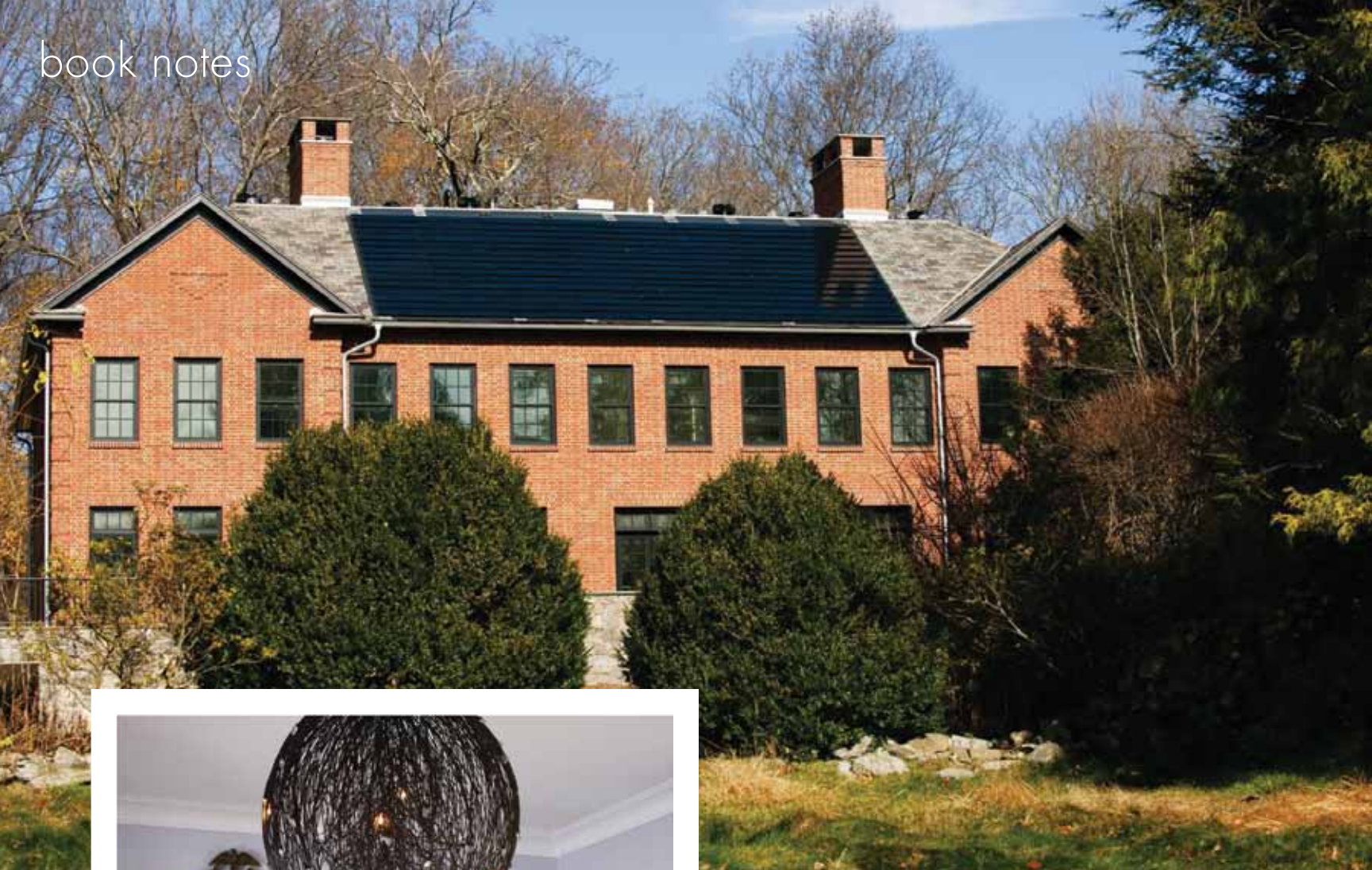
Text by Jack Frink

You just can't keep those Kennedy boys down. In 2003, the Mt. Kisco, New York home of tireless environmental advocate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. was damaged by summer floods. An unstoppable, toxic mold crept over the house, causing breathing problems for Kennedy's children. So RFK Jr. put his money where his mouth is and had the house razed and re-built with environmentally-friendly methods. The result is a marvel of modern architecture and green technology: the Kennedy Green House.

Author Robin Wilson, who was in on the ground floor of the construction as part of Kennedy's "Green Dream Team," covers the house's creation from the blueprint stage to furniture placement. The Green Dream Team – a collective of top-tier architects, builders, engineers and designers – also become a major figure in the book's storyline.

Wilson's writing is matter-of-fact and teeming with technical details that are still understandable to the house construction layman. At times the verbage becomes

The main kitchen has dimensions of 17 feet by 45 feet and is made up of three interconnected spaces.



top The newly-minted Kennedy Green House sits on 12 acres of land.

above The Kennedy's dining room embodies the ideals of conservation and was designed for regular use.

a bit perfunctory, and the syntax is occasionally clumsy, but Wilson's subject is so fascinating, with such a wealth of insight about home improvement, that small prose slip ups do not drag the proceedings.

The heart of the book is Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and his family. A personal side comes out whenever they are included in the narrative. One revealing moment comes about three-fourths of the way through the long construction process. When asked if he's looking forward to his house's green perks, Kennedy simply replies, "I'm excited about going home."

Although many readers of *Kennedy Green House* probably lack the means of the Kennedy family, the book is still useful to those who want to make their household a healthier place to live. The book is dotted with helpful, affordable tips that can be universally applied to any living space, and between chapters are further pointers on improvements to various areas of the household. The photographs adorning the book's pages are gorgeous. You don't have to be rich or an activist to get a lot out of the story behind *Kennedy Green House*. [TH&L](#)



Author Robin Wilson