

our eco-friendly PRESS KIT

This packet provides select press coverage for a complete list, see our website



Frank McBee*

Frank McBee was one of the founders of Tracor in the late '50s. He was a pioneer in Austin's early high-tech era and a significant contributor to the community.

Harold F. McFarlane*

Dr. Harold F. McFarlane is a specialist in nuclear physics. He is a world renown expert in nuclear applications and nuclear proliferation. Because of his great accomplishments, he has a building in Japan named in his honor. McFarlane is a past president of the American Nuclear Society.

Dr. Ruth P. Morgan*

Dr. Ruth P. Morgan, scholar and academic administrator, became the first woman Provost of Southern Methodist University. She is well known for her commitment to academic excellence and equity, for her civic community, as well as her leadership achievements in higher education in the field of political science.

Arthel Neville

Arthel Neville was the first African-American woman to host her own daily show on CNN, and she's worked with prominent news anchors from Anderson Cooper to Bill O'Reilly.

Harry Ransom*

Harry Ransom is an educator, academic administrator, scholar and bookman. He is best known as the founder of the Humanities Research Center, later the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center in 1982 at UT. He began UTs world acclaimed collections of literature.

Dr. Lorene Rogers*

In 1975 Dr. Lorene Rogers became the first female president of The University of Texas at Austin and the first female to lead a major research university.

Texas Schramm

NFL icon Tex Schramm was the Dallas Cowboys' first president and general manager, successfully fighting to incorporate changes like instant replay and referees' microphones into the league.

Trailblazers

*This list includes user-submitted entries. The Texas Exes cannot verify that all biographical information is correct and are not responsible for any inaccuracies. Should you find an error, please contact us at extraordinaryexes@alumni.utexas.edi and we will get it corrected.

Alan Bean

Astronaut and painter Alan Bean logged more than 1,600 hours in space and was the fourth person to walk on the moon.

Jack Crosby

Jack Crosby is the chairman of the Rust Group. In 1955 he started one of the first cable television companies in the country. He was an early inductee into the "Pioneers of Cable Television" and the "Cable TV Hall of Fame."

Jean Flynn*

Jean Marie "Jeannie" Flynn was the first female Air Force officer to graduate from USAF Undergraduate Pilot Training and take on a combat role as a fighter pilot (flying a F-15E fighter).

Paul Goebel*

Paul Goebel is the founding and managing director of the UNT Student Money Management Center. In creating an award-winning program in just three years, he has ignited a passion for financial responsibility in the lives of thousands of students.

Ima Hogg*

Ima Hogg was the daughter of Governor Hogg. Hogg and her brother established the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health that has continued to benefit many people.

The Honorable Carole Strayhorn

The Honorable Carole Strayhorn is a former Texas Comptroller. She is the first woman elected as mayor of Austin and the first Austin mayor elected to three consecutive terms.

Heman Sweatt

After being denied admission to UT Law because he was African American, Heman Sweatt took his case to the Supreme Court, which determined "separate but equal" graduate school education was illegal.

Robin Wilson*

Robin Wilson is the author of the book "Kennedy Green House" and a leader of eco friendly design for residential and commercial spaces. She is the first woman to license her name for eco kitchen cabinetry, which is sold by over 500 dealers nationwide.

Stephanie Wilson

Astronaut Stephanie Wilson was the second African American to go into space, where she worked on repairs to the International Space Station.

Martha Wong

Martha Wong was the first Asian-American school principal in the state of Texas. She was the first Asian-American recognized by the Houston Federation of Women's Award for Excellence in Education. She was the first Asian-American in the Texas Womens Hall of Fame, and was also the first female Asian-American elected to the Texas House of Representatives.

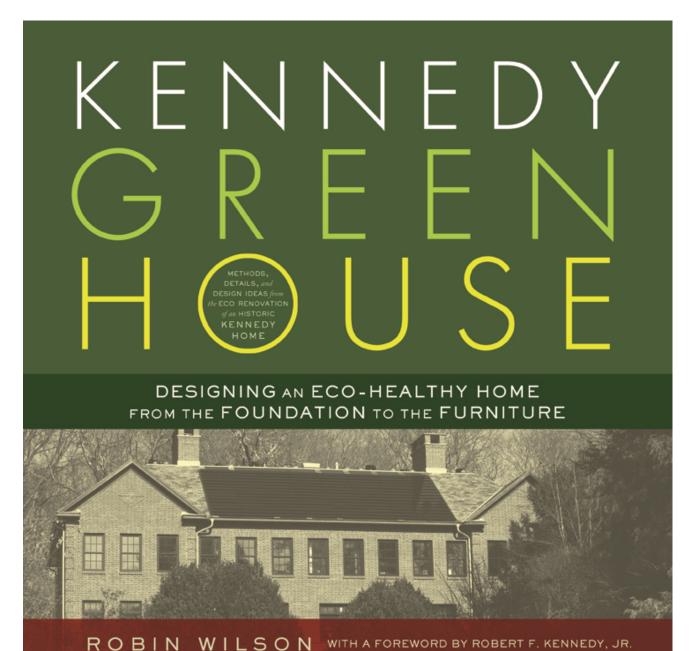
Edward Ximenes*

Edward T. Ximenes, physician and civic leader, was the first Hispanic appointed to the UT System's Board of Regents.

Robin Wilson*

Robin Wilson is the author of the book "Kennedy Green House" and a leader of eco friendly design for residential and commercial spaces. She is the first woman to license her name for eco kitchen cabinetry, which is sold by over 500 dealers nationwide.





Winner 2010 IPPY Award

(Home & Garden bronze medalist)

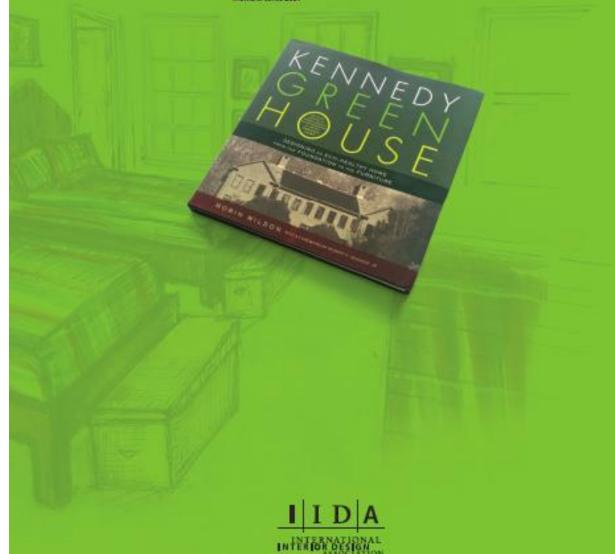






Robin Wilson, Affiliate IDA member since 2007

"Howe how design touches everything. At one point, we could never have imagined a phone that fits in your poclet. Now, that same phone sends emails and images, plays to shows, movies and music, and keeps me organized. Howe how this enables me to be in constant touch with design. My first design job came when I was 7; my grandfather gave me a chance to select the exterior paint colors for a series of mutal homes in Texas. Two been hooled ever since, though not so often on the Easter egg colors I selected in my youth?



The Future of Design. 888-799-IIDA | www.lida.org

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KITCHEN AND BATH BUSINESS / MA/JUNE 2010 KBIS WWW.KBBONLINE.COM \$10 U.S.





House Beautiful

KITCHEN OF THE MONTH

MOUNT KISCO, NEW YORK

You don't have to scream "green." Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s big family kitchen is full of eco-friendly ideas.

Interview by CHRISTINE PITTEL Photographs by FRANCESCO LAGNESE Produced by SAMANTHA EMMERLING & ROBERT RUFINO

W ROBIN WILSON & MARY RICHARDSON KENNEDY



CHRISTINE PITTEL: You and your husband, Robert F. Kennedy Ir., are outspoken environmentalists. Was it easy to go green? MARY RICHARDSON KENNEDY. We had no choice. We suffered a flood, and mold infiltrated every porous surface in the house. So we decided to turn this catastrophe into a poperturity and porous surface in remoles. So proportion to the control of the con

with power.

No wonder you need all this room.

This kitchen gets a lot of traffic, and a lot of boys. Everything had to be extremely durable—and healthy. Robin Wilson was recommended to me as a designer.

ommended to me as a designer who knew the latest eco-friendly products. She introduced me to Holiday Kitchens, who made all the cabinetry. ROBBN WILSON: They use recycled wood, formaldehyde-free glues, and low-VOC paints and stains. People tend to equate ecormend to the she will be a short of the short

That island looks more like a continent. How life is it?

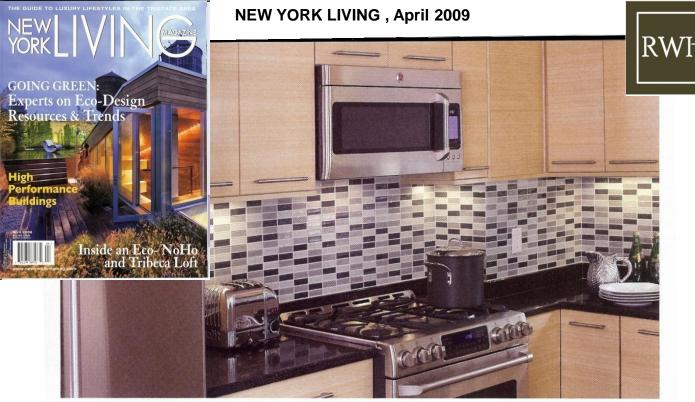
MRK Sir feet by 17 feet. And Barbara Piazza, a kitchen designer, made sure every square in chi was available for storage. On Sundays, we usually have root to 150 people of 150 people

would normally go into a land-fill—porcelain tubs, sinks, glass, mirror. It's all mushed together, and then with a great amount of pressure and corn resin it's turned into a countertop. MRK: It's incredible. It doesn't stain, scratch, or scorch, and it doesn't need sealers.

erator on one end, and a full-size freeze on the other On the right, those square doors above the those square doors and the square square the square s

good-looking, and afroable. With a minute, far froable, With a minute, and froable, with a minute, and the second to get a min

Kitchen of the Month May 2010 Issue HOUSE BEAUTIFUL



The Heart of the Home: Eco-Kitchens

omeowners in the U.S. are spending more than \$17 billion annually to renovate the heart of their homes - the kitchen - and demand is steadily increasing for eco-friendly options for cabinetry, countertops, backsplashes and

energy-efficient appliances. Since families spend a significant amount of time in their kitchens, eco-healthy options and ecofriendly materials provide a comfort factor that is priceless for a homeowner.

For those thinking of designing a new kitchen, keep the following checklist in mind:

Appliances: Select Energy-Star rated appliances to save energy and lower your electric bill. Energy-Star appliances are also rated on their durability, so they will not end up in the landfill in a few months.

Energy Savings: If your electric company offers an off-peak cycling program, register to save hundreds of dollars a year when they power-off nonessential electronics during the day when you are not at home.

Cabinetry: Check for cabinets that have no added urea-formaldehyde in the assembly process to ensure no off-

gassing in your home. Also, durability increases if paint is kiln dried during the manufacturing process. An eco-healthy option is a frameless cabinet that allows ease of cleaning and provides up to ten percent more storage space.

Backsplash: Options include glass tile and stainless steel

panels, and ceramic and porcelain tile. Increasing in popularity are eco-resin panels which require little maintenance.

Countertops: Caesarstone, Richlite (recycled paper) and Icestone (recycled glass) are popular, and increasingly popular options are aluminum and concrete. Consider how to protect your choice if you cook often.

Sinks and Faucets: Undermount sinks reduce bacteria build up, and faucets with aerators built in make water droplets feel larger so that less water is consumed.

Flooring: Ceramic or porcelain tiles are popular, and reclaimed hardwood flooring is also becoming more popular, as is installing radiant-heated floors to lower heating bills.

Paint: Select no-to-low VOC paints to ensure limited off-gassing, and note that it is typically less expensive to have cabinets

pre-painted in the factory than onsite.

Did you know...

By Robin Wilson of Robin Wilson Home. www.robinwilsonhome.com

Photography by Vanessa Lenz | Kitchen installed by Royal Kitchens | Design by Robin Wilson





KITCHEN & BATH BUSINESS, April 2009

Favorites





Robin Wilson's Top Product Picks



Having suffered from asthma and allergies her entire life, New York-based designer Robin Wilson is acutely aware of the importance of an eco-friendly and healthy home. "I was one of those kids that people in the hospital knew," she said, and in a time when shag carpets were in vogue, "my parents had to go back to hardwood floors and file at home because the 'plasticy' smell of a new product could be a little overwhelming," Her experience has led her not only to focus her design practice on creating sustainable and healthy living environments, but also to espouse a more holistic and inclusive view of what it means to be eco-friendly. She said, "I'm an eco-friendly lifestyle expert who believes in helping people do what they can in their

homes and their lives to facilitate healthy living at an affordable and practical price point."

As part of that, her firm, Robin Wilson Home, recently licensed its name to **Holiday Kitchens** for a line of earth- and budget-friendly cabinetry (1) made from FSC-certified lumber and kiln-dried to prevent off-gassing in the home. Available in a variety of finishes, including bamboo, wood veneers, stainless steel and coconut palm, the cabinets come with a lifetime guarantee, are manufactured in the U.S. and, incidentally, will be installed in the home of Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., which is being transformed into a "laboratory" of green solutions in all price categories. When completed, it will show visitors "that you don't have to live totally off the grid, that you can live in a normal house and still be eco-friendly," Wilson noted.

The Kennedy kitchen may also feature another of her favorites, **PaperStone** countertops **(4)**, which are made from petroleum-free resin and 100-percent post-consumer recycled cardboard or office paper. Scratch-resistant and able to withstand temperatures of up to 350 degrees Fahrenheit, the countertops patina over time and, according to Wilson, are warmer to the touch than stone—a welcome bonus in the winter.

For a splash of drama on a countertop, backsplash or even the treads of a staircase, Wilson likes **3form**'s Varia line of ecoresin panels **(2)**, which are offered in a wide array of colors, finishes, textures and interlayer materials, including grasses, natural fibers and flowers. "The product that I really love is their bamboo rings and their seaweed." said Wilson.

A perfect addition for more urban and contemporary kitchens is **Dornbracht**'s Cleanset 1 (3), which Wilson describes as simply "fabulous." Consisting of a Tara Ultra and a Profi spray, the ensemble boosts a tall, coiled gooseneck design and restaurant-inspired good looks that bring a touch of industrial chic to any loft space.

For the bath, where water efficiency is key, Wilson is a fan of **Kohler**'s Persuade dual-flush toilet **(5)** and **Oxygenics**' showerheads **(6)**. The former is a contemporary-style two-piece model that delivers a flushing performance of 1.6 gpf for solid waste and 0.8 gpf for liquid waste, while the latter features built-in aerators that "make the water drops feel bigger, so you can take a shorter shower, saving water, yet still get the same force." Wilson said. "It's a win-win for everyone."

One could say the same of Wilson's approach.

—Alice Ligo











How Suffering from Allergies Inspired a Successful Eco-Friendly Business The words on a paperweight pushed Robin Wilson to build her dream business.

By Robin Wilson as told to Erin Semple

Her business

Robin Wilson Home is an eco-friendly design company, with a focus on interior design for residential and commercial clients. The company also designs products sold at thereststore.com.

Our main goal is to provide educational information and products to teach people about an eco-friendly lifestyle. There are many affordable options available to improve your indoor air quality and the global environment.

I chose to enter this business because I have suffered from allergies and asthma throughout my life. We are able to provide tips and solutions to concerned families. It is a wonderful feeling to see the look of relief on their faces when they realize these solutions are also affordable.





Photographs by Vanessa Lenz

Her background

My first internship was with the Lower Colorado River Authority in the energy efficiency group. And it is thrilling to know that my first boss now runs the Environment Protection Agency Energy Star program! After college, I worked in the energy division of Mercer Management Consulting and then joined the executive search industry to hire roles of chief executive officer, chief financial officer, and chief operations officer. My final corporate job was with Heidrick & Struggles, which went public in 1999—and with the windfall, I chose to pursue my Master's in Real Estate Finance from New York University and that's what started my entrepreneurial venture.

In 2006, we re-branded the firm after some advice from a magazine executive, and now our firm has evolved to focus on design (residential & commercial) with ancillary divisions.

One year later, in 2007, with a group of unpaid interns, and myself as an unpaid CEO, the firm had few projects and was building the brand with expert commentary offered in newspapers and magazines, and speaking engagements. From 2006 with \$40K in revenue, the company grew in 2008 to more than \$500K in revenue. It has been a meteoric rise, but long hours, overnights and moments of sheer terror and pure exhilaration pushed us through.

I was raised in Austin Texas, but now live in New York City. Today, our design studio is in a loft space with a view of the Empire State Building.

-continued on page 2-









TY PENNINGTON magazine, October 2008



BLACK ENTERPRISE, August 2008





EST SMALL BUSINESSES

LEAPS & BOUND



Innovator of the Year Robin Wilson Home, New York, NY

obin Wilson Home (www.robinwilsonhome.com) strives to ensure that renovation projects are completed on schedule, according to the client's specifications, and at the agreed cost. In an industry of inflated estimates, unpredictable construction schedules, and very little means of holding contractors accountable, the New York-based construction management and interior design firm has etched a niche for itself by creating software to clean up the construction process.

"As project manager, I need to make sure that you are in control of your plans, your time, and your budget," says CEO Robin Wilson, who launched the company in 2000.

Wilson stems from a long line of real estate industry professionals, four generations strong, and spent the summers watching her grandfather manage renovation projects on his properties. "In coming from a family of entrepreneurs, knew all about the ups and downs and was taught to focus on not just this generation, but the future," says Wilson, who fused her forward-thinking attitude with her love of design.

The firm also specializes in eco-friendly concept design and interior décor for office buildings, hotels, residences, and spas. Earlier this year, Wilson launched The Nest Store (www.theneststore.com), offering the same eco-friendly design solutions that characterize her commercial projects, including furniture and bedding, among other products.

In June, Robin Wilson Home won the Make Mine a Million \$ Business competition, sponsored by micro loan provider Count Me In for Women's Economic Independence and OPEN from American Express' small business arm, designed to help women-owned companies grow.

With so much progress and so many projects in the pipeline for Robin Wilson Home, Wilson and her team have yet to slow down, which is fine by her. "We're a solid team that believes in a mission of keeping homes healthy and beautiful," Wilson says. "Everyone here is dedicated to watching and being a part of the growth."





HOME, July 2008





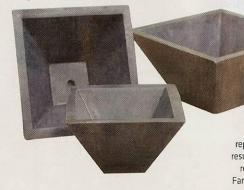
Robin Wilson, interior designer for her eponymous firm Robin Wilson Home.

trend setter

Robin Wilson

When Robin Wilson was a child, her mother used hypoallergenic products and natural cleaning methods in their Austin, Texas, home to help her daughter, who had allergies and asthma, breathe easier. "It was an early introduction to how toxins in the home can affect your health," explains Robin, now a New York City-based interior designer who heralds choices that are healthier for her clients and the earth. So it seems a natural evolution that Robin launched The Nest Store (theneststore.com) this year to bring her favorite ecofriendly products, including her sleek concrete designs, below and

right, to retail. The site also offers unique home goods handmade by artisans, as well as renewable products, such as organic cotton towels and bamboo baskets, from manufacturers Robin has vetted to ensure sustainable practices are in place.



CONCRETE GARDEN In Robin Wilson's concrete designs, fly ash (a byproduct of industrial coal combustion) that's been diverted from landfills replaces sand to create lighter weight results. Above: Cabana Bench, price on request. Left: Nesting Bowls, 3/\$95. Far left: Tealight Candleholders, \$19 to

\$40. theneststore.com.



DAILY CANDY

DAILY CANDY, April 22, 2008



April 22, 2008 **Asphalt, You Shall Receive**Concrete Decor by Robin Wilson



They say the only concrete things in life are birth and death. We'd like to add the first collection of home goods from eco interior designer Robin Wilson.

Drawing ideas from her new green showroom, Wilson utilizes leftover elements from construction sites (among other waste-producing places) for her creative endeavors.

With a focus on form and function, beautifully simple and modern votive holders, planters, trays, bowls, benches, and nesting tables are made from recycled smokestack ash and demolition ephemera — which can be ordered artisanally rough or honed and polished and finished with a nontoxic stain. Any refuse from projects are passed on to a local recycler.

Many of the handsome smaller pieces (planters) are surprisingly light; the furniture (like side tables) rolls on wheels. All can sustain the wear and tear of full-time outdoor/patio living.

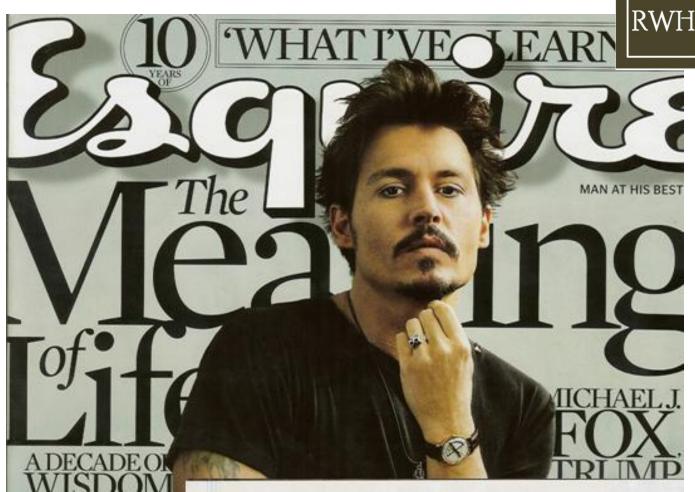
Call it mortar combat.

Available online at <u>theneststore.com</u>.



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ESQUIRE, January 2008



ADECADE ON WISDOM & DAMN GOOD ADVICE FROM THE LIKES OF DEPP NICHOLSON CLAPTON PACING

JANUARY 2008 www.esquire.com \$3.99

Lower • Terrace

Aquire NORTH

DESIGNED BY ROBIN WILSON FOR ROCKPORT

If you can ever look away from the view, there's a chair up here from the Bent Tree, a Missouri furniture company, that was made by training trees to grow in particular shapes. Some become the arms, others the back, and others form the base. Ours took three and a half years to grow and cost \$1,000. There's also a professional-grade putting green, but it's maddeningly tough. I made one putt. All weekend.







From Executive Recruiter





to Renovation and Design Manager

ROBIN WILSON, 37, at the Peninsula hotel in New York (she managed the renovation of its Mélange salon), May 31, 2007

Real estate is in my blood, four

generations back. I got into it with my grandfather, who owned several Texas "shotgun" houses—studios where oil workers lived. He let me choose their exterior paint when I was 7 years old. I made one block the "rainbow" houses: one blue, one violet, one red, and so on. It made caring for property seem like art. On Sundays we collected rent. That made real estate seem like an ATM—you can get money out of it.

After college, I went into management consulting and then executive search. But I felt as if I only got to start projects—finding people jobs—never finish them. I might not learn until years later if it was a great match. When my firm went public in 1999, I instantly sold my shares and used the money to go to graduate school to study real estate finance.

I wanted to go into commercial property management, but no one would hire me. Most people suggested I become a broker, which is the real estate job "for girls." I wanted to be like my grandfather, so when a professor suggested I try residential property management, I talked my friends into hiring me to do their kitchen, bath, and baby nursery renovations. I said, "I'll be like the wedding planner of your project. You won't have to worry about one thing." And they didn't. Now I do whole apartments, homes, law firms, even former president Clinton's office. My budgets-run as high as \$7 million.

Women, especially Southern women, are taught to be demure. When I first opened, I didn't want to be a show-off and name my company after myself. Instead I called it WSG (Wilson Services Group) Consulting. Huge mistake. No one could remember it. Plus, my expertise and talent are what clients are buying. We rebranded this year as Robin Wilson Home. Business is booming.



ROBIN WILSON



BIOGRAPHICAL INFO Robin Wilson

Robin Wilson is a nationally recognized eco-friendly and healthy space interior designer – and she is the author of the book *Kennedy Green House: Designing an Eco-Friendly Home from the Foundation to the Furniture* – the 2010 IPPY Awards bronze medal winner in Home & Garden category.

Robin Wilson is the first woman to license her name to eco-friendly kitchen cabinetry manufactured by Holiday Kitchens, a 65-year old company in the United States.

Industry insiders describe her style as 'classic with a modern touch' with a focus on sustainable, reusable, recyclable and non-toxic options. She has been influenced by the architectural work of Paul R. Williams and Frank Lloyd Wright, among others. Due to her work on several LEED projects, she has an understanding of those requirements and encourages her clients to implement cost-effective eco-friendly solutions.

Notable projects include the Good Housekeeping LEED-certified brownstone (2008), the Esquire "Ultimate Bachelor Apartment" terrace (2007), the Peninsula Hotel Spa salon (2007), and multiple renovation projects for President Bill Clinton's Harlem office (since 2004).

Robin's eco-enthusiasm is attainable and engaging allowing her the privilege to be a frequent guest expert for many programs including Good Morning America, TODAY show, CBS Early Show, FOX Business, PBS Nightly Business News, CNN, TV-One and HGTV. She is a personality and expert commentator for newspapers and magazines including House Beautiful, New York Daily News, KB+B, Readers Digest, Wall Street Journal, among others. An award winning entrepreneur and engaging public speaker, Ms. Wilson has been recognized in:

- 2010: Aspen Institute "Environment" Forum
- 2009: Panelist at "Dynamic Women in Business" conference Harvard Business School
- 2008: Recipient of a "Make Mine a Million \$ Business" award AMEX & Count Me In
- 2007: Small Business "Innovator of the Year" Black Enterprise Magazine
- 2007: Listed #46 in the "50 Most Powerful Women in New York" New York Post

Born and raised in Austin, Texas, Robin is a fourth-generation member of a Texas family involved in real estate. She has served on the boards of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and YWCA. She holds an MS from New York University and a BA from the University of Texas in Austin.

Robin Wilson Home is based in New York City and focused on residential & commercial interior design, consulting, licensing and owns an online retailer called The Nest Store. She founded her firm in 2000, and rebranded it to the eponymous Robin Wilson Home in 2006. Her firm is a member of the US Green Building Council.

For more information about Robin Wilson Home, please visit: www.robinwilsonhome.com