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CRAZIEST SHOW CARS EVER MADE

Some cars are made to wow the crowd or to release the inner demon of designers. That's what car shows are for. Here's a list of some of the greatest car show cars ever made with some blasting their way to production.



LINCOLN FUTURA
This was built at a time when concept cars were clay models meant to be touched and drooled upon only but not driven. But this 1954 Lincoln Futura built by Ghia was a drivable version and it starred in a 1959 movie, "It Started with a Kiss". It was later sold to designer George Barris for a dollar. In 1966 Barris was contacted to design an out of this world Batmobile. Painted black with deep orange trim, this became the ultimate Batmobile. In 2013 it sold for \$4.6 million USD.

MAZDA FURAI
Mazda was always known for a fair bit of design uniqueness and a lot of craziness in the engine department. Their Wankel engines are the source of pride and frustration across automotive cultures - powerful but hungry for fuel. In 2007 they latched onto the "Nagare" style, incorporating a lot of flowing lines, as if someone poured water and it froze. The Furai incorporated and embraced this. In 2008 it was burned to the ground during filming for Top Gear.



CHEVROLET CORVETTE FOUR ROTOR
70's were strange times for car manufacturers. Everybody was in a race to make the loudest, baddest rides. And then the oil crisis hit. The Wankel rotary engine seemed like an option as it was capable of producing way more horsepower per unit of displacement compared to conventional engines. Wankels also featured fewer parts and were considered more reliable. In 1973 GM created two mid-engine Corvette concepts powered by two-rotor and four-rotor Wankel engines. The two rotor unit was ready to hit the roads with a design aping popular pointy European sports cars. The Four Rotor concept took that pointiness a few inches further along with gullwing doors. The rotaries were terrible at being oil friendly and a mid-engined Corvette never met public appeal. So in 1976 GM design boss Bill Mitchell brought out the four rotor and plugged in a 400-cubic-inch V-8. The Aerovette was born. It didn't make it to production but it looked cool.



LAMBORGHINI COUNTACH
The Lamborghini Countach debuted at the 1971 Geneva Motor Show. Marcello Gandini designed it for Bertone focusing on style instead of ergonomics. The car looked breathtaking, composed entirely of trapezoidal shapes. It featured scissor doors that have now earned the nickname of "Lambo doors". The car was extremely low at about 42 inches, and weighed just 1065kg. It was devoid of any aero kit giving it a fluid, uniform wedge shape. Production started in 1974 with little change made to the design.



ALFA ROMEO BAT
If anything looks like a Batmobile, this is it. Bertone and Berlinetta Aerodinamica Tecnica (BAT) built these extraordinary concept cars to see how far they can take styling cues. A whole lot of hallucinatory substances may have been consumed in the making. Three concepts were produced with the aim of getting the lowest drag coefficient possible. This meant teardrop bubble cockpits and curvaceous wings everywhere. The first BAT 5 concept achieved a 0.23 Cd, while maintaining high-speed stability. The second one went even better with the help of a tweaked front bumper to achieve 0.19 Cd.

FORD MUSTANG 1 AND 2

The Mustang 1 was a two-seater mid-engine concept that designed to be a sports car for the young generation. It had a wedge shape similar to Italian flavors of the era, complete with pop up headlamps. It was a lightweight car fitted with a 1500cc engine and side louvers to provide cooling to the engine. Two versions were designed with 89 and 109 hp respectively. It also came with front disc brakes and four-wheel independent suspension. But only one functional car

was ever built. While the motoring press went ape on this being the new Corvette contender, the public didn't think much of it. The Mustang II was quickly designed as a four-seater based on the first generation Ford Falcon platform. Only design element it carried over from the original concept were the side louvers which incidentally were fake cosmetic ad-ons. This looked closer to the eventual car and we know how many that sold.



DODGE TOMAHAWK
Is it a bike? Is it a car? One thing is for certain, if it was ever used on regular roads because it took a big Viper V-10 engine and pushed it into a motorcycle looking frame. It wasn't exactly a motorcycle since it technically had four wheels. There were two narrow tyres at each end but was meant to be ridden like a bike. Ultimately it was just too ridiculous and death inducing to be put into production. Nine replicas were made with none being street legal. Each were sold apparently for half a million dollars each.



DODGE DEORA (1964)
A concept car that was also the prototype for a toy car? The Dodge Deora is one of the earliest cab-forward van pickup concepts that served as a prototype for a Hot Wheels design. To get in you needed to lift the front windshield, swivel the frontgate, climb in and close everything again. This was debuted in 1967 with a Hot Wheels version appearing a year later.

FERRARI 512 S MODULO (1970)
Ferrari didn't always make pretty cars. Or cars that could be driven easily. Pinfarina combined those two elements to create the Ferrari Modulo. It is one of the most unique concept cars for the fact that it is also one of the flattest. It's based on the Ferrari 512 550-hp 5.0L V12. It was nearly undrivable because the covered front wheels wouldn't allow much steering ability. You also needed to lie down inside.



DODGE VIPER
In 1989 the Viper R/T10 shocked the world with its outlandish proportions and outrageous 8-litre V10 engine pulled out of a Ram pickup. It was the first time in a long while the Americans cut through conventional design. It featured as little as possible. It was all car, very little geeky features. It didn't even have a roof as an option for the first year.

GENERAL MOTORS IMPACT (1990)
Tesla and Fisker got the celebrities and environment loving car to go nuts over their highly efficient and super fast electric cars. Prius pretty much dominates in the hybrid field. But these all have a humble beginning with the GM EV1. It was a jelly bean shape of the '90s that promised to set the world free from a petrol induced haze. It was supremely aerodynamic, with a drag coefficient of 0.19 Cd and weight under 1,000 kg. But battery technology wasn't much to brag about back then. It's partly what killed it. It featured two AC motors for each of the front wheels, providing a range of almost 200 km.



Ekhanei.com arranging used motorbike fair at 12th Dhaka Motor Show

Ekhanei.com, one of the leading online classifieds platform in the country, is organising a second-hand motorbike fair alongside the 12th Dhaka Motor Show and 3rd Bike Show at International Convention City, Bashundhara from 23rd to 25th March. The second-hand bike fair will have a special focus on helping women purchase motorbikes, and will have a BRTA booth to check documents of bikes and mechanics on hand to assist the purchase of the bikes put up on sale. There will also be the option of test riding the motorbikes. The second-hand bike fair will be the first of its kind in the country, so be sure to check it out if you're in the market for a used motorbike.

12th Dhaka Motor Show starts tomorrow. Come see our stall for official merchandise!

COLLECTIBLES THE GREATEST HOTWHEELS SHOW CARS

HW has brought many interesting concepts to our pockets. And a few of the real life cars even started as a tiny Hot Wheels toy.

DEORA
The Deora was yet another Hotwheels special. The original casting was only made for one year: 1968. Its most notable feature were the two removable surfboards. It was remade in 1994 and a more rounded, futuristic version was made as the Deora II for 2000.

DODGE CHARGER
In 1999 Dodge debuted the Charger concept. It borrowed heavily from the second generation Charger with the side scoops and rear tail light treatment while being fitted with four doors. Hot Wheels launched their version in 2000 in metallic red.
MUSTANG I & II CONCEPT
The ill-favoured Mustang I concept of 1962 was released in scale form in 2010. The original Mustang II concept of 1963 was released in 2011.



1955 FUTURA
We've seen the Batmobile by Hot Wheels. The original car, the Lincoln Futura, was a pearl white creation featuring twin bubble cockpits and semi covered wheels. Hot Wheels made the concept only for their Boulevard series with rubber tyres.
ALFA ROMEO BAT
Hot Wheels debuted the Alfa Romeo BAT in 2005. I haven't seen this in Bangladesh. Seems to be a metal on metal model and a must have for diehard HW collectors.

TWIN MILL
This may look like a toy but it is based on a real car. The Twin Mill was a life size, fully functioning car made in-house at Mattel in 1969. The original car was metallic maroon and the HW model was done in red spectra-flame. A little difficult to find but they have recast it in red once again.
For a full list of the craziest Hot Wheels show cars ever, check out our online section.

By EHSANUR RAZA RONNY

Toyota Dream Car art contest 2017

Navana, authorised dealers of Toyota vehicles in the country, recently organised the "Toyota Dream Car 2017" art contest as part of a global initiative to encourage youngsters with a knack for creative talent.

Over 200 participants competed against each other by drawing their vision of the future dream car, with the top prize being a sponsored trip to Japan. Over 6000 hand-drawn entries were accepted and judged by prominent artists Harun Rashid, Milon Rob and cartoonist Shishir Bhattacharya. A total of 9 winners were awarded prizes in 3 categories at the event held at Navana's Toyota 3S Centre in Tejgaon, Dhaka.

Hopefully some of these young talents will go on to be automotive designers and make the rest of the country proud.

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