

HISTORIC IMAGES

The Photography of Todd McDonald

By Aaron R. Fodiman



The palatial feeling of the interior of the historic Tampa Theatre is due to the architectural design that has been so well preserved.

ORIGINALLY FROM IOWA, TODD McDONALD FOUND HIS WAY TO the Tampa Bay area to pursue his masters degree in applied linguistics and Spanish at the University of South Florida. However, photography had intrigued him during the decade he lived and worked in Spain. He began working in black and white and studied images and techniques of masters of photography, such as Walker Evans, Henri Cartier Bresson, Ansel Adams and his personal favorite, Eugene Atget. After moving here, the area's historic districts motivated him to capture on film the urban landscape that we call home. ▶



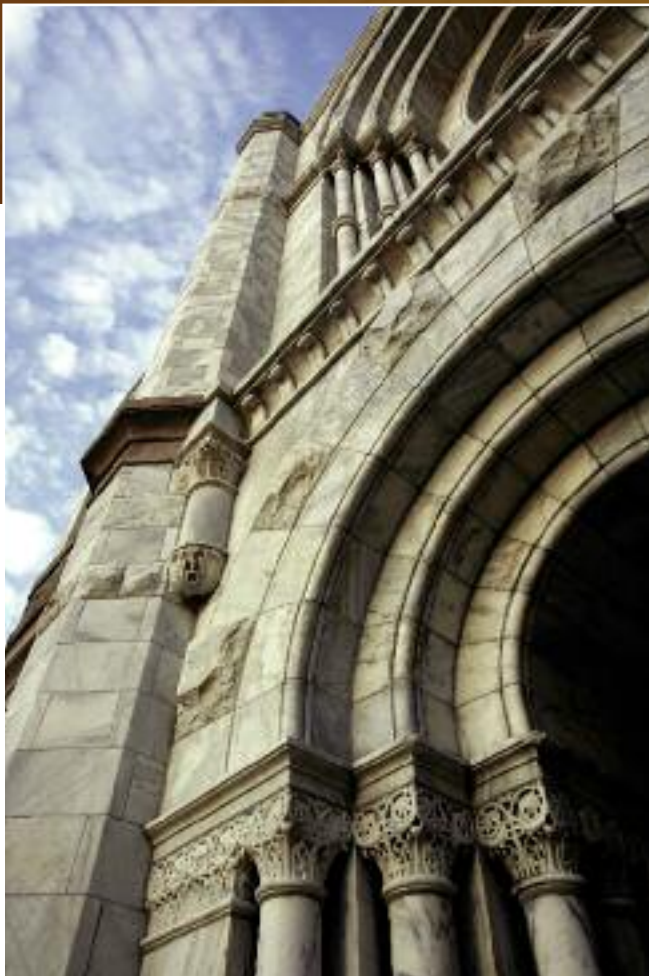
This pre-dawn photograph of St. Petersburg's Vinoy Park is filled with dreamy, poetic light.

The University of Tampa is perhaps one of Tampa Bay's most photographed landmarks, but it is difficult to tell if this image was taken





This beautifully serene stairway-scape in Tampa's Sacred Heart Church reminded Todd of being in Toledo or Sevilla, Spain.



The Romanesque Sacred Heart Church is an architectural jewel that is majestic and elegant.



Lowry Park in June was a perfect setting for Todd and his camera.



The original Columbia Restaurant in Ybor City is part theatre, part museum and part historic restaurant. Todd has been able to show all of its elements, while still maintaining its romantic look.



The historic Bayshore Boulevard balustrade is one of Tampa's icons.

Todd has published a series of fine art postcards depicting vintage Tampa and St. Petersburg. They are sold throughout the southeast at locations ranging from the Dali Museum in St. Petersburg to the award-winning Columbia Restaurants.

Some people still question whether or not photography should be considered art. We believe Todd's work will convince even those individuals that photography most definitely is an art. The cover of this magazine is an image that Todd captured of the Snell Building in downtown St. Petersburg, as it was reflected on an adjacent building, creating a photograph that is pleasantly surreal. Todd has the eye, the heart and the mind of an artist. His photographs capture a time that once was for us to enjoy in the present. We believe that is quite an accomplishment. ❏

EDITOR'S NOTE: Photographer Todd McDonald may be contacted at (813) 469-3765.