

# SHIFT

AUTOMOTIVE PUBLICATION OF The Daily Star



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## MAZDA RX-VISION

We've been bombarded with "possible" replacements for the RX7 since forever. The latest speculative concept for a flagship Mazda is the rotary powered RX-Vision, which Mazda high-ups have hinted might just make it into production. Mazda's 40th anniversary is coming up in 2018, so we figure that a flagship sports car/supercar to compete with the likes of the new NSX and GTR is all Mazda needs as a birthday gift to itself.

# WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE TOKYO MOTOR SHOW 2015

Every year the Tokyo Motor Show comes around, we expect hot tuner cars with wings and spoilers and many horsepower. What we get though, are practical econo-boxes and city dwelling monstrosities that try to continuously revamp urban transport as we know it. They've been doing it for years, but look at us, not staring at an urban area crammed with these hideous little things. They're interesting though, because some carry fancy tricks and stuff which can keep an ADHD patient alive a minute longer. So look alive, folks, Tokyo Motor Show is back.

SHAHER REAZ



## NISSAN VISION 2020 GRAN TURISMO

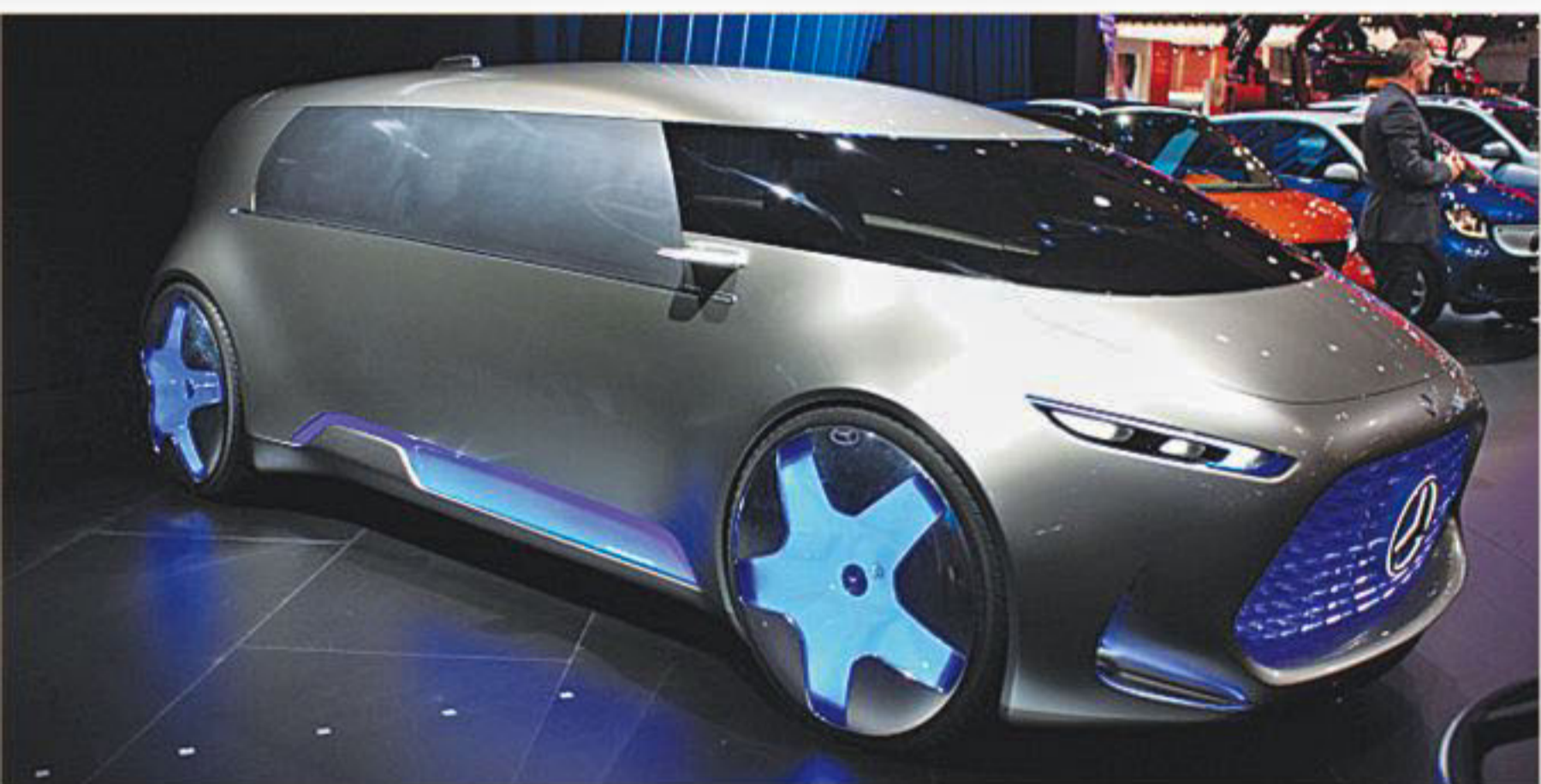
The Vision 2020 was previewed in the Gran Turismo game last year, and Nissan

brought out a physical display of it this year. It looks wild and a little too over the top, but it's an important clue to the puzzle of the next generation GTR.



## TOYOTA KIKAI

It's a steampunk retro-styled hot rod from Toyota, with a special focus on making those moving parts visible. The Kikai has a whole bunch of see-through panels, on the sides, rear, front and bottom that allows you to see every major component doing its thing including the road rushing beneath you. It's a cool concept and we like the way it looks, although we're concerned about the privacy of the occupants.



## MERCEDES BENZ VISION TOKYO

Look away from the glowing neon wheels, sideskirts and grille – the Mercedes-Benz Vision Tokyo is not supposed to be the blue-light district of the city as the name and a cursory glance at the car implies. It's a hydrogen fuel cell powered self-driving car, which actually

looks pretty cool once you ignore the tacky lighting. It'll have a theoretical zero emissions range of 600 miles, although letting a car drive for 600 miles sounds a bit apocalypse inducing. It'll probably be plotting the downfall of the human race the entire time (and not entirely because it's German).



## LEXUS LF-FC

Another Lexus, another string of words attached to a vaguely exciting car. The LF-FC is a preview of what the Lexus LS could look like in the not-so-distant future, and gets a lavish dollop of the opinion dividing "L-finesse" design language that Lexus has started integrating into its models already. Do we like it? Only from the side.

## DAIHATSU NORIORI

It looks like a Bento box they serve you sushi in, with subway-train doors stuck to the sides. What it is supposed to be is yet another urban mobility solution from the Japs, one that maximises interior space by expanding upwards instead of sideways or lengthwise. It takes the cubist theme to the extreme, and strangely enough, we find it kind of cute.



## SUBARU WRX STI S207

The Japanese keep all the cool models for themselves in the guise of hyper JDM models, and Subaru has showcased yet another special edition, Japan-only Impreza. The S207 comes in bright yellow paint with black accents, and gets more power-323hp. It also gets race ready Brembo monoblock brakes and Bilstein coilovers, too, so road holding power is improved. Coupled with the NBR Competition visual pack, this is one mean Subaru.

## HONDA WANDER-STAND

To wanderstand the Wander-Stand, you have to first wanderstand the Japanese mentality for wandering around town and standing about. Sometimes the Japanese will wander over to a hotdog stand and order a hotdog, standing and eating it without wandering about because that's how the Japanese do. Imagine doing all of that wandering and standing inside a car, and you will wanderstand the Honda Wander-Stand.



## YAMAHA SPORTS-RIDE

You may be surprised by Yamaha building a sports car, but the link between Yamaha and the automotive world has always been strong. The Sports Ride uses

a super geeky method of building body panels, using composite materials to a great degree. What results is a fluid, lithe sports car that has crazy aero, much alike a scaled down hypercar.

## NISSAN TEATRO FOR DAYZ

No it is not a doggie treat. The Nissan Teatro for Dayz literally means "Theater for Dayz" in Spanish, which means it's a rolling theater...for dayz. What about nights? Apparently, that too. Every panel on the interior is a display, and the car has displays serving as the front grille and side strips, which you can personalize to whatever you desire. It still looks like a bloated doggie treat though.



## SUZUKI AIR TRISER

It's like a VW Bus, and the MPV uses a similar concept to appeal to the camper-van and camping obsessed crowd (are there any of those people left in the world? Probably not). The show-trick of the Air Triser is the way it optimizes interior space, and it does it so brilliantly that we want Suzuki to bring it to production and liven up its hideously boring model range.



## TOYOTA FCV PLUS

Hydrogen powaah is a big thing now, which is surprising because the more adaptable and easier to implement electric propulsion should have overshadowed the Hydrogen Fuel Cell tech by now.

Toyota's FCV Plus is a funky urban solution, although its pretty unrealistic. Very few of the design elements will make it into production cars, but expect the FCV Plus' propulsion system to make an appearance in future versions of the Mirai.

## COLLECTIBLES

# CLEAN OR MEAN Custom Hotwheels

Customising cars become harder the smaller they get. But the results are sometimes mind boggling. I prefer doing clean, subtle mods. Which is why I chose this moderately well crafted M3 from Hotwheels. It had an oddly thick spoiler and an upturned front bumper to help tackle the track sets without getting stuck. I slashed off the front, rebuilt something closer to the real thing but with added lip and chopped the rear spoiler for good effect. Added some yellow and a host of detailing to make it more realistic than HW ever made it.



Saif Khan sent in this apocalyptic take on a Dodge Super Bee. Notice the rust paint and zombie killing appendages. If you have an inch tall zombie trying to bite you while you work at your desk, this is the perfect car to run it down with. We'll be featuring more of such talented work from our readers. Check for more pictures online.



WORDS AND PHOTOS: E R RONNY

## AUTO NEWS

# Toyota SF-R Racing

So Toyota did what was anticipated. Tease us more with its cuteness overloaded SF-R concept. With the Tokyo auto Salon coming ahead, Toyota released glimpses of the Racing version of the cute little player. Gazoo Racing, Toyota's racing wing besides TRD took over the job to develop the SF-R Racing.

One of the first sports cars by Toyota was the Hachi Yota or Sports 800 of 1965. Sticking to the nimble and lightweight notion of this predecessor, Toyota made the SF-R a fun little driving machine which is "slightly" larger than one of its best contenders, Mazda Miata MX-5. Small roundish configurations, oval front honeycomb meshed grille, blacked out glass top, B and C pillars that swoop to the little duck fin spoiler and a very clean side profile made the SF-R an instant head turner in the Tokyo Motor Show earlier this year. The interior got mesh buckets, striking twin shade aesthetics, large single RPM meter digital cluster and a retro modern touch to the center console. Leaked web details expect the little car to have a 1.5L four pot in F-R layout and 6 M/T, throwing out 128 hp and 102 lb-ft; and with just 980 kgs of curb weight, you can do the math to generate the fun ratio.

But all that was left behind when Toyota leaked out the Racing concept. Appropriately called S-FR Racing Concept, the coupe retains the concept's basic shape but it gains downforce-enhancing add-ons such as a deep front bumper with fins and a splitter crafted out of carbon fiber, side skirts, vents in the hood, flared wheel arches, an oversized wing on the back and a massive air diffuser. Center-locking eight-spoke alloy wheels add a finishing touch to the track-inspired look. Other



cosmetic attention went to C pillar mounted aluminum race oil filler, Altezza-fied rear LED lamps, and a large centre exhaust.

Toyota hasn't published technical specifications, so what lies under the hood is up in the air. All that's certain at this point is that the S-FR Racing Concept is equipped with bigger brakes on all four corners and a few cm dropped sport-tuned suspension. Similarly, interior pictures haven't been released yet and the cabin is completely hidden by blacked-out windows.

All this yet confirms on one thing for certain- Toyota WILL produce the SF-R and it WILL be positioned under the GT-86.

MAHBUB HUSSAIN