

# MOTO GUZZI

*News Express*

The Ontario Guzzi Riders - 2019 - Special Edition - N° 17

**STEAMPUNK**  
SPECIAL EDITION





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# SPECIAL EDITION MOTO GUZZI News Express



The steampunk culture has something magic about it. Have you ever read a Jules Vernes novel? The graphics of the time and the technical terms describing the machines used by the hero of his books are close to if not, are real steampunk creations...

Again my technical background is taking over and even though my brain does not want to accept these contraptions, some geniuses made them for real and are even riding them in all their glory. The steampunk culture has something magic about it, but understanding what makes these people tick still eludes me.

What's cool about steampunk, is the total freedom of creation. While functionality and comfort are very important when designing steampunk apparel, this is not a first-hand pre-requisite for steampunk vehicles. Everything goes... The look is more important than reliability or safety.

In the end, these machines are not designed to spend hours on the road but to please the eyes and to transport you in another period of some kind. It is odd to think you are traveling back in time whilst being in your own world.

The Webster dictionary gives this definition:

### Steampunk

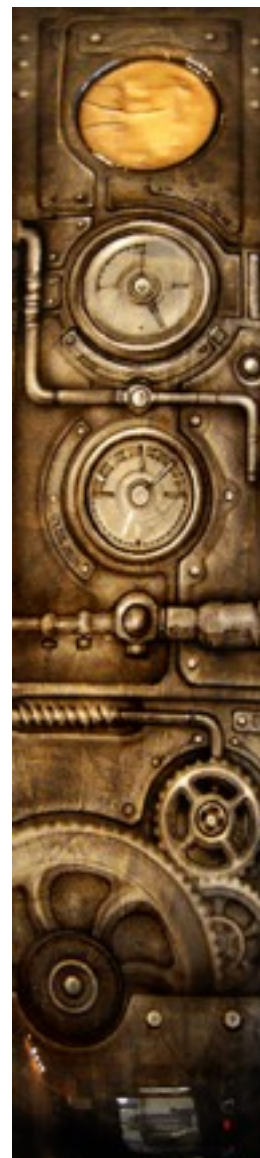
*A genre of science fiction that has a historical setting and typically features steam-powered machinery rather than advanced technology.*

*A style of design and fashion that combines historical elements with anachronistic technological features inspired by science fiction: the essence of steampunk is homage to vintage fashion with a modern, sassy twist.*

In the next few pages you will discover beauty, ingenuity, talent, extravagance and savoir-faire. This kind of art form is here to stay. With an open mind, you will discover the beauty within.

Till next time... Ed.

*Pat Castel is known for his involvement with the MOA organization as well as his Editor position in many past and present club newsletters. He began riding five decades ago and spent his youth surrounded by BMW, Moto Guzzi, BSA, Motobecane and Peugeot motorbikes and remains as much in love with motorcycles as when he first got his first 49cc Mobylette.*





There are loads of genres among media texts, but rarely do you find fans like those of steampunk. It's not just the books and comics that enthrall them, but the world itself. People interact with the steampunk world; you don't go to conventions dressed up as characters you like but rather a character you create from it's interactivity of the world, and the fans' willingness to take part be they four or ninety, that has quickly made this a main stream science fiction subgenre and will ensure it's existence in the future. I don't know of any other community that holds immersive conventions, where you stay in character all weekend and the hotel and staff are dressed up to play along.

But let's back up a little bit.

## What exactly is steampunk?

The most popular, mainstream example would be the 2009 Sherlock Holmes movie starring

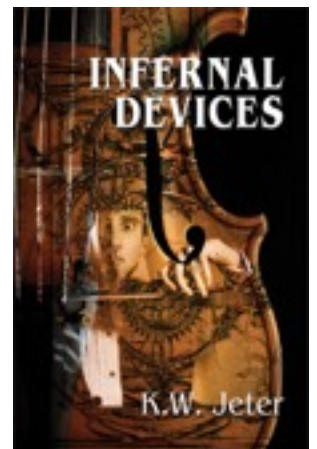
Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law; especially at the end when gadgets come into play.

In its simplest form, steampunk is alternate history fiction taking place during the Victorian age with an emphasis on technology. During this time in history, the industrial revolution was producing new gadgets and gizmos, and steampunk in part derives its name from the steam powered equipment that its characters create. Think steam powered computers and contraptions reminiscent of Jules Verne.

Popular aesthetics of the genre include airships and goggles.

## How did steampunk come to be?

Steampunk is a rather young genre, though older than the paranormal romance category. The term had been coined by K. W. Jeter as a tongue-in-cheek modification of cyberpunk, which developed in 1984, as a way to describe his books and those of fellow authors writing in a similar manner. Jeter's books, *Morlock Night* (1979) and *Infernal Devices* (1987), were written to be companions to H.G.Wells' *The Time Machine* and are considered the first novels of the genre. The second book is the more famous of the two, and the first to have been labeled as steampunk because Jeter did not coin the term until 1987.



Widespread awareness of the genre however did not develop until 1990 with William Gibson and Bruce Sterling's novel *The Difference Engine*. And it's wasn't until 1995 that the word steampunk was part of a title – Paul Di Filippo's *Steampunk Trilogy* of short



novels. The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen, both the graphic novel by Alan Moore and Kevin O'Neill in 1999 and the film version in 2003, however really popularized the genre to the mainstream audience and not just those hard core science fiction fans.

Since then, there has been a soft explosion of steampunk media. It hasn't taken over bookstores or theaters yet, but it lurks around the edge. The webcomic Girl Genius has won the Hugo Award for Best Graphic Story two years in a row now, and steampunk books and stories have been showing up on award lists for several years now. They have also been featured in a few television shows, such as Castle.

## Variants of steampunk

But with the popularization of steampunk the media it contains has shifted a bit. Today there are different versions of steampunk, and there are concerns as to whether some variants are truly steampunk or simply using elements of the genre to attract the steampunk audience.

### Historical

Also considered true or original steampunk, this style of the genre includes any recent science fiction that takes place in the Victorian period and a recognizable location (or an alternative history version of such) where the Industrial Revolution has begun, but electricity is not common so technology is steam or



spring propelled. Also acceptable time periods are the Edwardian era and the very early years of the Industrial Revolution.

Thus, stories of this type lean more towards science fiction than fantasy, though it is possible for there to be a mixture of both such as in the Disney film Atlantis or Jeter's first book, Morlock Night (in which King Arthur has to save England from an attack by Morlocks who got a hold of the time machine).

### Fantastic

While steampunk of this type still focus on the use of steam or spring powered technology, the setting is a fantasy world created by the author. There are a lot of tabletop and video RPGs of this type of steampunk, most notable Final Fantasy VI and IX, and the societies of gnomes and goblins in World of Warcraft could be considered as such as well.

There are also versions where steampunk technology is in use in a hypothetical future, such as the films Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind or Treasure Planet.

Due to the lack of historical placement of these stories, there is some concern as to whether this steampunk sub-genre is any different from a regular fantasy. Removing the story from a historic setting lends a more fantastic feeling to a work than a science



fiction one, of which the original steampunk novels were. However there are texts of this type that while not taking place during the Victorian time, the worlds behave in similar ways.

## Others

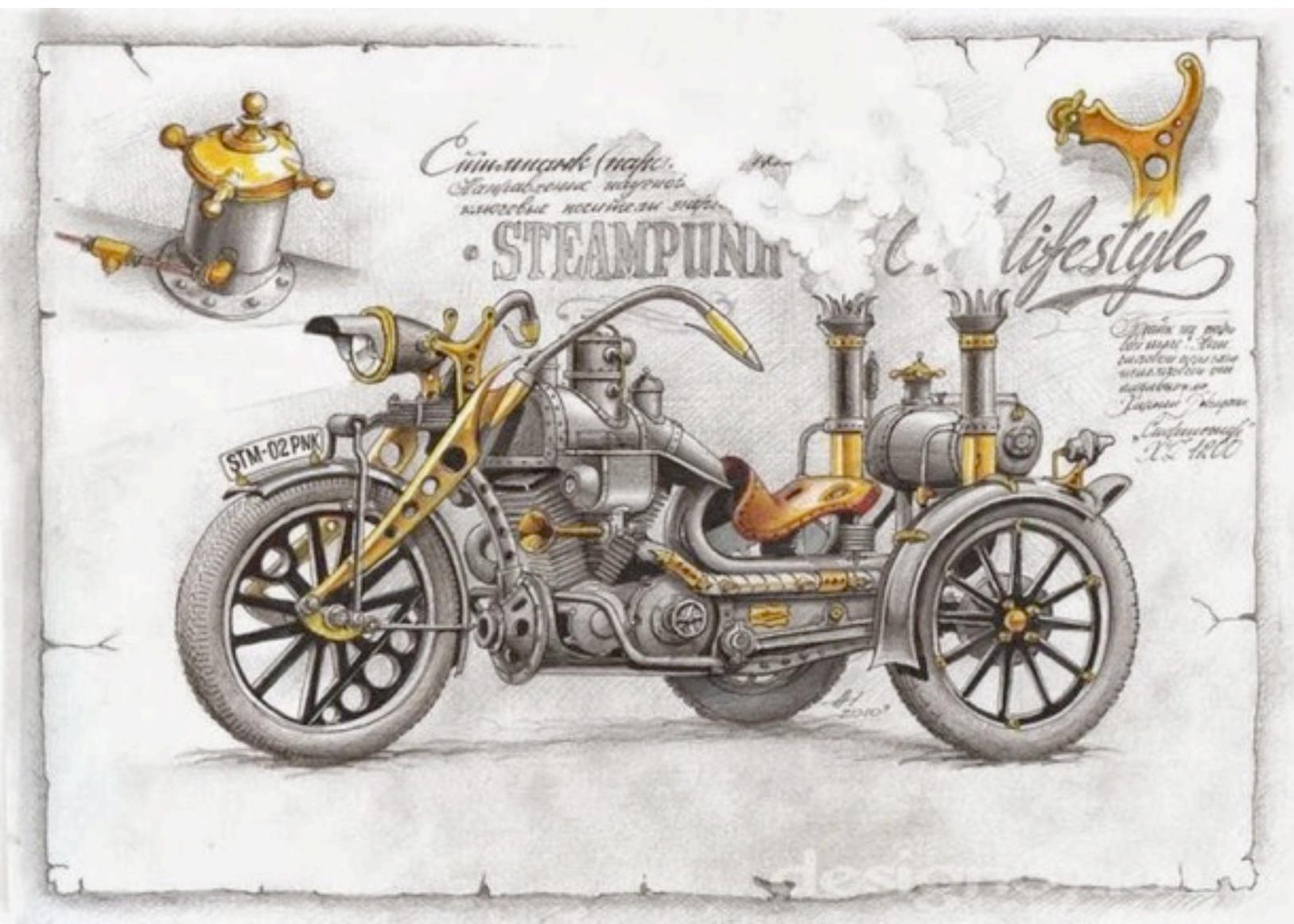
There are smaller subsets of steampunk, typically coined by author to describe their own work and the terms are not widely used. One is gaslamp fantasy, referring to fiction told in a Victorian style without a machinery focus, instead is more of a romantic story. Steamgoth refers to dark versions of steampunk, and Western steampunk are stories that take place in a wild, wild west setting

## Aesthetics

Many steampunk fans adopt the genre as a type of personal culture, where elements of the books' popular aesthetics show up in their choice of wardrobe and home décor. This trend is also called neo-Victorianism, as not everyone who enjoys Victorian design and clothing is a fan of steampunk.

Clocks are popular, as are gears. It's also not uncommon to redesign modern technology to look like something from the Victorian era – computers housed in brass with gears on the side. Waistcoats and corsets are regaining popularity as clothing items for fans, as are military inspired garments.

As for common items seen in books and films, airships and goggles are a must for the genre and are prominent on book covers. Though they are a bit hard to include in everyday life.





# Chimera 1

From  
The Pulsar Project







## Chimera I

This elaborate custom made motorcycle is by Athens-born Cris Cofitis.

Quite a piece of work that would turn the head of a lot of Guzzi rally goers.

The Pulsar Projects is full of these Steam-punk creations. In the scooter category a Vespa caught the attention of the jury and the result is also astonishing. Under the hands of the same creator Cris Cofitis, the Guardian came to life.

## Guardian

Astonishing Steam-punk Vespa from the Pulsar Project.

Vespa scooters are a milestone in the 2-wheeled world with their iconic design which is as simple as it is unmistakable.

However, their classic attire can be transformed into something new, with a character so striking



# The Guardian

*From The Pulsar Project*



and unique that it really makes us gape in awe. And the Guardian, Pulsar Projects' steampunk Vespa is such a scooter.

Created by sculptor Cris Cofitis, the Guardian is anything but the Vespa we expected. With a painstaking care for the minute details, Cris has managed to create a scooter which resembles more to a sculpture on wheels.

What's even more striking is the fact that Cris Cofitis was able to retain all the vintage character of the Vespa, with its massive apron and fat side covers, while at the same time leaving absolutely no part unmodified.

This steampunk bonanza is even more alluring because of all the stylish details: far from simply loading all sorts of brushed metal parts and bolts on the basic scooter, Cris has made full use of his expertise as a fashion designer to carefully trim everything into place, maintaining a wonderful balance between art and mechanics.





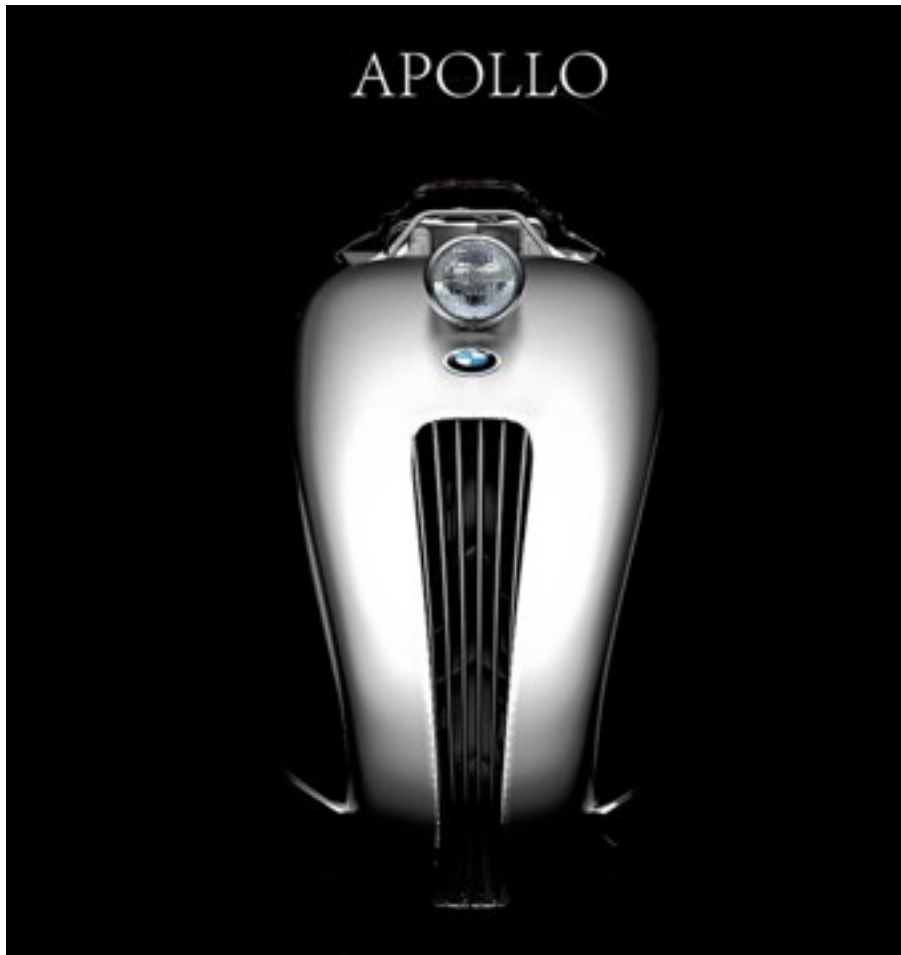
# BMW Apollo Streamliner

## BMW Apollo Streamliner Is Seemingly Jaw-Dropping

An industrial designer from Turkey has imagined a jaw-dropping futuristic looking BMW bike known as BMW Apollo Streamliner.

Although the bike looks a bit classical, its rear suspension and exposed engine compartment may sure capture the attention of the BMW automaker.

BMW Apollo Streamliner is designed for both power and speed. The rear wheel is quite big and fat, possibly conceptualised for friction while cruising at high speed and front wheel is fully covered in order to reduce aerodynamic drag caused by air resistance.









# Marco Furlanetto

*is an Italian artist who is not  
afraid to experiment, and  
can work miracles in  
the steampunk world*









## "Steampunk designed 1959 Ural K-750 Sidecar Tricycle" Photographed at the Helsinki Bike Show



This sidecar is the perfect steampunk representation.



*The*  
**JUGGERNAUT**  
*by Hot-Dock Custom-Cycles*







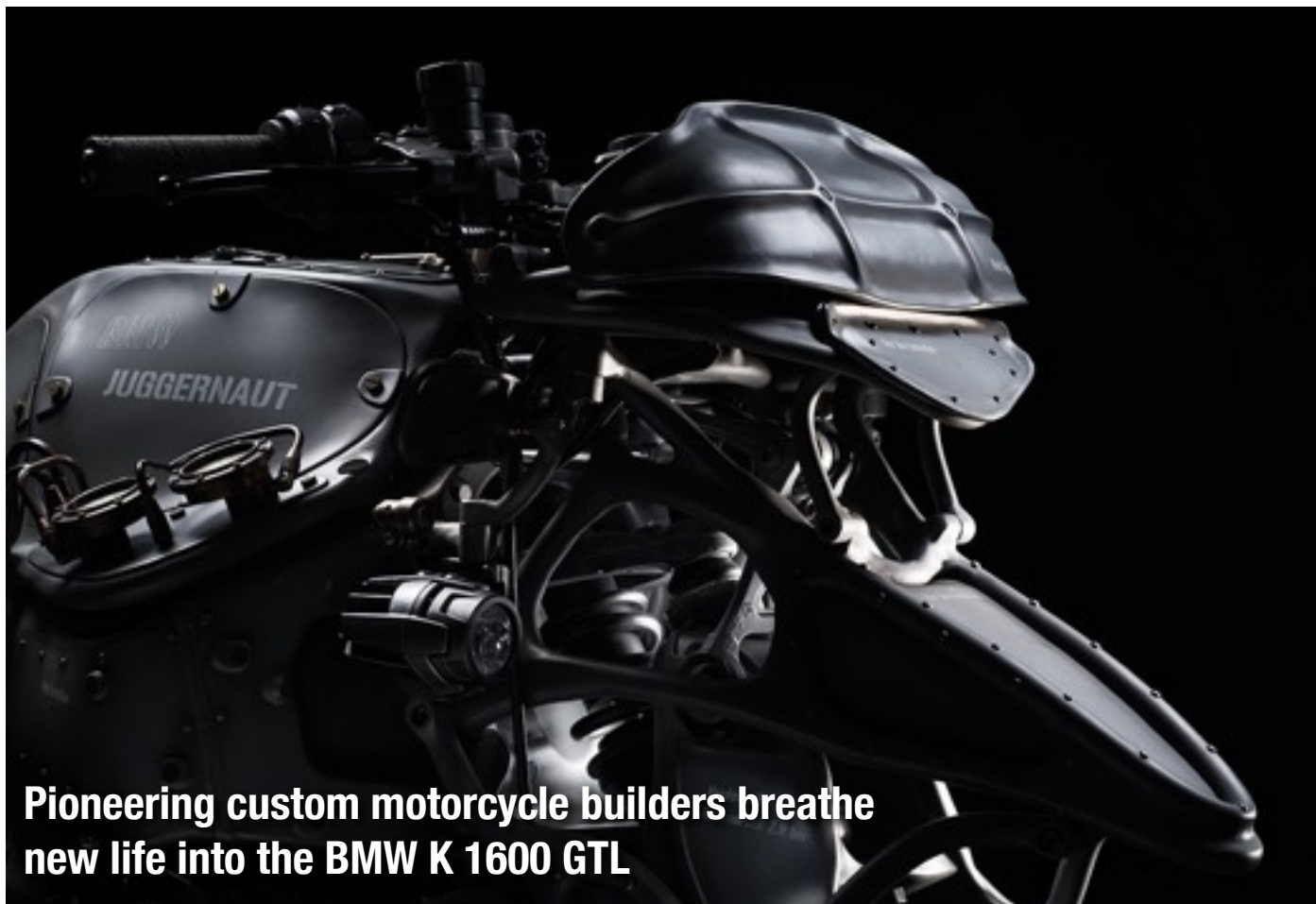
*I just dived straight in without  
doing a single image sketch.  
Some things turn out better  
than you imagined.  
That's what's fascinating about  
customizing, what gives it  
depth.*

**KEIJI KAWAKITA**



**STEAMPUNK**





## Pioneering custom motorcycle builders breathe new life into the BMW K 1600 GTL

"IGNITE STRAIGHT 6" is a custom project involving the K 1600 GTL, BMW's flagship model equipped with a straight-six engine. Joining the project are Keiji Kawakita of HOT-DOCK CUSTOM-CYCLES and Kenji Nagai of Ken's Factor—two pioneering figures on Japan's custom bike scene, and renowned the world over for the high quality of their craftsmanship. These two builders not only customize bikes: they compete and have been awarded prizes in various contests, develop their own original parts and take part in races. They have even customized the way they live through their passion for motorcycles and love of life. Their customizing spirit was ignited by this project.

### BMW K1600 GTL CUSTOM PROJECT

At the Osaka Motorcycle Show, BMW Japan has just thrown the wraps off two extreme customs based on the K1600 GTL. That's the range-topping luxury tourer, a road-going spaceship powered by a 1649cc inline six—and probably packed with

more electronics than any other motorcycle on the market today.

Just two builders were chosen for these transformations, and both are legends in the Japanese custom world: Keiji Kawakita of Hot Dock Custom Cycles, and Kenji Nagai of Ken's Factory. The results were very different. They're not 'new wave' or café-style customs: this is free-form building from two of the most radical and skilled craftsmen in the East.

One of them, Keiji Kawakita talks about his creation.

His work could have been easily extracted from the new Mad Max movie coming out in May.

Here is what he had to say:

*We arrange the parts we fit and adjust the profile of the machine to get the customization we are aiming for. Good looks and riding fun are a result of maximizing the use of minimal equipment. But I thought the K 1600 GTL was at the opposite end of the scale from this. So I fretted quite a bit even*





after taking the body apart. But I set to work, and when the front end began to take shape, the image I had of the bike suddenly grew.

In fact, about a year previously, I found an old photograph of the cockpit of a convertible that looked like something from the near future, and I got the idea of making a bike that had that kind of atmospheric feel. Looking at the front forks and Duolever suspension, I thought I could do this with the K 1600 GTL.

But the actual work was long and hard, a tough job to handle. In the middle of building I still didn't have a clear picture of the completed work. Even when I finished, I still wasn't really sure whether the work was complete. But that's the thing about customizing, isn't it.

The suspension and frame I left as standard, but the exterior parts are all hand made. I made a framework for the exterior with aluminum pipe, fixed aluminum panels to this front and back and then proceeded with finishing. The gauges I set in

the exterior packaging were dummies, but I changed the positions of panels and needles to match up with adjacent parts. Parts other than the packaging are all given an aging paint treatment.

For a while after I was crowned champion at the "World's Biggest Build-Off" in 2008, I found myself bereft of ideas about customization. I felt a bit used up, and thought about leaving it to the younger generation. But the R nineT Custom Project got underway around that time, and seeing the younger builders enthusiastically getting stuck into it was maybe the stimulus I needed. Then, when I saw the K 1600-based custom machine by the Belgian builder, Krugger, I was blown away. The custom scene is a world of freedom. I was also keenly aware of changes on the bike scene. So for this project, I wanted to make a bike that shouted out to all the people who'd given me the renewed incentive. A bit later, I noticed how tough it was to build a custom machine based on the K 1600 (laughs).



*But the project was enjoyable nonetheless. I was getting up early, already thinking about an area I was going to work on, and this seemed to be happening naturally, every morning. There were a lot constraints and trouble spots, but these were more than compensated for by the fun of it. I really haven't felt like that in a long time.*

Let's take a closer look at Keiji Kawakita's work...

**HOT DOCK 'JUGGERNAUT'** The K1600 GTL is an imposing machine in its own right. Weighing 767 lbs (348 kg) fully fueled and almost 2.5 meters long, it's a bike for experienced riders. Kawakita-san has amped up the visual bulk, with completely new aluminum bodywork from nose to tail. Powertrain mods are restricted to a new airbox and custom-fabricated muffler: the engine already provides a wall of torque, and enough power to propel the K1600 to 200kph.

The exoskeleton effect gives a militaristic, almost steampunk vibe—helped by aluminum pipes following the contours of the new body panels and matt grey paint.

The engine cases have been refinished with an aging effect, which is carried through to the switchgear mounted onto custom bars.



Brass gauges on either side of the tank carry the name Herschel—a nod to the German-born astronomer who discovered Uranus in 1781 and joined the court of King George III.



## HOT-DOCK CUSTOM-CYCLES

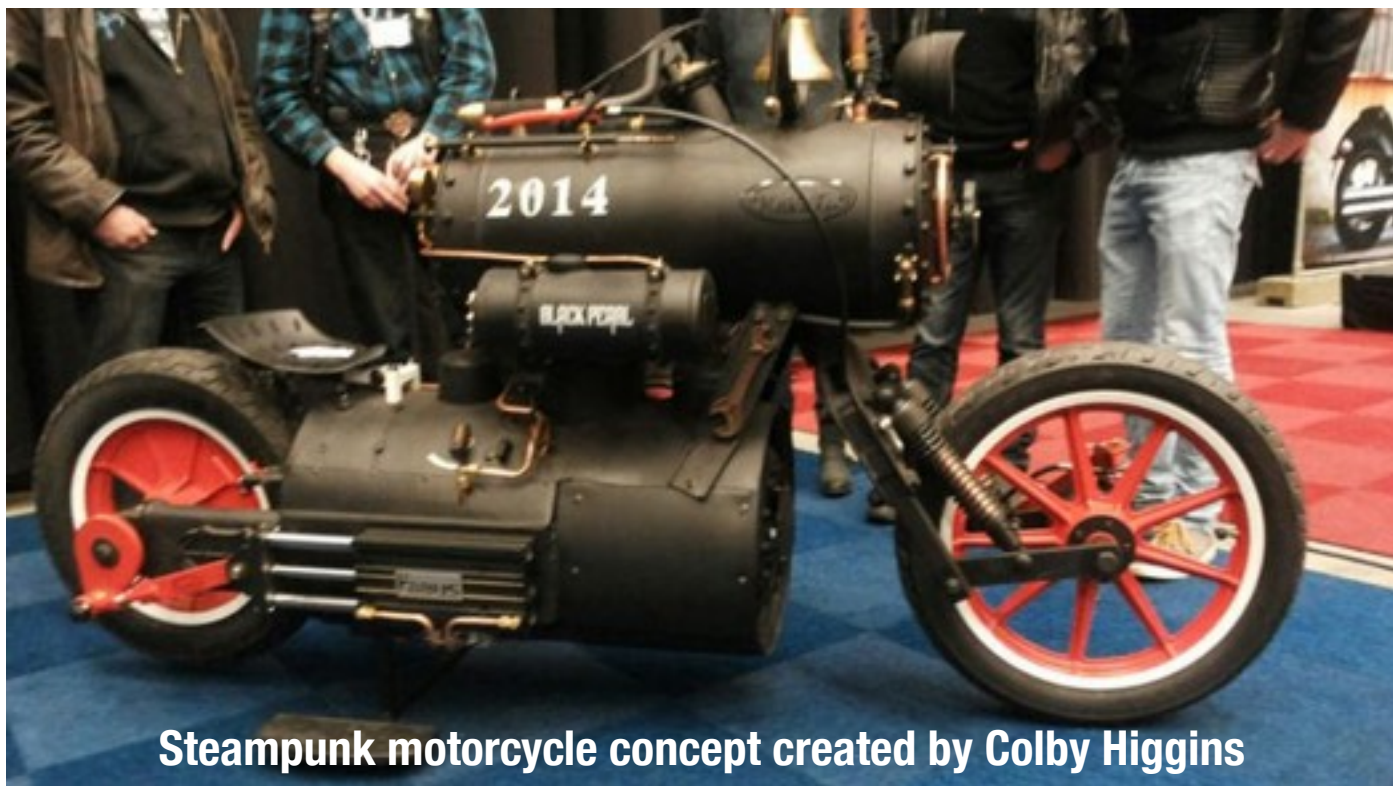
Keiji Kawakita opened HOT-DOCK CUSTOM CYCLES in 1984, where he set about customizing Harley-Davidson machines, many of which he exhibited at custom motorcycle shows. He has also been active in developing original custom parts. At the time he opened his workshop, he became involved in drag racing and also entered road races on single cylinder and twin cylinder bikes that were popular in Japan at the time. In addition to building custom machines, Ken manufactures and sells many high-quality/high-performance parts for use on the race circuit. He also built an original bike equipped with a V-twin four-valve engine that he designed himself. In 2008, he competed with the world's finest at the "World's Biggest Build Off", a custom bike show celebrating the 50th anniversary of S&S Cycle, an American after-market specialist in the Harley-Davidson sector.

Award Record

- WORLD BUILD OFF/World champion (2008)
- COOL- BREAKER/Sponsorship

and many more...





**Steampunk motorcycle concept created by Colby Higgins**

The Train Wreck, for this is the name of that concept, proved to be a very good source of inspiration for Dutch custom bike builder Rene van Tuil of Revatu Customs. After eight long months of work, Rene was able to showcase and ride his own steam-powered machine, the Black Pearl.

While Higgins' design was a digital creation, the Black Pearl is an actual motorcycle that could cause wet dreams to diehard steampunk fans. However, despite having the same name as Captain Jack Sparrow's fast ship, the Black Pearl is a machine designed for slow pleasurable rides.

### **Enjoying the countryside beauty at 8 km/h**

The Black Pearl can only do about 8 km/h (5 mph), but apparently this is just the right speed. That is, the right speed for being able to enjoy fully sightseeing in the Dutch countryside and allowing passers-by to get a good glimpse of the bike.

Van Tuil does not say anything about the range of the Black Pearl and how often it needs to replenish its water and fuel reserves, but we'd

rather say these are secondary issues, given how cool this thing looks.

If anything, the suspension looks a bit overkill, as life at 8 km/h is not that demanding as far as shock absorbers go. The front leading axle linkage DOES look awesome, however.

And maybe riding the Revatu Black Pearl in the winter is a much better idea than choo-chooing in the searing sun, as its "stove factor" might turn longer summer rides into open-air sauna sessions.









*We hopelessly dream that these breathtaking proper steampunk vehicles could somehow become real bikes manufactured by someone sharing the surprising creative genius of Mikhail Smolyanov.*

## **Steam Engine Motorcycle Concepts Are Fantastic**

Mikhail Smolyanov of Solifague Design is not the motorcycle designer you meet everyday. His designs are astoundingly exclusive and boast a kind of unique refinement which is simply rarely met in similar endeavors. And since Xmas is never far, here's Mikhail's steam engine concept mopeds, fit to play a role in any of the most beautiful stories.

There is an amazing thing about these three striking concepts: as crazy and utterly unbelievable as they seem, they've actually been commissioned by a guy in St. Petersburg who wanted to build them and see them ride. Nothing has been heard ever since so we could not tell whether the guy is working to get them in working condition or has just ordered huge prints of them for hanging on his walls.



# Black Widow

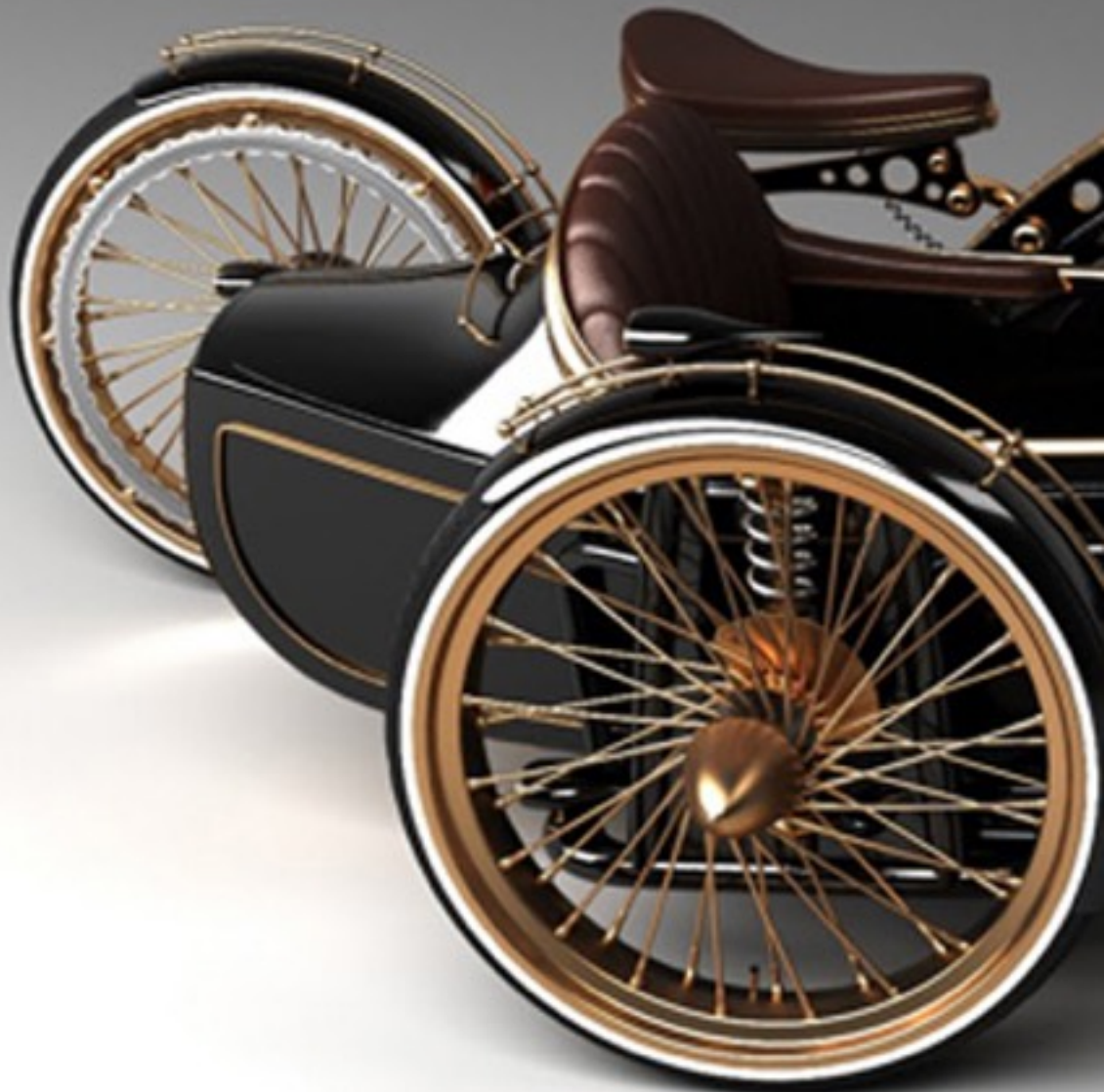
## with sidecar

Mikhail Smolyanov was commissioned by Richard Monson Haefel, creator of the character Steampunk Holmes, to create this fine piece of transportation.

The finished working motorcycles are now sold by Putsch Racing to Monson-Haefel readers.

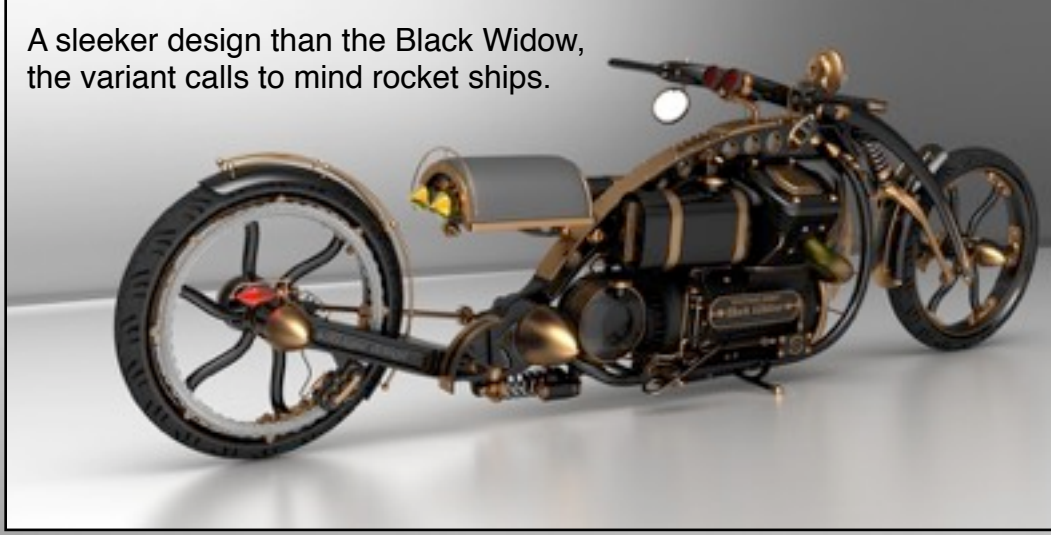
You can also get it without the passenger car.

The Black Widow is Mikhail Smolyanov's most popular steampunk design (in mass production) but it is far from the only one. On his website, the Russian designer shows off a wide variety of motorcycles, from the futuristic to the future-past.

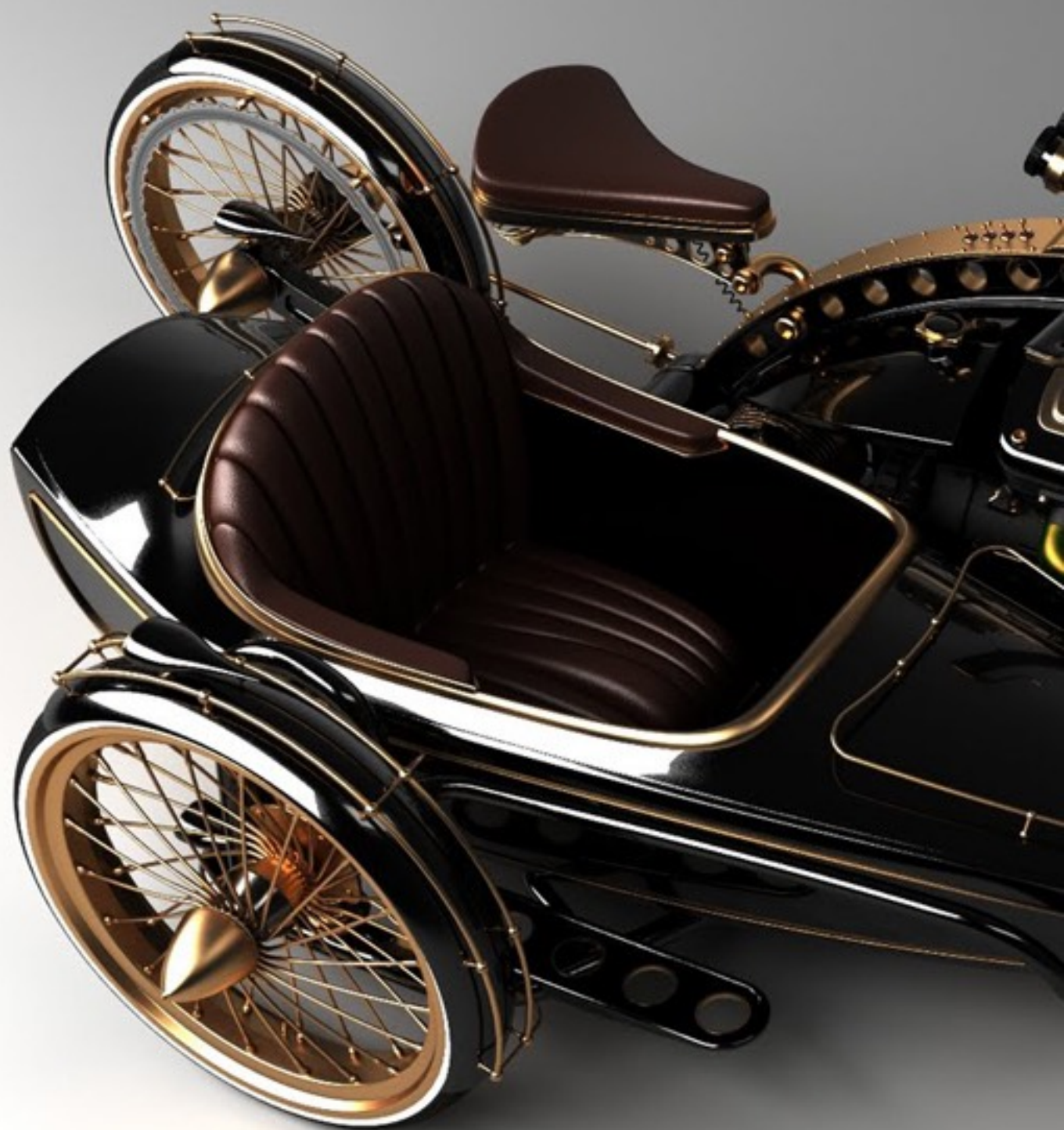




A sleeker design than the Black Widow, the variant calls to mind rocket ships.











**Steampunk Guzzi Black Widow Sidecar**  
by Solifague Design



# Steampunk Guzzi Black Widow Sidecar by Solifague Design









# Neutilus

THE STEAMPUNK R1200 GS  
2014



AIRBRUSH ★ BATHOR

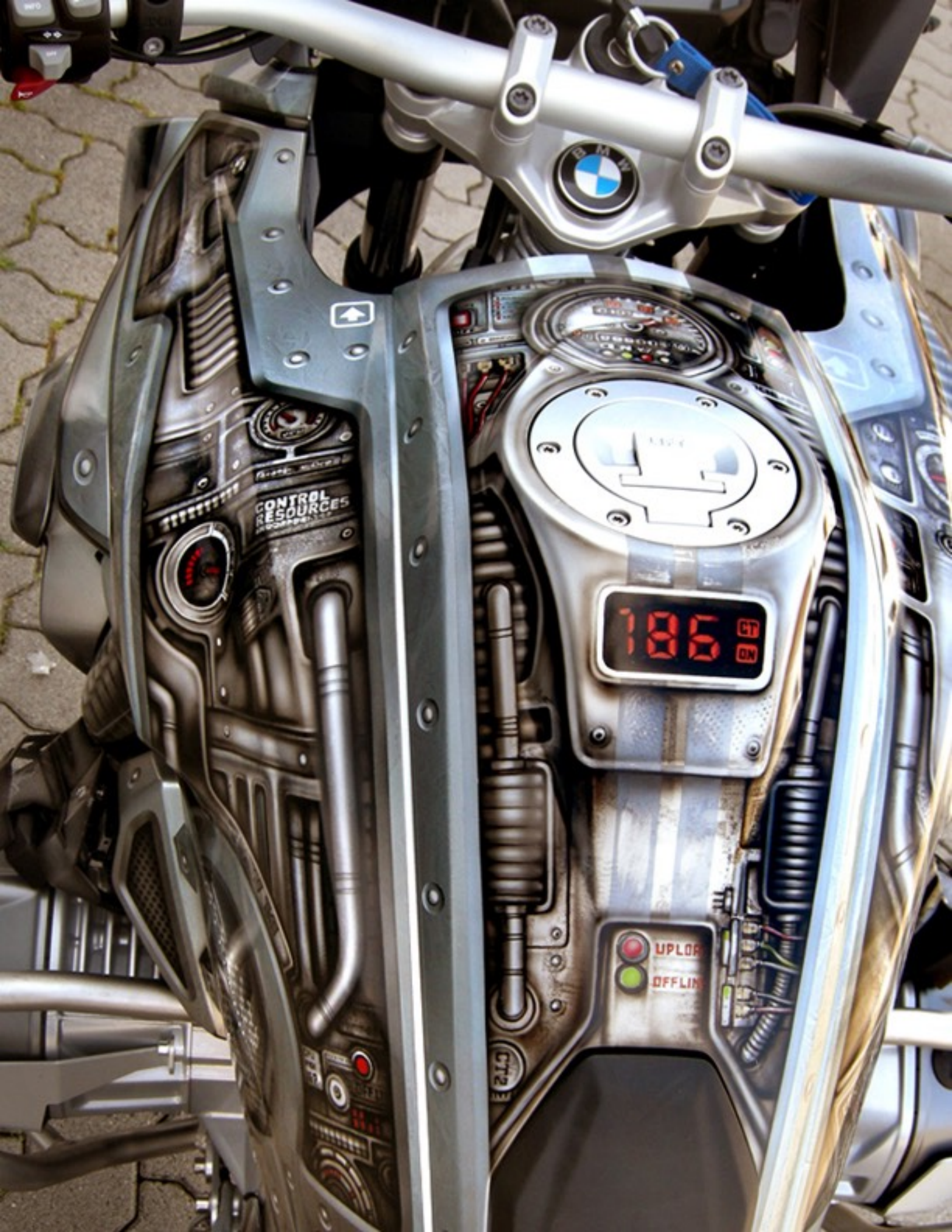




BATHORY DESIGN  
in Deutschland











But like everything in life, if you cannot afford it or do not have the time to invest in a very long creative project you can always go to the faux -fini...

Airbrushing artists can work for any tendance, any style and culture. The R1200GS and these two pictures, is the perfect example.

Faux-fini has been around for decades, specially in the home decoration, but when air brush artist brings their specialty and technique to the steampunk world, with their 3D effects, they just make your motorcycle surreal.

As a result, you get the look, you get to be different and you can ride our roads on a reliable motorbike whilst having hundred of eyes staring at you.





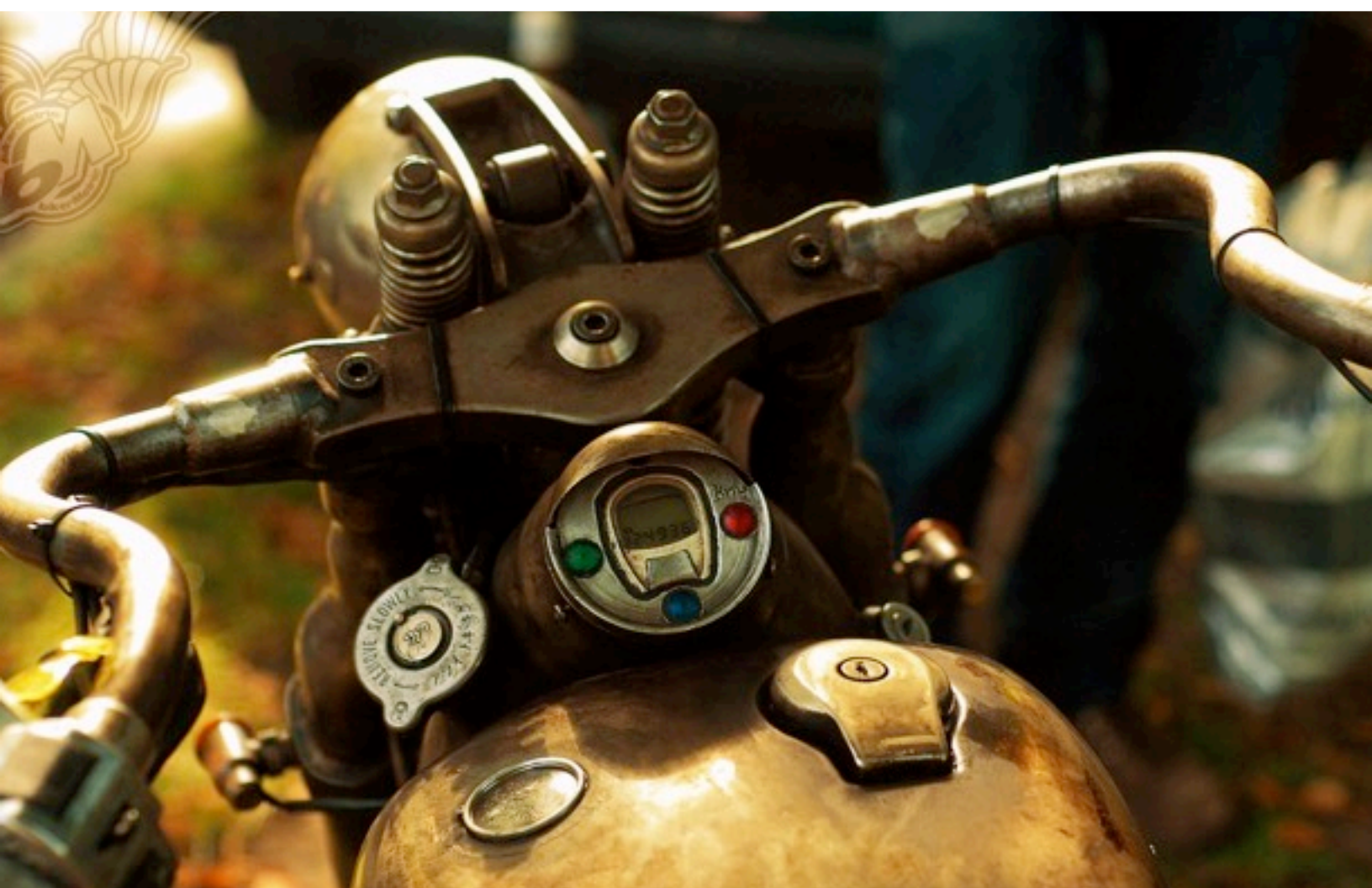
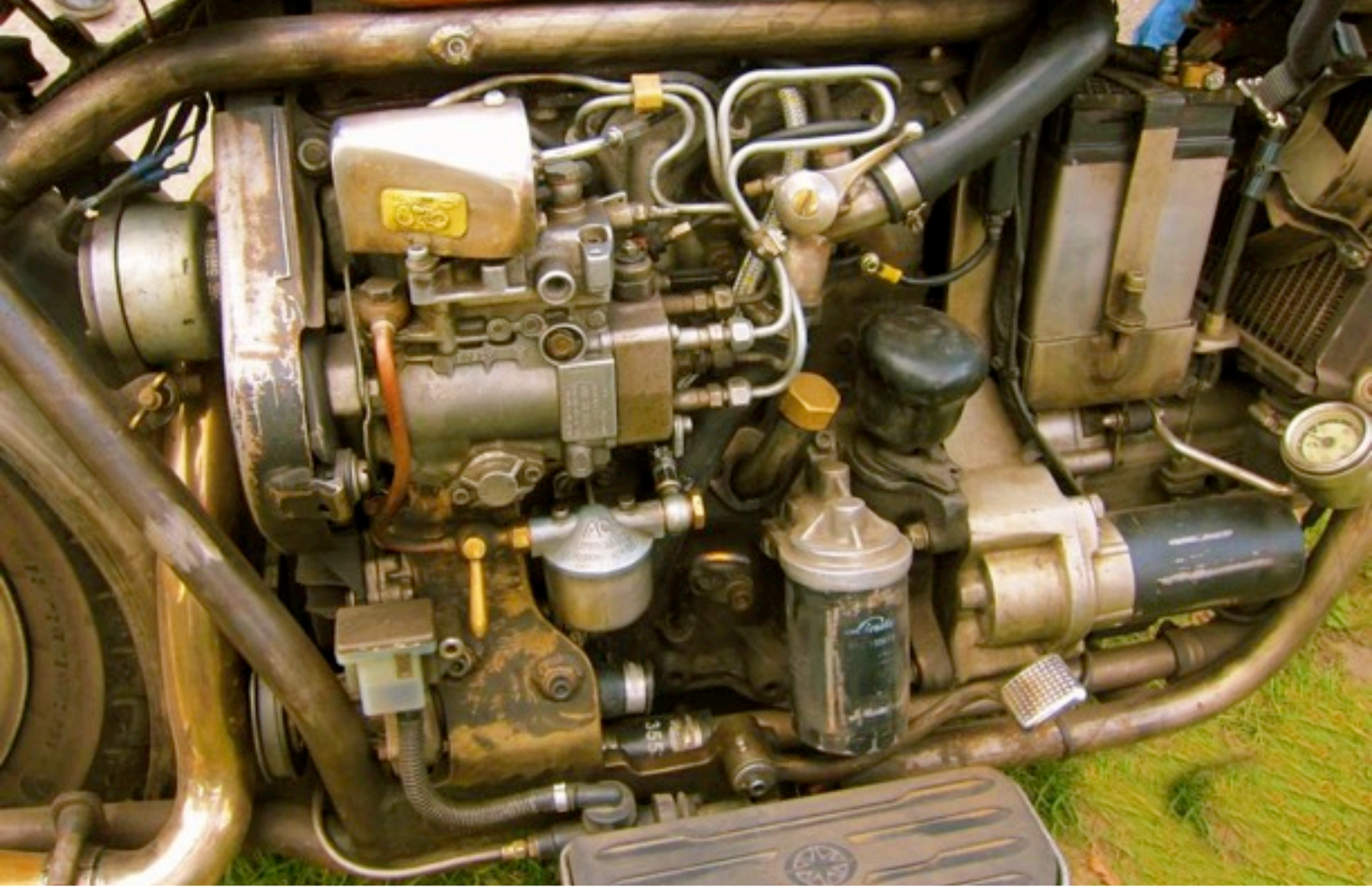


**Rat Bike of the Month**  
**VW-Powered Turbo Diesel**











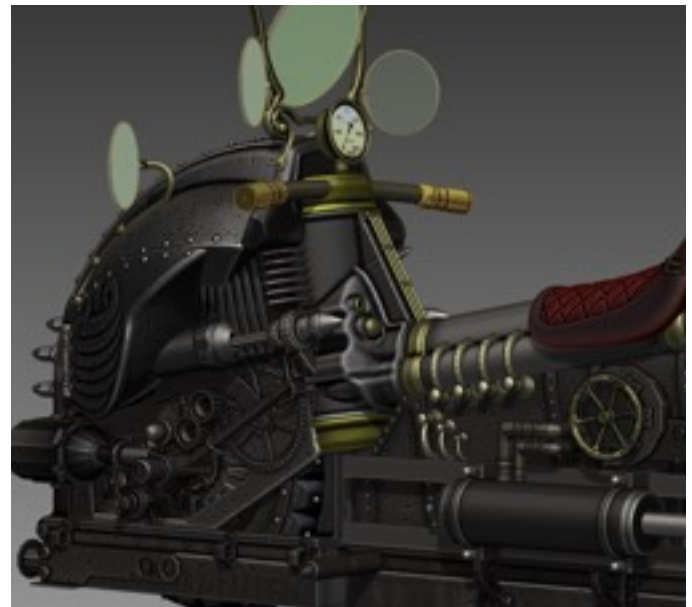


BM  
TR-34















# Clockwork Concept Design Bike

*by RK Concept*







# **COPPER MIKE'S STEAMPUNK SHOVELHEAD**









Gravesend Cycles Steampunk Harley-Davidson Found this steampunk-themed Harley-Davidson Shovelhead on the cover of the latest issue of American Iron magazine.

The article's tagline: "What the past would have looked like if the future had started sooner." That pretty much sums up the retro-futurist perspective of steampunk.

This machine is a product of the fertile imagination and talented hands of custom bike builder and master metalsmith Michael Cole, aka "Copper Mike" because he loves to work with that metal.

The level of handcrafted detail in this bike's design is astonishing...

Especially cool was the intricate engraving on the engine.

Copper Mike is the proprietor of Gravesend Cycles in Lindenhurst, NY, where he builds the bikes and creates jewelry, copper art objects, and t-shirts.





## Petit's Flug, a BMW R1200GS Boxer-Powered Fighter Aircraft Concept

Surprise is usually something one does not really expect, but when the imagination of Nicolas Petit comes into discussion, the borders between fiction and reality, between what's feasible and what's only a beautiful dream start to get blurry. Here's his vision of a fictional fighter plane powered by the iconic R1200 BMW boxer engine.

Smooth, fluid lines and a clean design are a trademark for Petit's concepts and the Flug (German for Flight) is no exception.

Sporting the same neo-retro attire so many steampunk fans love to meet in such crazy machines, the Flug is a seducing dream. Seemingly more suited for a majestic appearance in a video game, this concept shows real-life engineering cues.



The engine was rotated 180 degrees to power the propeller directly, while the air filters would in such a scenario also provide some RAM-Air intake effect for increased combustion. Nicolas adds a funny remark, too: given the nature of such a machine, a lightweight build is critical, so he chose a centrifugal clutch.

If only such a contraption could become real, can you even begin to fathom the possibilities...



# THE SHATNER INSPIRED RIVET ONE

( STEAMPUNK TRIKE FROM THE FUTURE )

doesn't work but it is a Force for Good.







Star of the stage and screen William Shatner has traversed the U.S. many times, and in many forms, but he's never done so on a motorcycle. The 84 year-old actor wanted to tick that off his list, but Shatner wasn't going to do things Easy Rider-style, he planned to do so in his own custom motorcycle... sort of.

According to an interview in Motor Trend, a staff member from American Wrench custom motorcycle shop met the Canadian film and television actor at an autograph signing, suggesting to him that his crew would build a custom bike for him, to which Shatner took him up on.

What American Wrench designed from Shatner's vision is the Rivet One, a three-wheeled chopper powered by a V8 that the actor planned to ride from Chicago to Los Angeles after its completion sometime in the summer of 2015. Design mockups of the Rivet showed that it was indeed loaded with a bunch of rivets, with the V8 mounted in-between the passenger and front wheel, but these were most likely going to be the only traits that would end up on the final product: it turned out Bill can get pretty far out with his ideas.

On a Vimeo channel dedicated to promoting the Rivet, Shatner is seen explaining some of the things he wants to see in the final build, including a redesign that incorporates a closed canopy and seating for two.

When William Shatner laid out his plans to create a V8-powered, steampunk trike with two yokes and squeeze triggers for controls we assumed it wouldn't work. Unfortunately we were right. But that hasn't stopped Shatner from trailering the Rivet from Chicago to Los Angeles for an awesome cause.

According to the man himself, the steering assembly on the Rivet promptly broke after the trike was originally shown to the press.

So instead of delaying his 2,400-mile trek along Route 66, his crew packed up the trike for the trip, Shatner threw a leg over a back-up motorcycle, and joined riders from the American Legion for the run.

The American Legion angle was the real reason for the cross-country run, raising awareness for the Legacy Fund, a scholarship program that provides financial assistance to the children of U.S. service members that were killed in the line of duty during the attacks of September 11.

Shatner, along with his wife, the American Legion riders, and the builders of the Rivet – American Wrench – left Illinois on June 2015 and landed in LA. A documentary crew came along for the ride, with a flick planned to be released in 2016.



## 7 Reasons Why Steampunk Is Totally “Now” *by Desirina Boskovich*

**1. It's the perfect mash-up genre for a culture obsessed with mixing and remixing, fanfic, memes, and 'shipping.**

Gotham. Sleepy Hollow. Bates Motel. Guardians of the Galaxy. Fifty Shades of Grey. Kindle Worlds. Lately, we really seem to be into creative takes on the old classics. And Steampunk is like the ultimate mash-up genre — both futuristic and retro. Plus, it's got room for anything and everything fandom's little heart can dream up: Aliens and AIs, zeppelins and zombies, pirates and corsets, goggles and gaslights, mad scientists and scullery maids. It's romance, horror, science fiction, fantasy, and adventure (and even occasionally a whodunit or a spaghetti western). Basically, it's the kind of structured yet flexible framework that allows for endless reinvention, and it rewards experimentation within the shared yet ever-evolving universe of the alternate past.

**2. It's all about getting back to the basics.**

We're in the middle of a massive generational shift, originally led by a hipster vanguard but now becoming mainstream: what's old is new again. Gen X'ers and Millennials are raising urban chickens, dipping candles, planting vegetable gardens in their front yards, canning jam, keeping bees, sewing their own clothes, and rediscovering the joys of an old-fashioned shave. Part of it is practicality; these are valuable skills to learn, practice, and pass on, based on the kind of folk knowledge that can get lost forever if it's not carefully preserved. Part of it is just the zany, passionate joy of developing an expertise, and making something practical and beautiful with your own hands. Anyway, Steampunk totally fits into this larger picture — whether its aficionados are restoring a vintage typewriter, creating historically accurate costuming, or painstakingly modding a Victorian PC.

**3. It's a much-needed countercultural aesthetic for design.**

Today's futurism all looks like Apple: slick, shiny, hyper minimalist. All form on the outside, all function on the inside. You can't tell, from looking at it, exactly what an iPad does - and you're not supposed to. You're also not supposed to be able to take it apart, tweak it a bit, and put it back together. The guts are entirely self-contained.

This style can be attractive, but it's also become completely mainstream. So certain visually hungry types are searching for something distinctive... something more. The Steampunk design aesthetic? It's minimalism's polar opposite. The guts of a Steampunk machine are on the outside. You can see the function, you can see the bells and whistles, you can see how it does what it does. You can also see how to take it apart and make it better. Plus, it looks old; it revels in a sense of history, of having been somewhere, of having lasted and endured through a long, long time. It's scratched and scuffed and stained, and like its function, it wears its history on the outside.

**4. It's both global and local.**

In the past couple years, Steampunk has become an international movement. The Steampunk User's Manual includes wonderful contributions from artists and Steampunkers in France, UK, Brazil, Czech Republic, India, Scotland, Serbia, Poland, Hong Kong, Spain, South Africa, Sweden, and more. This diverse global community is communicating and sharing, getting together online and passing around their favorite imagery and newest work, collaborating to publish anthologies with Steampunk stories in translation, and fueling each others' creativity with a profusion of cultural influences and historical context.



At the same time, each local community tends to be closely knit, maintaining their own unique local “flavor.” In Brooklyn you’ve got the fantastically decorated, ever-so-classy and sophisticated Steampunk bars where patrons flaunt their finery and top-level mixologists ply their trade. Meanwhile in Oakland, you’ve got a rougher-edged kind of Steampunk (extra emphasis on the “punk”) that focuses on the DIY side, with masterfully outfitted machine shops where makers and tinkers build awesome contraptions from scratch.

### **5. It’s class conscious.**

We live in an era of massive inequality and an exponentially increasing gap between the rich and the poor. While some movements like Occupy address the inequality head on, science fiction and fantasy have always provided a means for writers and artists to critique their society indirectly. (Just look at *The Hunger Games*.) Steampunk takes place in another period of massive inequality — the Victorian Era and the Gilded Age, a time when lords and ladies dressed in absurd regalia lounged in luxury while a permanent underclass shoveled the coal that fueled their society and starving urchins begged for bread in the streets. Many Steampunk writers are drawing on this obvious metaphor to our current age and exploring pressing social issues. Of course, not everyone is using Steampunk in this way - some simply see the past with the rose-tinted glasses of nostalgia, or find it easy to imagine themselves as the lucky lords and ladies — but as Steampunk “grows up,” so to speak, it’s increasingly becoming a tool for critique.

### **6. It’s eco-conscious.**

At Steampunk’s core is an obsession with the environmentalist’s battle cry: Reduce/Reuse/Recycle. Steampunk is based on an appreciation for reclaiming something old and making it new again, for cherishing the

long-lasting and well-made over the slick, disposable, and new. Throughout *The Steampunk User’s Manual*, artists and designers explain how they’ve reclaimed vintage materials, from wood and metal to glass and cloth, to create their handiworks.

And while we’re recovering still-sound antique items from the scrap heap (or at the very least, the thrift shops and consignment stores), we can also look to the past for still-sound ideas about the future that just might make sense for us today. In an era before mass production, physical items and artifacts were made well and made to last, not designed to be used once or twice and then thrown away, relegated to a landfill. In many ways, we’ve made a lot of progress since then, socially, culturally, and technologically. But perhaps the past does still hold a few nuggets of wisdom for us about how to live more scalable, sustainable lives.

### **7. Your individuality is Steampunk’s strength.**

Steampunk is customizable and flexible, with a “start where you are” mentality that makes it incredibly easy to join in, whatever point you’re starting from. You can approach it through the medium of storytelling (fiction, films, comic books), or fashion (a dash of vintage flair in your outfit, or full-on cosplay), or interior design (DIY... or hire the experts, a few of whom are profiled in the book). You can hop on Etsy and order a custom-made corset... or search out popular Steampunk bands on Spotify. It’s OK if your budget is limited, or if your skill set is still developing, or if your top interest is something completely specific and random — like Steampunk postage stamps. Steampunk is a big friendly movement, and you can jump in anywhere and anytime you like.

Desirina Boskovich is the co-author of

### **The Steampunk User’s Manual**



## The Typhoon: An obsessively built steampunk board-track superbike



*By Loz Blain*

Old Empire Motorcycles, a custom builder from Norfolk, UK, spared no time or expense on this piece. Starting life as a Ducati 900SS, the Typhoon is a rolling monument to British craftsmanship, with a distinct retro-futuristic steampunk twist.

As a custom builder, the OEM team typically takes customer bikes and customizes them to a brief and a budget. The results are great, the workmanship and

materials are top notch, and the prevailing aesthetic is part Brough Superior, part leather satchel, part modern hipster cafe racer.

An overabundance of grinder sparks in some of the promo videos dates them firmly in the skinny pants, burly bearded era of the mid-noughteens.

But when you're building bikes to spec for a customer, you're working within restraints.

So the OEM team occasionally makes something of their own, without any such limits. Meet the Typhoon.

The L-twin engine, and bits of the trellis frame here, were pulled from a Ducati 900SS Super Sport.

The rest very clearly isn't.

The attention to detail on this bike is pretty extraordinary.

Let's pick the right handgrip on its droopy board tracker-style handlebar: It's







thinly leather-wrapped, and features a reverse brake lever, a custom-machined thumb start and a bevel-driven throttle wire that looks a bit like a high-end bicycle bell.

Or there's the girder forks, finished in the same deep cherrywood paint job as the trellis frame and tank.

They feature a friction-based damping system you can tighten and loosen with a pair of big, brass nuts about the size you'd need to ride this thing.

Typically, brakes just make you go slow, but the Old Empire team chose stylish drum brakes for the front and rear, which will do no such thing.

Razor-thin tires and a hardtail back end will make whatever power that Ducati donk makes (it's about 85 horses in stock form) feel wildly excessive.

The brass bell headlamp and cute battery satchel, the handbuilt butt-wedge of a

seat and huge brass steering stem cap – they all mesh together into some kind of retro-futuristic lightweight steampunk superbike, as pretty as it would be punishing to ride.

I'm not always a fan of impractical customs, but I reckon this one's a work of art, and the pick of a very nice British bunch over at the Old Empire Motorcycles website. Bravo, chaps.



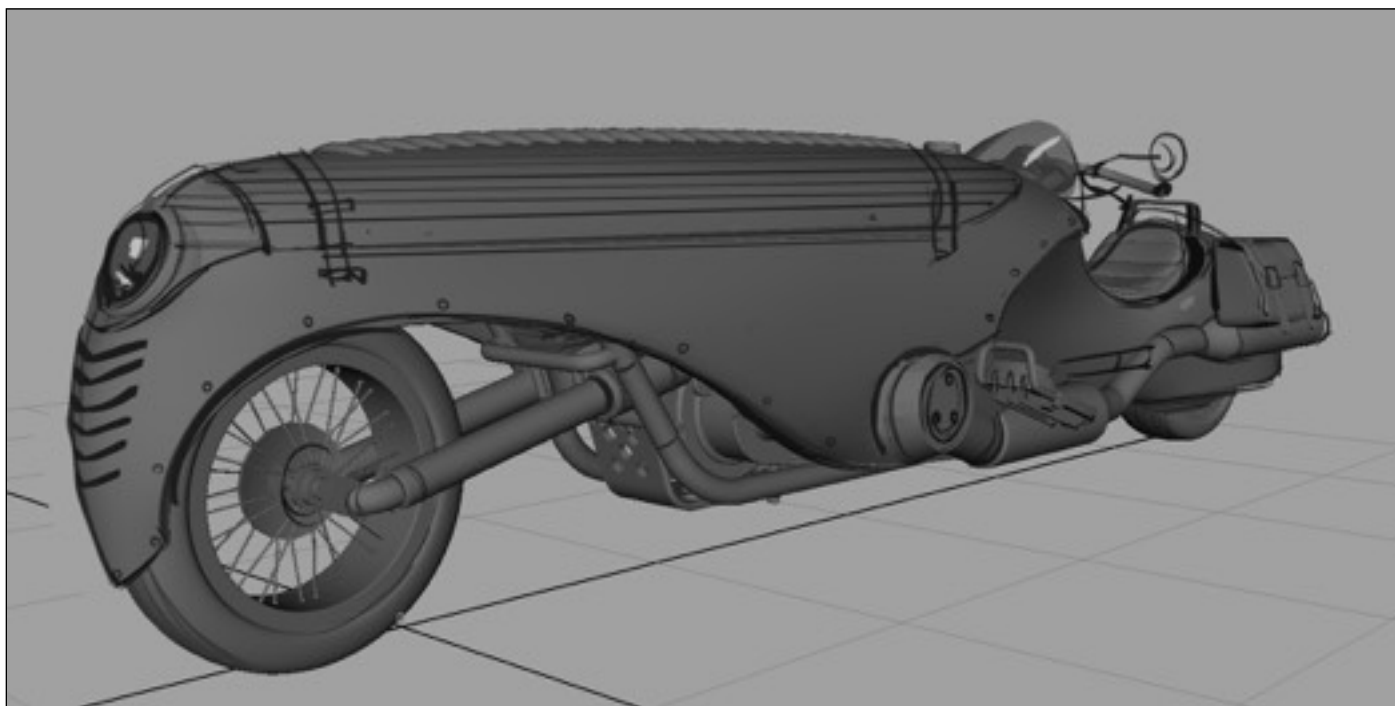


*Rotcod Industries is Most Proud to Unveil:*



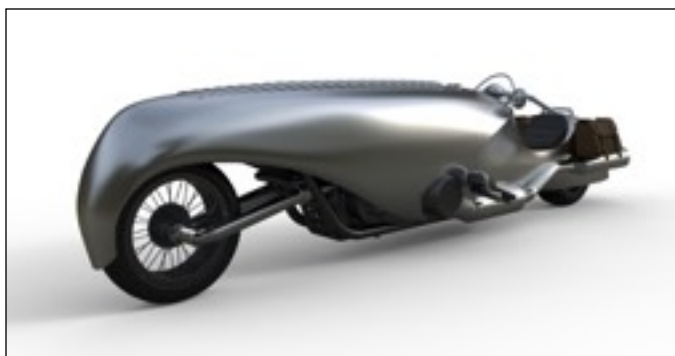
## THE SILVER DAGGER

*A two wheeled vehicle that is unrivalled for speed, efficiency and sophistication.*



### Fairly cool concept by Nick Carver. “The Silver Dagger”

Nick wanted to design a motorbike that was inspired by dueling pistols and ceremonial daggers, I'd say he succeeded. What do you think?





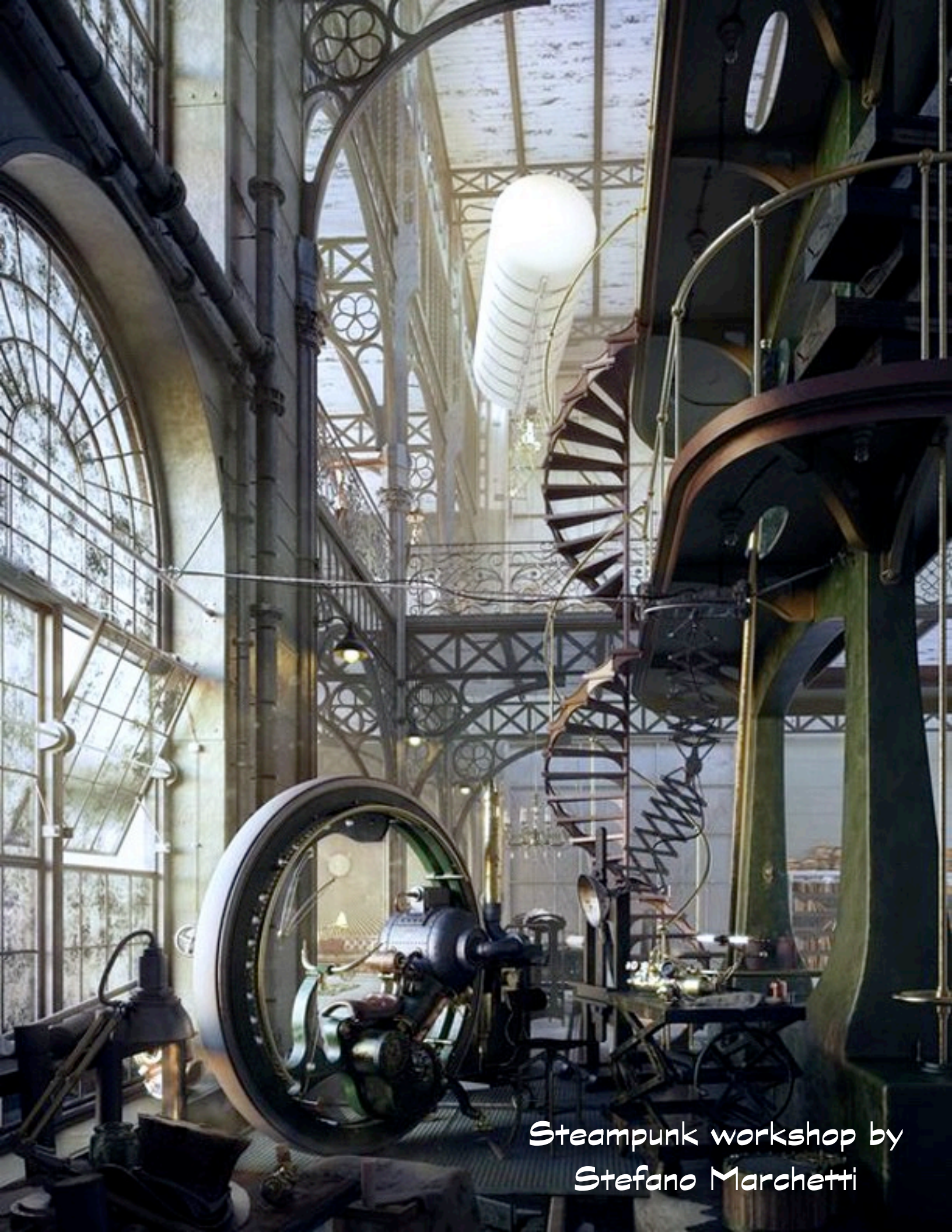




Modern Steam Monobike 1896  
by Stefano Marchetti







Steampunk workshop by  
Stefano Marchetti





# Steampunk



WWW.STEAMPUNK

If you have enjoyed the previous pages and want to know more about the Steampunk World, you must spent a few hours on this web site and discover all there is to see about it...





# Tendencies

INKTENDENCIES.COM

And finally, if you think you belong to this, you might want to read the Steampunk User's Manual before joining a culture which might be a tad different from your own lifestyle...





