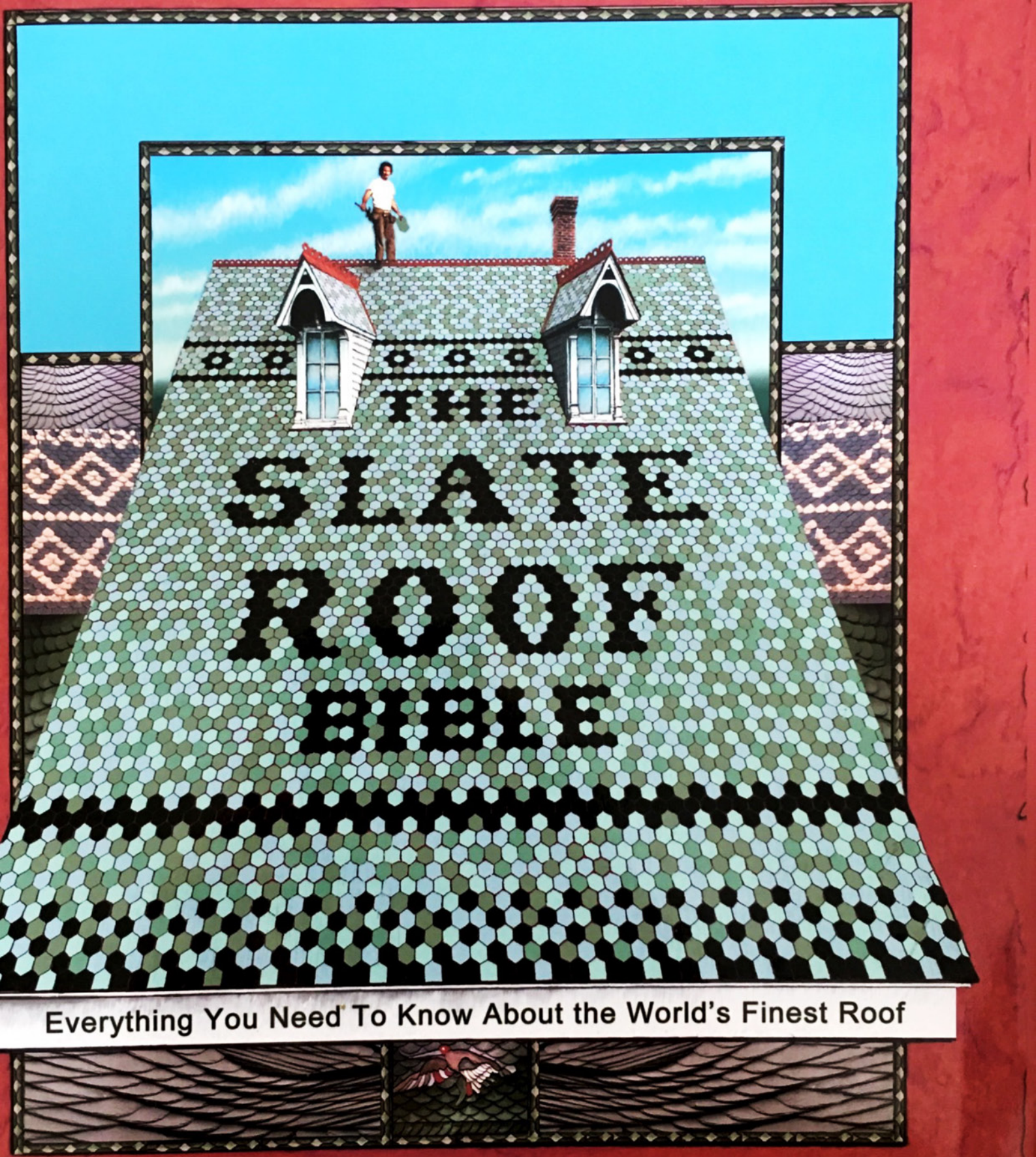
NEW YORK RED SLATE
Rare, beautiful and expensive, NY red slate is prized for its durability and brick-red color. This roof was installed by Gillespie Contracting (GillespieContracting.com) in Pennsylvania. The slate was supplied by Hadeka Stone Corporation. Photo courtesy of Gillespie Contracting

tall, depending on the topography of the land. They had to be located four or five hundred feet from the edge of the pit to allow for dumping of the rubbish stone. There was a demand for qualified men who could raise the mast, which was quite a feat of engineering in those days, considering that the stick may have been 200 feet long. The *"tallest quarry pole in the world"* was 235 feet high, erected at Rising and Nelson's Quarry #4 in 1908. A fellow by the name of Henry Vogel of Truthville was a pioneer in this business, and he was so highly regarded that his services were in demand; he accomplished them even after he became handicapped in one leg.

The sticks as a rule were native green pine made of two or three poles spliced together to form one piece. The splices were made of eight-inch square oak timbers about sixteen or twenty feet long, bolted to the stick. A cable, two guy wires, *plus "saddles"* and *"sheaves"* (pulleys) had to be attached to the top of the mast before it went up. All of this together made for quite a heavy burden, and raising it was extremely difficult. One mistake and it could come down in pieces, and the work of a team of men who had toiled for days would be lost. One can still see the old masts standing tall among the scrap slate piles in Vermont today.

The cables were strung high in the air from mast to mast, and the aerial carriers rode on the cables. Despite their height, these carriers could reach into the deepest pit by dropping a box attached to another cable. The slate block or rubbish could then be loaded onto this box and raised up out of the pit, moved along the cable, then let down near the splitting shanties (if a slate block) or dropped into the dump (if rubbish). All this was done by the engineer, who operated the aerial carriers, perhaps three at



Everything You Need To Know About the World's Finest Roof

JOSEPH JENKINS

THIRD EDITION

Vermont unfading green slate and New York red slate designs on a North Country (Canadian) unfading black background, installed by Gillespie Contracting (GillespieContracting.com) in Pennsylvania.

Adapted from a photo courtesy of Gillespie Contracting.