

David Owen Designs

David Owen explodes his sub-terranean, out-of-space, tropical-island, out-of-sight fabric and wallpaper patterns onto Habitat's 21st celebration scene. If you are young or just young in outlook, let your imagination run riot with the possibilities of using these designs and write us with some of your ideas. Or better still illustrate them as in the Example Design on the opposite page. Winning entries will be published in **Habitat 22**.

David Owen, lean, straw haired, vague behind his round glasses — threw up despairing hands when we asked him if there would be a particular something special he had in mind that we should say about him and his work. "They're not interested in hearing about me," he groaned, — "just show them the pictures, I don't know, but maybe they'll like them. I mean you can try, see how they come out."

Mr. Owen is far too modest. He is an artist of enormous talent, but his complex highly original and painstaking work does not always have commercial appeal. Like oysters it demands an acquired taste. "Maybe its because I'm too self indulgent in my work. Maybe I should produce prettier pictures."

But be all that as it may, we asked David Owen to design some fabrics and wall papers for us and this is what he came up with — the suggestion being that the large central theme, in the case of the carrot and the fire cracker, be lifted and printed onto fabric for curtains and bedspreads, while the entire design is employed in an overall or repeat motif for paper.

The colours spell the magic of lollipops and candyfloss making them especially suitable for use in childrens' rooms, or if they were translated onto metallic backed papers, they would happily find a place in kitchens and bathrooms.

The whole spirit is light and hypothetical, a flippant look at what it might be possible to find in supermarket sample books if artists weren't artists but had a eye for commerce. Crazy though this suggestion might be what better way to celebrate Habitats 21st issue than with an explosive Owen firecracker. □



