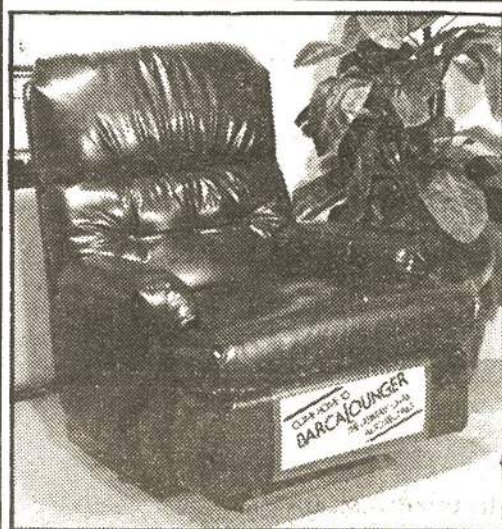


Flight of fancy

Artist Ken Pattern has a different view of Vancouver — and it shows. His works have been chosen for the 1985 Vancouver City Savings Credit Union calendar.

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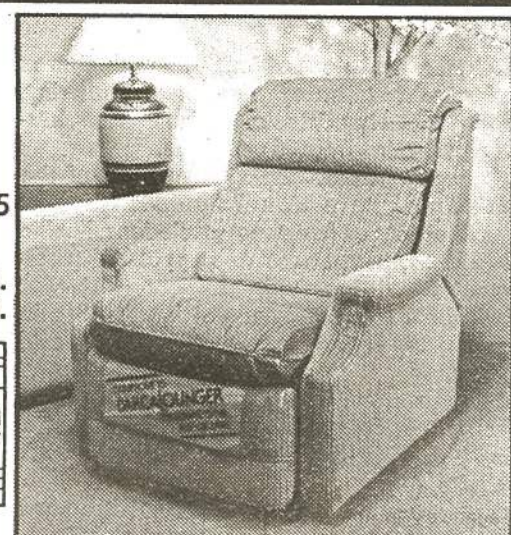
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City fits surrealistic pattern

Once you realize that Ken Pattern sees the top of the Hotel Vancouver as a snow-capped Grouse complete with Skyride, you have a good idea of his Vancouver Patterns Suite, a series of prints used by the Vancouver City Savings Credit Union for its 1985 calendar.

A surrealist with a sense of humor is as refreshing as a cold beer in August. Salvador Dali, of course, but he was weird. Pattern, who some people tell me is The Next Thing in local art circles, is just irrepressible.

Take his Suite, for example. Van City, as is its custom, invited submissions from local artists for the next calendar, with one proviso: It had to feature Vancouver scenes. Pattern submitted three proposals, and the Suite was chosen.

It wasn't spur of the moment on his part. The print for August — Hollywood North — has been cooking in his brain for about five years. (It is a faithful rendering of the West Vancouver waterfront high-rises backed by the green mountain, upon which are placed huge block letters reading, "Hollyburn.")

It typifies why the calendar is so much Vancouver that it is almost a series of jokes. I can see someone explaining to a visiting Torontonian, "You see, there are movie studios up on Hollyburn, and there's that famous sign in Hollywood — oh, never mind."

And January features The Polar Bear Club at English Bay, but the members literally are polar bears; and the tasteful, suitable-for-the-whole-family July scene, Summer Day at That Beach, which shows sun-worshippers sitting at Wreck Beach, but the people are only whited-out outlines, thus offending no one.

The office favorite, and the one that is framed in his own living room, is Flight Into Fall, which shows a typical marsh



scene with mountains in the background, bullrushes in the foreground, and flights of folded umbrellas taking wing.

(Now, before you bombard us with phone calls, the calendars, some 50,000 of them, are available at Van City branches for members, and prints are available at several city galleries.)

What kind of guy is this who has become the Cabbage Patch Kid of local art, where only the Onley had reigned?

Sitting in his almost-Oakridge home in the shadow of a two-metre-tall (seven-foot) giraffe that has an umbrella growing out of its head (don't ask), Pattern looks as un-Dali-like as only a guy born in New

On the cover

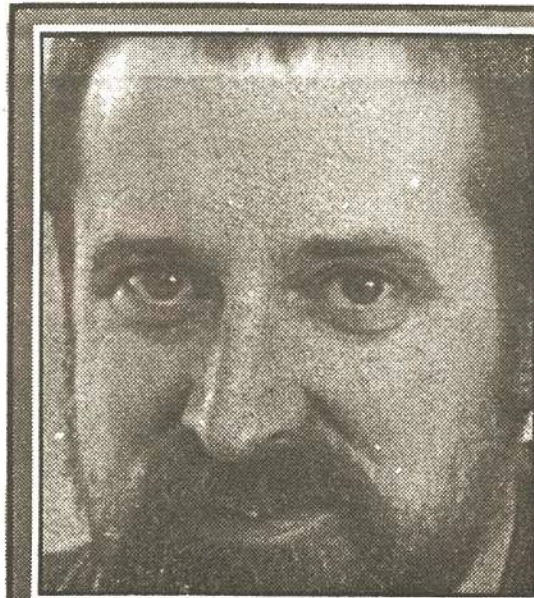
Artist Ken Pattern with a couple of his favorite things: A giraffe with an umbrella and Flight Into Fall, from the Vancouver Patterns Suite.

Staff photo by Dave Clark

Westminster in 1942 and brought up in Hammond could look. True, he has a beard, but his moustache is not twirled into spirals.

In fact, although he showed artistic talent at an early age, Ken showed little interest in the subject in his formative years as he wound his way through Maple Ridge High School.

His father was one of the town's two



KEN PATTERN

"I figured out what I wanted to do ..."

barbers but there was no call for Following the Footsteps. If anything, he took the lead of several older kids from the school and decided to head to Europe and see what it was all about.

He hitched and he worked, and finally ended up in Germany, where, despite the fact he knew no German, he worked for a year at odd jobs.

"I figured out what I wanted to do, and made a plan. I figured it would take me four years, and it did." The plan called for him to see as much of Europe, Africa, Australia and Asia as possible, and he did. Just like that.

He had the right time, the back-packing '60s, and he arrived back home in 1967, when hippies and the LIP grants were high-profile subjects.

He didn't become the former, but the

latter helped him in jobs, and he drifted into Simon Fraser University, to take sociology, just when activists there threatened to blow Arthur Erickson's masterpiece into pea-gravel. Three years of that and "out of the blue, I started drawing. In fact, for two of the three heavy subjects I was taking, I handed in a piece of art instead of a term paper, and got good marks."

Establishing a pattern (no pun intended) that was to re-occur, he didn't finish his four years at SFU, and, for those suffering armchair-bound frustrated travellers, we will skip over his travels back to Spain to look again at the works of Bosch, through his three years at the art gallery, his trips with his wife Helen to China, and, oh yes, the trip he made to visit her when she was working in Guatemala.

Folk docs organize

Reuter

MADRID — Folk medicine practitioners from five continents opened their first world congress to launch a new international organization aimed at gaining worldwide acceptance for "alternative medicine."

"This is an historic meeting," organizer Anton Jarasuriya said at the opening of the gathering, which has drawn hundreds of acupuncturists, herbalists and doctors from 35 countries.

The congress marks the first meeting of the million-strong International Confederation of Natural Alternative Medicine Associations. Michio Kushi of the United States was appointed president.

"It will be the point from which we will gain recognition, dignity and facilities," Jarasuriya said of the meeting.

Participants are delivering 200 papers on themes such as fighting cancer with herbs, using metals in pain therapy and curing drug addicts with acupuncture.

"Natural medicine is part of man's heritage and it is a valid way to cure people," Jarasuriya said.

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