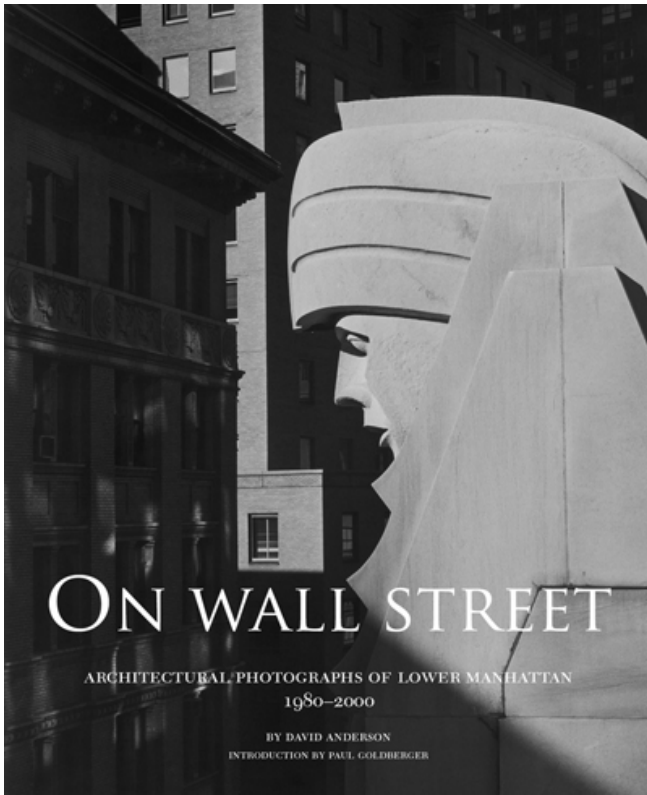


**On Wall Street:
Architectural Photographs of Lower
Manhattan, 1980–2000**

by David Anderson

Introduction by Paul Goldberger



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by the author
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217 Oak Ridge Circle
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"I am not sure there is any other pair of monosyllabic words in the English language that evokes as powerful a sense of place as *Wall Street*, except, of course, *New York* itself." So writes famed architectural critic Paul Goldberger in his introduction to one of the most important photographic books on New York City to appear since 9/11: David Anderson's *On Wall Street*.

During the 1970s, a lot of glass-and-steel, boxlike buildings were going up in New York City. David Anderson realized that the architecturally elaborate and stylistic buildings of the late nineteenth century through the 1930s that *defined* Wall Street would never be made again. He thus embarked on a remarkable twenty-year project (from 1980 to 2000) to document Wall Street's classic architecture before further changes were made in the area, including the demolition and destructive renovation of too many historic structures.

Anderson's approach to photographing Wall Street is unique. He avoids people, vehicular traffic, and storefronts, and rarely does he present a view of an entire building. Instead, he focuses on the details or a certain profile in order to reveal a building's architectural form and energy and its larger sense of place within the city's urban fabric.

Anderson's photographs of Wall Street will forever be part of the visual record of a by-gone era that emphasized artistic craftsmanship rarely achieved in modern buildings. Like the historic skyscrapers and civic buildings that Anderson depicts, his photographs are equally solid, self-assured, and beautiful. Collectively, they capture the architectural genius, elevated spirit, and harmonious scale of this special place in the financial capital of the world.

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PRAISE FOR THE BOOK



Photo-Op: Going Up

The buildings of New York's financial district are a record of centuries of spiraling growth. A photographic review of David Anderson's "On Wall Street."

"The sturdiest structure in any small town is the bank—or the building it used to inhabit. Those hunks of columned limestone still anchor downtowns across the country, often converted into grocery stores or shopping arcades. And even on Wall Street, luxury apartments have colonized high-rise wonders like R. H. Robertson's 1899 building at 15 Park Row (looming in the foreground left)—once the tallest office building in the world. Drawn from David Anderson's *On Wall Street: Architectural Photographs of Lower Manhattan, 1980–2000* (George F. Thompson, 128 pages, \$50), this photograph from 1981 captures the upward and outward spiral of the financial industry over the centuries, from the steeple of St. Paul's (1796), to the Park Row building to the 1924 AT&T building (center), to the World Trade Center's south tower, stretching out of the frame a few blocks away. Shot in silvery black and white, the pictures emphasize the cool solidity of the often fortress-like subjects, as in the defensive turrets and machicolations of the Federal Reserve Bank. (It's only fitting: Wall Street got its name by marking the fortified edge of the young city.) But Mr. Anderson also has an eye for delicate details—he picks out the swirling grain in the facade of the Stock Exchange—and for whimsical decorations. On a high balcony at 67 Wall Street (now, too, converted into condos), a stone eagle surveys the street, secured by a chain that seems like a leash. These images—free of cars, signs and people—freeze the city in time. But everywhere you look are traces of bygone eras: the now-vanished Trade Center; a small 'First Class' sign on a former steamship terminal; and, carved in stone above a door on William Street, 'Lehman Brothers.'" —The Editors, *Wall Street Journal*



"David Anderson's poignant photographs capture the coldness, power, and impregnability of the mythical Wall Street. Devoid of the flux of street movement and crowds, the monuments speak. Creatures keep watch, frozen in stone, while surprising traces of decay and delicate detail suggest the contingency, even frailty, of human existence. Paul Goldberger's masterful introduction guides us as well in seeing and appreciating this historic citadel of American finance. I love this book!"

—Gail Fenske, author of *The Skyscraper and the City: The Woolworth Building and the Making of Modern New York* and Professor of Architecture at Roger Williams University

PRAISE FOR THE BOOK

"From 1980 to 2000, photographer David Anderson documented Wall Street's architecture as few others have. Through an extensive range of black-and-white images whose focus is equally on the historic character and iconic nature of the buildings, a real sense of this famous place emerges. I compare the look and feel of Anderson's photographs to some of the great urban photographers of all time: Berenice Abbott, Eugene Atget, Paul Strand, and, more recently, Thomas Struth and Bob Thall. *On Wall Street* will be an immediate classic that not only appeals to the aesthetic of architects, historians, and photographers, but also functions at street level for those who love cities everywhere and, especially, New York."
—William Wylie, author of *Cararra* and Professor of Art at the University of Virginia



"*On Wall Street: Architectural Photographs of Lower Manhattan, 1980–2000* by David Anderson, with an introduction by Paul Goldberger, is a highly acclaimed black-and-white photography book which documents the historic and architecturally beautiful buildings of the Wall Street district that were designed and built by craftsmen of a bygone era of the Victorian Era. The images were made over a 20-year period, and the photographer ended his project a year before the bombing of the Twin Towers. The book is important not only for the expert photographs and excellent commentary about the photos, but also because 9/11 showed us that, no matter how permanent structures appear, they will not be here forever. Photographers, historians, and architecture enthusiasts will want this book for their collection."

—Bonnie Neely, owner of Real Travel Adventures and book reviewer for Amazon