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## Cuba chronicles

As a chronicler of cultural landscapes, Toronto photographer Elaine Ling found a rich subject in Cuba.

Born in Hong Kong and having moved to Canada at the age of nine, Ling is both a physician and a photographer, dividing her time between the two professions as a tireless traveller "drawn to the deserted, mythic reaches of the earth." She has worked as a doctor in places such as Nepal, Abu Dhabi and Canada's North, including the eastern and western Arctic, while photographing deserts, ruins and isolated nomadic families.

She says that in Cuba, "an island caught between the grandeur of old-world glory and the decay of the immediate epoch," she found "an urban landscape that reflects a struggle between daily life and the slow forces of nature." Responding to people's invitations to visit as she wandered the streets with her camera, Ling captured black-and-white images of household shrines, communist icons, artifacts of past splendour, sculptural nymphs and gardens frozen in time.

Ling has presented her images in four chapters: architecture, interiors, religion and gardens, and exhibited them throughout the world and around Latin America.

Ling found Cuba in metamorphosis; indeed, a "tangible new energy" has already reconstructed and restored some of the crumbling buildings she had photographed just months earlier.

See more of Elaine Ling's photography at [www.elaineling.com](http://www.elaineling.com).

Architecture: *Grand Staircase Mirror*



Interiors: *Grandmother's Chair*



Religion: *Saint Teresa Family Shrine*



Gardens: *Dance Garden*

