

hair matches the belt on her dress.

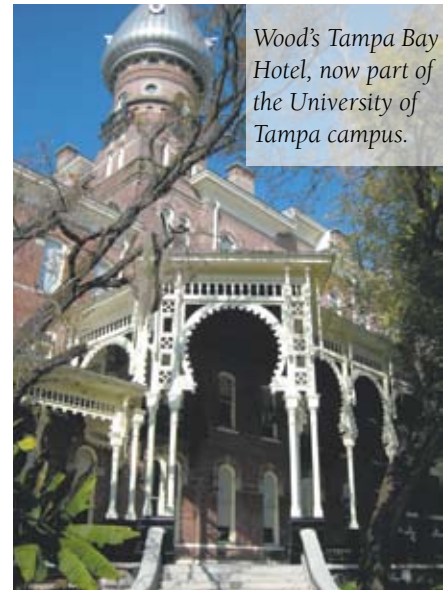
"Everyone thinks I painted around her," says Yvonne, "but I found her later, in an antique shop."

The ornate fireplaces found throughout the house attest to the era in which it was built. Downstairs, each fireplace is adorned with hand-carved relief tile. The ceramic tiles have their own unique designs, such as the acorn design in the library. Profiles of Queen

Victoria and Prince Albert are carved into the dining room's tiles.

The drawing room, dining room, parlor and library all have French doors that, when opened, allow a free-flowing breeze, or cooling system, throughout the house, necessary for homes built in the pre-air conditioned South. The house feels open with its 12-foot high ceilings and many tall windows.

The Busses' diplomatic mixture of the



Wood's Tampa Bay Hotel, now part of the University of Tampa campus.

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modern and the original make the house more livable. The tiny staircase in the butler's pantry that led to the servants' quarters was removed long ago. What was once a servant's bedroom has been taken over to expand the bathroom. The other servant's bedroom is now a dressing room, but the Busses have kept the large fireplace in the kitchen that served as the original oven.

The Busses' sophisticated style and desire to keep to the theme of the 117-year old home is seen in the antique furniture displayed in every room. Most of the furniture was purchased from local antique shops. Yvonne learned that two of her purchases, a wicker chair she put in the little girl's room and the lamp on their kitchen table, at one time belonged to Mellie Youmans when she owned the home.

Yvonne's classic style and creative flair is seen throughout the home. She designed and made all of the drapes and blinds — not an easy task with some windows as high as 10 feet. Her little touches also make their home unique. Antique purses are framed and hung on the wall of the dressing room, and her embroidery work is displayed in one of the guest rooms. Each room has a chair atop the sitting room mantle. The miniature was also a treasure from an antique shop.