

The Leopard-Skin, Harlequin, Darlington Not-So-Streamline Baby

“. . . Garner is an artist who is—how to put this politely?—fixated on cars. The perfect canvas for this vision is a 1968 Buick Special . . .”

Phil Garner. I'd like you to meet Gersh Berger. Garner is the guy wearing the ersatz-tiger, après-shower terrycloth wrap on this page. Berger is the guy in charge of the outfit that leases me my car. Both men are heavily into automotive fantasy.

A couple of weeks ago Berger called me to tell

me that my time was up. After two years of having someone else pay my lease, and then two years of me paying it, the lease was finished. You can, Gersh told me, pay \$746 and change, and own the car. Hm, I thought. That would mean taking legal possession of a 1972 Alfa Romeo sedan for—including the

Text By Lawrence Dietz
Cars By Phil Garner
and Nancy Reese





The Expressionist

Obviously, this was inspired by the late artist, Jackson Pollock. Enamel paint will help in warding off the elements.



Harlequin

Lightweights will view this as only a haircut from *Batman*, but it was clearly inspired by Italian *commedia dell'arte*.



The Wild Thing

The ultimate beach towel for all the kids in Santa Monica. The terrycloth leopard skin contrasts nicely with the aqua top, for that *circa 1953 Surf 'n' Turf* effect.

“ . . . Garner and an artist friend, Nancy Reese, decided to dress not only the cars but themselves; it may be too much for you and me . . . ”



Avante-Garde

What you take to be militaristic is hot stuff in Gay Paree, where uniforms are considered to be efficient—and stylish.

Carbuncle

The horror-movie motif can be created by using rubber balls of various sizes, cut in halves, then fastened with epoxy.



lease payments—a reasonable (that means cheap) amount of money.

“But you don’t want to do that,” said Berger. Well, I wanted to know, what *do* I want to do? What you want to do, he explained, is buy the car, resell it at its Blue Book value (around \$2,700 wholesale) and use the found money to put down on *another* leased car. The way Berger described it, that money would reduce the lease payments to . . . to . . . not a lot. But the interesting thing about this turn in the conversation was that it opened me up to the car fantasy, something that I’ve been avoiding having these past few years.

Berger was not talking about my driving off in a stripped-down VW Rabbit. Murmur murmur murmur Porsche, he went, and then I would hear the clunky whirring of his desk-



Surewood

The special heavy-duty, longer-lasting wood-grained contact paper should be obtained only from an auto-parts store.



Darlington

You too can be the last American hero by going to a cycle or speed shop and buying up all their speed decalomania.



Baby Cakes

The entire car was covered with foam rubber, and pink satin was stretched over that. It's pretty, and *extremely* safe.



The Boss

The gold lamé motif is punched up by the use of one-way glass on the windshield, which may not be quite legal.



The Graduate

The ivy can either be planted in the radiator, or watered by turning the windshield washer nozzles backwards.