



# MALTA BUS REBORN

CAMPAIGN REPORT  
APRIL 2019-2021

# MIZZI

# HIGHLIGHTS

Featured by Malta's most-watched television shows including **TVAM & TVM News (123,000 viewers)** and **Xarabank (69,000 viewers)**



Widespread coverage across Malta's major news outlets including **Times of Malta, Malta Today, Malta Independent and Lovin Malta**



Shared by the world's leading lifestyle and design press including **Forbes (6.4m readers), Wallpaper\* (2m readers) and Designboom (3.5m readers)**, as well as media across Europe, Mexico, Japan and China



When surveyed by Lovin Malta,  
**86% of the Maltese public said they 'loved' them**



**15k total likes, comments and shares on Facebook**  
and a further 2.5k across Instagram and Twitter

**More than 200,000 people watched the teaser videos**  
on Mizzi Studio, Lovin Malta and Xarabank's channels alone

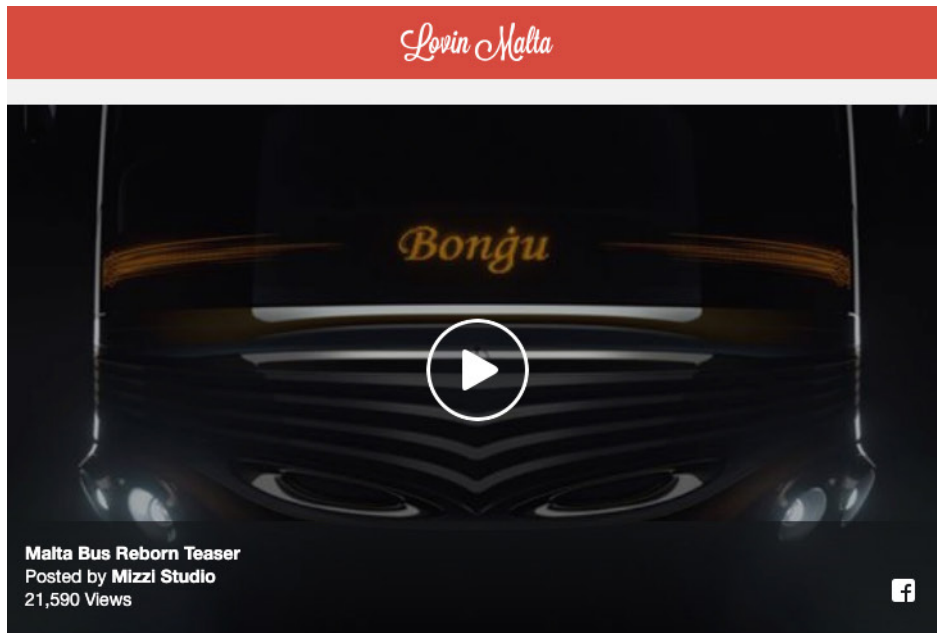
**4k likes, comments & shares across Mizzi Studio's social media channels**

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LOCAL MEDIA



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## WATCH: Wait, What?! This Trailer Was Just Released And We Have Questions

Is that what I think it is?

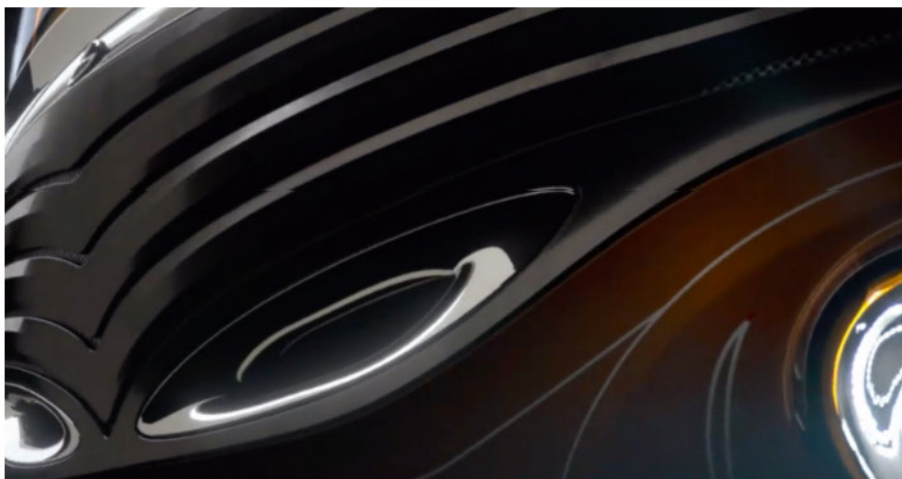
David Grech Urpani

Yellow paint, *tberfil* and LEDs spelling out *Bonġu*. A short one-minute video that just mysteriously dropped on Facebook has left us very confused... but incredibly intrigued.

Posted on Friday morning by London-Valletta architecture, interior and industrial design whizzes [Mizzi Studio](#), the clip teases what looks like a reinvented version of the old yellow buses that defined Malta for generations (and still feature in numerous souvenir shops around the island).

The silhouette - which looks straight out of some Tesla-inspired electric truck - seems to be an ultra modern version of the old Bedfords and Dodges we all fell in love with when we were young.

**The traditional *tberfil* designs, the yellow paint... it's all here and we're all here for it**





OH MY GOD, OH MY GOD, OH MY GOD

Earlier this year, together with his team at Mizzi Studio, architect Jonathan Mizzi was nominated for the [FX Breakthrough Talent Award 2017](#)

Just to give you a taste of why this local talent was singled out in the highly competitive design industry, think back to his studio's fabulous [creation for Colicci at Westfield London](#). This marvellous copper creation has already been raking in the accolades, having been shortlisted in four categories at the [International Restaurant & Bar Design Awards](#), as well as a win at the [Retail Week Interiors Awards](#) for Store Design of the Year 2014.

So it's safe to say we're excited AF to see what this video could mean for the future of Malta's buses.



YOBU KIOSK FESTIVAL PLACE, BASINGSTOKE, MIZZI STUDIO



COLICCI, WESTFIELD LONDON, MIZZI STUDIO

When contacted about the mysterious video, Mizzi Studio said they could not comment for the time being

So it looks like we're going to have to keep on guessing for now, but damn are we excited for this!

Share this post if you'd love to see Malta's yellow buses returning with a modern twist!

**[READ NEXT: Maltese Design Studio Nominated For International Breakthrough Talent Award](#)**



WRITTEN BY

**David Grech Urpani**

Sarcastically ironic, Dave is a recovering hipster musician with a penchant for chicken, women's clothes and Kanye.

# Lovin TOMORROW

Tomorrow's News Today!

Lovin Tomorrow 01.04.19

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## POLITICAL SURVEY PREDICTS MALTA'S SIX MEPS

More on p. 14

# MALTA'S BUS ICONS REBORN



An abstract Maltese cross gives the new bus design facial qualities, while recalling the split windscreens that gave old buses their puppy-dog framed eyes. Images Courtesy of Stargate Studios Malta

**Top Maltese designer reveals artistic vision for a new electric fleet**



**Christian Peregin**

Malta's roads were once famously brightened up by colourful, personalised buses that are etched in the memories of tourists and locals alike. Now, a top Maltese designer is propos-

ing a way of bringing back the beauty and charm of the old buses, as reimaged through his designs for a new electric fleet.

After seven years working on this passion project, Jonathan Mizzi, who runs the award-winning Mizzi Studio in London and Malta, will this week reveal his masterpieces, which include digital tberfil (decorative hand-painting), a stunning rear, and lots of design details that pay homage to the past.

"I dream of seeing these beautiful electric buses brightening up our

roads once again, inspiring national pride, nostalgia and sparking an emotional connection wherever they go," Mizzi told Lovin Tomorrow.

Mizzi, 36, has received several international awards for his work in London, and was recently named EX International Breakthrough Talent 2017.

As a child, he loved the old buses and would think of them as Pixar characters, with human-like features. Despite being such a vibrant symbol of Malta, this element of our heritage disappeared in 2011. Continued on P.11



## A MEGA PROBLEM FOR EMMA & BIONDO?

MORE ON PAGE 3



## NETFLIX EYING MALTA'S SUPERCHIEF MARVIN GAUCI

You may soon be able to stream one of Malta's premier chefs whipping up over-the-top dishes as major international broadcasters want Marvin Gauci to be part of a new blockbuster series.

Companies like Netflix, Hulu and Amazon Prime, are currently eyeing the famous Maltese chef to host a new show that would be focused on 'extreme dining' in exotic locations, sources have confirmed.

Continued on P.4

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Images Courtesy of Stargate Studios Malta

Continued from cover... "I came up with this idea when I was stuck in traffic behind a non-descript Arriva bus and wondering where we went wrong. Why did we get rid of such an important part of our history and heritage? Why rid tourists of that powerful memory? Why deprive our drivers of leaving their unique marks on their buses and lose the traditional art of *therfil*? It made me sad, but it triggered an idea. In London, the red double-deckers were getting a modern revamp and I thought, why not give the same treatment to my own country's buses? Why not bring the yellow icons back onto a new electric-powered fleet that can take us into the future?"

Mizzi and his team crafted an intricate design backed by technical expertise and a vision to move the is-

land towards switching to an electric fleet to meet EU and national emissions targets and ultimately improve air quality.

Mizzi, who was recently entrusted with designing the Royal Parks kiosks, including one overlooked by Buckingham Palace, believes his designs are timely and affordable because Malta will at some point have to



Jonathan Mizzi

#### IN THE DESIGNER'S WORDS:

"What made the classic buses so special is the fact that they were driver-owned. They each had an identity as unique as their owner since they were lovingly hand-painted and customised by local artists and by the owners themselves, with cultural and religious references of the time and charming phrases like 'forever young'.

Our main challenge was to define the strongest characteristics from a bus fleet that was so bespoke. We looked carefully at the genetic make-up of the fleet and found there were several common features – just like siblings share within a family.

Almost all the buses had a hooded visor set upon a split windscreen which gave them these 'puppy-dog'-like framed eyes. We implemented the visor in our design but gave it a sleeker, more contemporary feel.

Another common feature was the rounded, hooded headlamps which gave the illusion of eyelids and eyelashes. They were almost like characters that had stepped out of a Pixar cartoon. We have recreated this anthropomorphic feature in the form of integrated chrome hooded headlamps.

All the buses had a big smiling chrome grill, adorned with many angel wing references symbolising flight and victory, that also stemmed from our deeply religious Catholic roots. We married these two features with functionality by adopting an elongated angel-wing form in the chrome grill at the front and a dual

start thinking of changing the current fleet of buses.

Mizzi began unveiling his artistic vision this week with a video teaser but also hopes to debut a short CGI-animated film produced by Stargate Studios Malta and a large-scale model to help spark a national discussion.

"I want the Maltese public to remember the aesthetic beauty of the old buses and join me on this visual journey of how the buses can be brought back in an exciting and innovative way. I hope it will enable us as a nation to move forward whilst

set of chrome 'wings' at the rear as mechanical ventilation.

The back of the new bus is almost a reflection of its old front. We created a face at the rear in the form of an abstract Maltese cross that frames a new pair of eyes creating a beautiful 'derrière' that vehicle drivers behind will directly lock eyes with.

Another key detail is the pin-striping, termed '*therfil*' in Maltese. To me, it's the eyeliner and mascara that accentuate the buses' features. We created a screen where we can showcase digital '*therfil*'. This gives the bus drivers the freedom to make their bus their own again. Through LED technology, they can make it the 'Saviour' bus, the 'Elvis Presley' bus or the 'Ave Maria' bus again.

We also wanted to go back to the system they had in the 50s, where the colours denoted the route. Back then, this was implemented because

staying true to ourselves and making us proud to be Maltese."

His project has already earned the support of Heritage Malta, Arts Council Malta and Mizzi Organisation. He now hopes to get the endorsement of the government and Malta Public Transport to consider his aesthetic vision.



Colicci Cafe located at London's Westfield Shopping Centre was designed by Mizzi Studio.

of illiteracy, but people developed an emotional connection with the colours and their route home. The yellow buses dominated my generation, but for other generations the different colours breed nostalgia. Ultimately it is about creating a family fleet that people will love.

The new Malta bus transposes the beautiful design and vibrant character of the classic bus onto a modern-day chassis that is fully electric and emission-free. It will also include low disabled access, a middle door for hop on hop off and air-conditioning systems.

I hope it will serve as an example of how Malta as a nation can move forward while always staying true to ourselves. There is simply no price you can put on our heritage."



**Love Tomorrow**

# MALTA'S BUS ICONS REBORN

**EXCLUSIVE!**

An abstract Maltese cross gives the new bus design facial qualities, while recalling the soft windscreens that gave old buses their puppy-dog framed eyes. © Images Courtesy of Stargate Studios Malta

roads once again, inspiring national pride, nostalgia and sparking an emotional response among bus enthusiasts.

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**net.com**

**NETI LILL-GRUPP CORINTHIA WESA' TA' ART PUBBLIKA F'PEMBROKE**

**07:37**

News | Local | Lifestyle | Travel

## WATCH: Transport Minister Looks Forward To Considering 'Phenomenal' Designs For A New Electric Fleet

We got the Transport Minister's opinion after revealing the incredible designs

Chris Peregine



Transport Minister Ian Borg has said Malta should "definitely" consider an electric redesign for its buses when the island comes to change the current fleet.

Borg described the designs proposed by London-based designer Jonathan Mizzi as "stupendous" and "phenomenal", and said he was looking forward to studying the proposal further.

"I think the design, with those colours, is more beautiful than the static fleet we have today... The proposal I'm seeing brings back nostalgia with a futuristic vehicle," he told Lovin Malta in an exclusive interview.

The buses proposal was the cover story of Lovin Tomorrow, a newspaper issued by Lovin Malta today to mark April Fools. The stories in the newspaper were all true - the prank was that Lovin Malta will not really be publishing a weekly newspaper and will instead stick to online news.

**Watch the full interview with Transport Minister Ian Borg below**



Mizzi, who runs the award-winning Mizzi Studio in London and Malta, is proposing a reimagining of the old buses, which would include digital *tberfil* (decorative hand-painting), a stunning rear, and lots of design details that pay homage to the past.

"I dream of seeing these beautiful electric buses brightening up our roads once again, inspiring national pride, nostalgia and sparking an emotional connection wherever they go," Mizzi told Lovin Malta.



***"I came up with this idea when I was stuck in traffic behind a non-descript Arriva bus and wondering where we went wrong"***

Mizzi, 36, has received several international awards for his work in London, and was recently named FX International Breakthrough Talent 2017.

As a child, he loved the old buses and would think of them as Pixar characters, with human-like features. Despite being such a vibrant symbol of Malta, this element of our heritage disappeared in 2011.

"I came up with this idea when I was stuck in traffic behind a non-descript Arriva bus and wondering where we went wrong. Why did we get rid of such an important part of our history and heritage? Why rid tourists of that powerful memory? Why deprive our drivers of leaving their unique marks on their buses and lose the traditional art of *tberfil*? It made me sad, but it triggered an idea. In London, the red double-deckers were getting a modern revamp and I thought, why not give the same treatment to my own country's buses? Why not bring the yellow icons back onto a new electric-powered fleet that can take us into the future?"



**Mizzi and his team crafted an intricate design backed by technical expertise and a vision to move the island towards switching to an electric fleet to meet EU and national emissions targets and ultimately improve air quality**

Mizzi, who was recently entrusted with designing the Royal Parks kiosks, including one overlooked by Buckingham Palace, believes his designs are timely and affordable because Malta will at some point have to start thinking of changing the current fleet of buses.

Mizzi began unveiling his artistic vision this week with a video teaser but also hopes to debut a short CGI-animated film produced by Stargate Studios Malta and a large-scale model to help spark a national discussion.

“I want the Maltese public to remember the aesthetic beauty of the old buses and join me on this visual journey of how the buses can be brought back in an exciting and innovative way. I hope it will enable us as a nation to move forward whilst staying true to ourselves and making us proud to be Maltese.”

His project already earned the support of Heritage Malta, Arts Council Malta and Mizzi Organisation, but in the last couple of days, even Malta Public Transport, Transport Malta and Transport Minister Ian Borg have come out to endorse the "phenomenal" designs.



***"What made the classic buses so special is the fact that they were driver-owned"***

"They each had an identity as unique as their owner since they were lovingly hand-painted and customised by local artists and by the owners themselves, with cultural and religious references of the time and charming phrases like 'forever young'," Mizzi continued.

**Here's what the designer had to say about this amazing idea:**

"Our main challenge was to define the strongest characteristics from a bus fleet that was so bespoke. We looked carefully at the genetic makeup of the fleet and found there were several common features – just like siblings share within a family.

"Almost all the buses had a hooded visor set upon a split windscreen which gave them these 'puppy-dog'-like framed eyes. We implemented the visor in our design but gave it a sleeker, more contemporary feel.

Another common feature was the rounded, hooded headlamps which gave the illusion of eyelids and eyelashes. They were almost like characters that had stepped out of a Pixar cartoon. We have recreated this anthropomorphic feature in the form of integrated chrome hooded headlamps.

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LEFT: JONATHAN MIZZI

## The electric yellow bus concept was teased last week



Share this post if you'd love to see these buses on Malta's roads!

### **READ NEXT: Maltese Design Studio Bags Prestigious Commission For London's Royal Parks**



WRITTEN BY

**Chris Peregini**

Monday, April 1, 2019, 17:57

## Could Malta's future buses look like the past? An exhibition suggests a new twist on a retired classic



The proposal merges the buses' traditional look with modern-day features.

What if Malta's iconic buses could return to local roads as electric, air conditioned, comfortable and accessible vehicles?

The idea sounds outlandish, but a local designer has crafted a vision to do just that.

Come July, parliament building will host an exhibition featuring scale models of futuristic-looking buses dreamt up by designers at the London-based Mizzi Studio, and detail the steps in the seven-year design process that it took to develop them.

The buses blend characteristic features of the buses of old, such as the chrome bumpers and hand-painted lettering (*tberfil*), with more modern-day features – think LED lighting and electric motors.

"Losing Malta's buses was a devastating blow to Malta's identity," said designer and Mizzi Studio founder Jonathan Mizzi.

"They were one of the country's greatest icons".



The proposal would reintroduce different colours to Malta's bus fleet.



Those buses were retired in 2011, and the architect never quite got over the sting of losing them to more generic-looking public transport vehicles.

"I fell in love with our colourful art deco buses as a child. They were so friendly, almost like Pixar Cars," he said, thinking back to his childhood.

Mr Mizzi, whose design studio has amassed [a list of accolades](#) under its belt, already has an influential fan base backing the concept.

Malta Public Transport's general manager Konrad Pule' said the company was "delighted" to support the project, and Transport Malta said the project was "fully aligned with the objectives and general direction of the electro mobility programme".

Transport Minister Ian Borg described the proposal as "something to think about".

"When the time arrives for the country to change its fleet, considering such a fantastic design with the added benefit of being electric is something to look at," he said.

The exhibition, titled Malta Bus Reborn, is supported by the Project Support Grant, Malta Arts Fund – Arts Council Malta. It will be open to the public between July and September.



Malta's iconic buses were retired in 2011.



CURRENT AFFAIRS

## Can you imagine yourself riding this bus?

Posted On April 1, 2019 - Updated 2 April, 2019 2:59pm  
Report: Melvic Zammit

Seven years after they disappeared from Maltese roads, a Maltese designer has come up with a proposal to give a technological twist to the fleet of old Maltese buses which truly had Maltese traits. Jonathan Mizzi believes that the modern version of old Maltese buses which work on electricity could once again give a distinctive quality to the bus service in Malta.

The handpainted letters (*tberfil*), the chrome bumper in the shape of angel wings, the Maltese cross, the horseshoe and the name of the bus owner. With a sense of nostalgia, while still looking to the future, designer Jonathan Mizzi wishes to once again see those characteristics which used to decorate our old buses up to a few years ago. He is proposing that these buses are brought back to Malta's roads but are changed to electric buses instead, while retaining their old distinguishing features.

"All had visors, they all had split winds screens that looked like puppy dog eyes, big smiling chrome bumper, eyelids. They were almost like characters out of a Pixar Cars movie. We brought all that back and transposed it into a modern day chassis".

Mr Mizzi said that he has been working on this proposal since 2011. He said that it fuses together new technology with symbols which used to give such character to our buses.

"We introduced modern day technologies such as LED to this idea of creating digital *tberfil* so you can have personalisation in terms of the Ave Maria, Elvis Presley, Marilyn Monroe, Forever Young. It has been a real research development to capture the essence, the soul of the Maltese buses" he added.

Mr Mizzi's idea has found the support of Heritage Malta and the Malta Arts Council. Even Transport Minister Ian Borg said that the proposal has brought back nostalgia for the traditional Maltese bus. He said that eventually the fleet of buses needs to change and the idea by Mizzi Studio is one to consider. Minister Borg said that the public transport system with a fleet of electric buses is ideal. He looks forward to this proposal being studied together with the designer.





## Żvelati disinji innovattivi għal flotta elettrika ġdida ta' karozzi tal-linja Maltin

Apr 01, 2019 20:55 Miktub minn iNews



Mizzi Studio, il-kumpanija tal-arkitettura u d-disinn ibbażata f'Malta u Londra li ġa rebhet għadd premji, habbret id-disinni innovattivi tal-flotta ġdida elettrika tal-karozzi tal-linja għal Malta, li kapaċi jwasslu biex ipoġġu lin-nazzjon fuq quddiem nett tal-UE bi trasport pubbliku li ma jniġġeż xejn. Il-kumpanija tittama li tkebbes mill-ġdid sens ta' kburija nazzjonali permezz tal-immaġni ikonika tal-karozzi tal-linja Maltin, mahduma b'mod kontemporanju u li jibzġu għall-ambjent, meta dawk antiki tnehhew fl-2011. Id-disinni l-ġodda se jintwerew f'wirja pubblika fil-bini tal-Parlament fil-Belt Valletta f'Lulju 2019.

Fl-2011, il-karozzi tal-linja tradizzjonali u kkuluriti Maltin kellhom jitnehhew mit-triq minhabba li ma kinux jilhq u l-istandards Ewropej tat-tniġġiż, anki jekk dawn il-vetturi jibqgħu wiehed mill-iktar simboli assoċjati ma' pajjiżna. Hafna mill-karozzi tal-linja kienu nġabu mir-Renju Unit, b'uhud minnhom imorru lura sal-1950 u bil-biċċa l-kbira tagħhom jiġu klassifikati bħala antikità. Post uhud minnhom ittiehed mill-bendy buses, li nġabu fil-pajjiż mill-Arriva u li eventwalment tnehhew peress li ma kinux ideali għall-infrastruttura tal-pajjiż.

Bid-disinni l-ġodda, l-għan ta' Mizzi Studios hu li jtejbu l-effiċjenza ambjentali tal-flotta attwali tal-karozzi tal-linja, waqt li jġibu lura l-karattru ikoniku mitluf tal-karozzi tal-linja tradizzjonali - karattru distint maħluq mix-xufiera stess minhabba li kienu jippresonalizzaw il-vetturi tagħhom bi tpinġijiet u referenzi reliġjużi u kultrali skont il-gosti tagħhom.

Il-kumpanija identifikat l-aktar karatteristiċi komuni u b'saħħithom fil-flotta tradizzjonali u poġġiethom fuq ix-chassis modern, kif ukoll chrome grill ikbar min-normal, dwal b'kappa tonda u visor imdendel mill-windscreen. Mizzi Studio ddisinjaw il-bumper tal-chrome f'forma ta' ġwienah tal-aṅġli, li spiss kont issibhom fuq il-karozzi tal-linja l-antiki, waqt li fuq wara hemm par ġwienah oħra li jkesshu l-mutur. Il-ġwienah ta' wara, flimkien mat-tundjatura tal-hġieġ, jiffurmaw l-ispazju madwar salib Malti astratt, li jkompli jsaħħah is-sens ta' kburija nazzjonali. Simboli tas-salib Malti flimkien ma' dawk tan-nagħal taż-żwiemel, li kont issibhom fuq il-karozzi tal-linja biex ikeċċu l-magħmul, jinsabu fid-disinn il-ġdid ukoll.

Il-kuluri tal-karozzi tal-linja l-antiki nbidlu matul is-snin. Oriġinarjament kien hemm is-sistema tal-kuluri skont ir-rotot, sakemm imbagħad saru kulur wieħed; l-ewwel aħdar imbagħad isfar bi strixxa orangġo għax-xarabanks f'Malta, u griż bi strixxa ħamra f'Għawdex. Mizzi Studio għażlu li jmorru għas-sistema ta' kuluri differenti minħabba n-nostalgija li jgħorru dawn il-kuluri. It-tberfil, wieħed mill-iktar dettalji karatteristiċi li kien iżejjen lix-xarabanks antiki, reġa' nholoq mill-ġdid f'forma diġitali biex ix-xufiera jkunu jistgħu jippersonalizzaw kull xarabank bi kliem u xbihat bl-użu ta' teknoloġija LED, u għalhekk jagħtu tribut lill-artiġġjanat u kburija assoċjati mal-karozzi tal-linja l-antiki.

Il-proposta ta' Mizzi Studio għal flotta kompletament elettrika u bla emissjonijiet timxi id f'id mal-istrategija fit-tul tal-UE għal futur bi klima newtrali. Il-flotta l-ġdida għandha wkoll vision panel fuq quddiem, sistemi ta' arja kkundizzjonata u tkessih state-of-the-art, bibien fin-nofs kif ukoll rampi u art baxxa għal aktar aċċessibbiltà. Il-kumpanija tittama li dawn il-karatteristiċi flimkien mad-disinn meqjus li jsellem lill-karozzi tal-linja ta' qabel, iħajjar iktar lin-nies jagħmlu użu mit-trasport pubbliku biex jitnaqqas it-traffiku u t-tniġġiż fil-gżira.

Id-direttur Jonathan Mizzi qal: "Meta kont żgħir kont affaxxinat bix-xarabanks ikkuluriti stil Art Deco. Kienu helwin, qishom xi karattri tal-Pixar Cars. Meta tlifniehom, l-identità Maltija laqtet daqqa ta' harta għax kienu ikona kbira ta' pajjiżna. Il-kumpanija tiegħi ilha mill-2012 tiżviluppa karozza tal-linja state-of-the-art li tibza' għall-ambjent, tribut lill-wirt li halliet il-flotta ta' qabilha kif ukoll timla l-vojt li din halliet. Nittama li dan iħallina nimxu 'l quddiem bħala nazzjon, waqt li nżommu dak li jagħmilna aħna u jkollna flotta nazzjonali ta' karozzi tal-linja li tagħmilna kburi li aħna Maltin."

Wirja pubblika b'xejn, Malta Bus Reborn, se tinżamm bejn Lulju u Settembru 2019 fil-bini tal-Parlament. Il-wirja tagħti dettalji dwar il-proċess ta' kif saru d-disinni minn Mizzi Studio, flimkien mar-riċerka u l-iżvilupp li sar f'dan il-perjodu ta' 7 snin. Il-wirja tinkludi mudell ta' skala 1:6 tax-xarabank propost maħdum mill-idejn esperti ta' 2D3D, u filmat ta' hames minuti minn Stargate Studios li se juru l-karozza l-linja ġdida ssuq f'uhud mill-iktar postijiet sbieħ f'Malta.

Konrad Pulé, il-Maniġer Ġenerali ta' Malta Public Transport, qal: "Malta Public Transport hi kuntenta li qed tappoġġja lil Jonathan Mizzi u t-tim tiegħu bil-viżjoni tagħhom li johlqu l-karozza tal-linja elettrika futura ta' Malta. Nemmu li d-disinn ikoniku tradizzjonali flimkien mat-teknoloġija moderna jistgħu jkunu parti mis-soluzzjoni biex il-mobbiltà f'Malta tihaq livell oghla."

"Hu l-pjaċir tal-Kunsill Malti għall-Arti li jappoġġjaw lid-disinjatur Jonathan Mizzi permezz tal-Project Support Grant tal-Fond Malti għall-Arti; il-viżjoni tiegħu mhux biss hi waħda funzjonali, imma turi wkoll fehim profond tal-karozza tal-linja tradizzjonali waqt li fl-istess hin tagħti tribut lill-valur artistiku tagħha. Il-Kunsill jilqa' l-kunċett artistiku tas-Sur Mizzi u jappoġġja lilu u lit-tim fil-qasam tal-disinn tal-vetturi," qal kelliem għall-Kunsill għall-Arti.

Justin Vella, il-kuratur ta' Heritage Malta għall-wirt industrijali, qal: "Heritage Malta hi impenjata li tissalvagwardja u tippromwovi l-wirt kulturali tangibbli u intangibbli ta' Malta. Aħna nilqgħu l-kunċett innovattiv ta' Mizzi Studio li rxuxtaw il-valur storiku u nostalgiku tal-karozza tal-linja Maltija li tibqa' nota saljenti u mlewna għall-wirt u l-identità Maltija. Għandna l-pjaċir li nistgħu nikkontribwixxu f'inizjattiva li tgħinna napprezzaw it-trasport u l-istorja soċjali tagħna, billi ntuha pjattaforma fejn din tkompli tikber."

News | Lifestyle | Travel

## Malta's Buses Could Get Nostalgic Revamp As Public Transport Operator Hails Design For New Electric Fleet

'We believe this design can be part of the solution to take mobility to the next level in Malta'

Tim Diacono



A fleet of multi-coloured electric buses could well be hitting the roads in the near future, after Malta Public Transport endorsed a designer's exciting [plans](#) to revamp the fleet.

"Malta Public Transport is delighted to support Jonathan Mizzi and his team in their vision of creating Malta's future electric bus," Malta Public Transport general manager Konrad Pulé said. "We believe that the iconic traditional design combined with modern technology can be part of the solution to take mobility to the next level in Malta."

**Mizzi's plans for the bus fleet were revealed yesterday by Lovin Tomorrow, a one-off newspaper published by Lovin Malta to mark April Fools', and were also picked up by [Wallpaper](#), the world-famous architecture and design magazine.**

Transport Minister Ian Borg hailed the design as "stupendous" and praised Mizzi for managing to fuse nostalgia with futurism. Transport Malta confirmed it fully supports Mizzi's initiative, which is in line with the Maltese government's plan for the island to become an electric vehicle nation within the next decade.



“This is definitely an ambitious endeavour utilizing smart and sustainable technology that, if fulfilled, will contribute towards Malta’s meeting its European and International environmental obligations, improving air quality as well as making Malta a cleaner, healthier place live-in,” Transport Malta said. “We fully support such an initiative.”

## **Mizzi’s design was also endorsed by other government bodies, namely Heritage Malta and Arts Council Malta**

“We welcome Mizzi Studio’s innovative concept of re-awakening the nostalgic and historic value of the Malta bus which remains a salient and colourful note in Malta’s industrial heritage and identity,” Heritage Malta curator Justin Vella said. “We are delighted to be able to contribute to an initiative that helps us appreciate our transport and social history, giving it a platform from which to continue growing.”

“It is Arts Council Malta’s pleasure to support designer Jonathan Mizzi through the Malta Arts Fund’s Project Support Grant,” a council spokesperson said. “His vision is not only highly functional, but also demonstrates a deep understanding of Malta’s traditional bus fleet whilst simultaneously paying tribute to its artistic value. Arts Council Malta embraces Mr. Mizzi’s artistic concept and supports him and his team in the field of automotive design.”



## **Mizzi Studio’s design is a blast from the past, from a time when buses were colour-coded according to their destination**

The traditional hand-painting line patterns and lettering (*tberfil*) that had characterised the old buses have been re-imagined through LED technology, which will allow drivers to customise their own vehicles as they had in the good old days.

The chrome bumper adopts the form of angel wings, often seen on traditional buses, to symbolise victory and flight, while an abstract Maltese cross would be carved into the rear of the bus as a symbol of national pride. Badges of a Maltese cross, along with horseshoe badges that were traditionally fixed to the buses to ward off evil spirits, are also included in this new design.

The fleet will be fully electric and emission-free, with state-of-the-art airconditioning and cooling systems, middle doors for efficient boarding and disembarking and low floors and ramps to ensure full accessibility for people with disabilities.



“I fell in love with our colourful Art Deco buses as a child,” Mizzi said. “They were so friendly, almost like Pixar Cars characters with their anthropomorphic features like their cute hooded headlamp eyes, split windscreens that gave them a puppy-dogs eyes expression and large smiling chrome bumpers.”

“To lose them was a devastating blow to Malta’s identity as they were truly one of our country’s greatest icons. Since 2012, my studio has been developing a state-of-the-art, eco-friendly bus that pays homage to its heritage and aims to fill the large cultural gap that was left behind. I hope it will enable us as a nation to move forward whilst staying true to ourselves and have a national bus fleet that makes us proud to be Maltese.

A free public exhibition detailing the steps in Mizzi Studio’s design process will be held between July and September in the Parliament building, during which a 1:6 model of the proposed bus will be unveiled.

**What do you make of the designs? Let us know in the comments below**

### **WATCH NEXT: Transport Minister Looks Forward To Considering 'Phenomenal' Designs For A New Electric Fleet**

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WRITTEN BY

**Tim Diacono**

Tim Diacono tends to clam up when asked to describe himself. You can contact him on [timdiacono@lovinmalta.com](mailto:timdiacono@lovinmalta.com)



## CORRIERE di MALTA

# Autobus elettrici per Malta? Sì, ma tradizionali

CM di Redazione — 2 Aprile 2019 in Strade, Vita a Malta

2



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Il noto studio di architettura e design londinese e maltese, Mizzi Studio, ha lanciato un progetto innovativo per una nuova flotta di autobus elettrici pensati appositamente per Malta.

**I** nuovi veicoli, se entrassero in circolazione, potrebbero portare il Paese a fare da apripista nell'UE sulla strada del **trasporto pubblico a emissioni zero**.

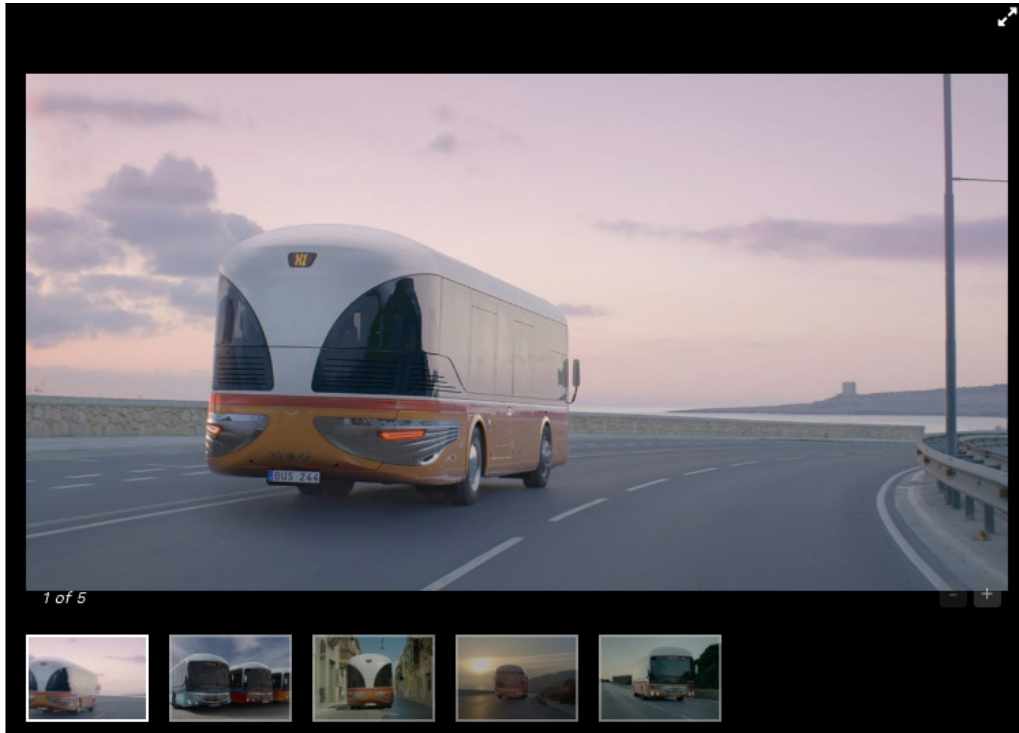
Come riportato dal quotidiano [The Malta Independent](#), lo studio spera di riaccendere un senso di orgoglio nazionale attraverso una rivisitazione contemporanea ed eco-compatibile dei vecchi bus maltesi diventati un **simbolo nazionale** in tutto il mondo, e che sono stati dismessi nel 2011.

I nuovi progetti saranno esposti al pubblico in una mostra chiamata *Malta Bus Reborn*, allestita presso il palazzo del Parlamento, a Valletta, tra i mesi di luglio e settembre del 2019.

Nel 2011, gli autobus tradizionali e colorati di proprietà pubblica erano stati ritirati perché non rispettavano più gli **standard europei per le emissioni di carbonio**. Rimangono tuttavia ancora oggi uno dei simboli più riconoscibili del Paese. Molti di questi mezzi provenivano dal Regno Unito e in gran parte erano classificati come veicoli storici, essendo stati realizzati tra gli anni '50 e '60.

Mizzi Studio punta ora a migliorare l'efficienza ambientale dei mezzi pubblici grazie ai **motori elettrici** e ad avvalersi del design per **restituire un carattere simbolo** andato perduto nell'ultimo decennio, fatto anche di immagini personalizzate, riferimenti culturali e religiosi.

Il progetto include anche sistemi di **aria condizionata** all'avanguardia, aperture centrali per facilitare l'ingresso e l'uscita dei passeggeri, e apposite rampe per agevolare l'**entrata dei disabili**.



NEW & NOW

## WATCH: Could traditional Maltese buses be making a comeback on Malta's roads?

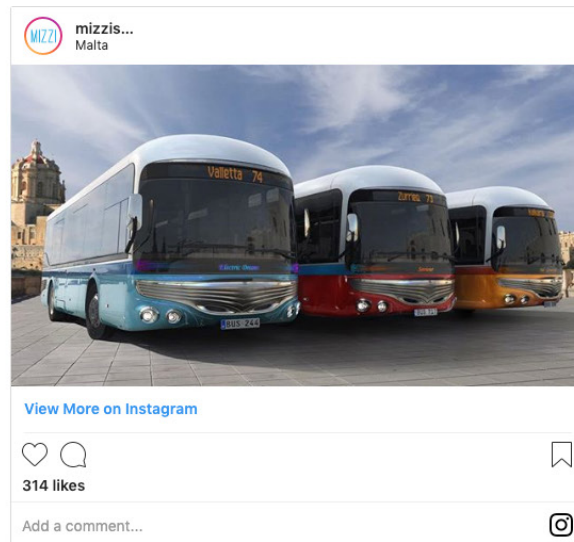
*An incredible twist to an icon.*

by Jillian Mallia 2nd April 2019

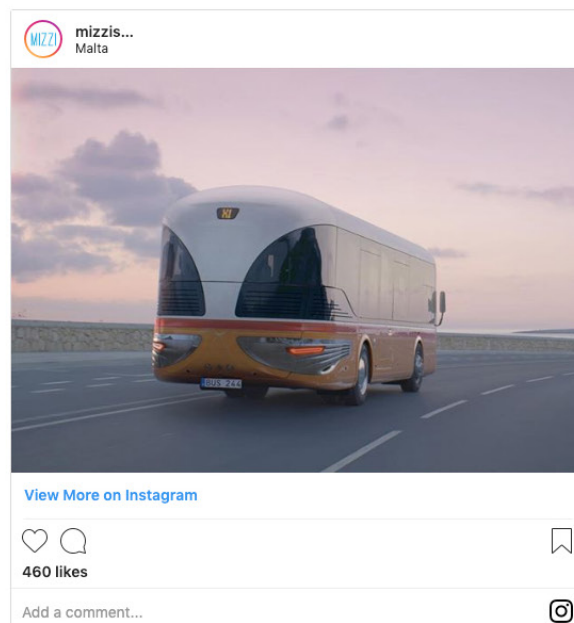
SHARE    

Malta's colourful old buses remain one of the most iconic symbols of the Maltese Islands. But sadly (or should I say happily), long gone are the days of those sweaty bus rides on rumbling vehicles. It was a bittersweet moment when it was announced that our colourful buses were to retire, to make way for a new fleet of sleek, sea green buses.

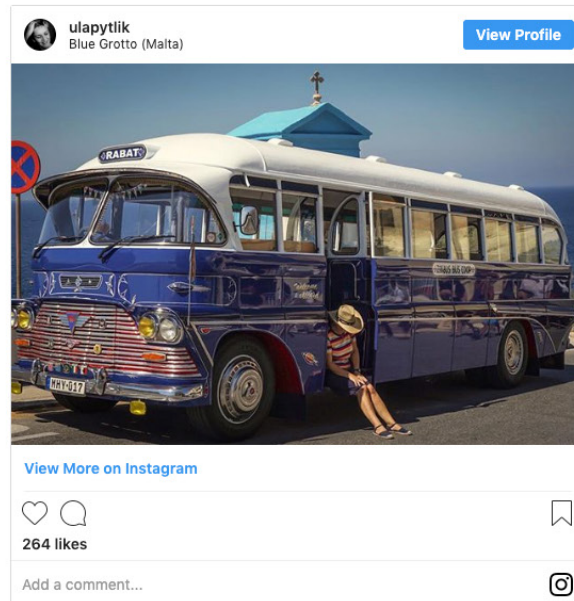
But what if we could have our piece of heritage back, but with all the benefits of technological advancements since then? Imagine a traditional Maltese bus that's electric, air conditioned and comfortable. Intrigued? Us too!



London-based Mizzi Studio, the same firm behind the [designer kiosks in Green Park](#) that locals loved, have come up with a brilliant idea. In July, the parliament building will host an exhibition by these designers featuring scale models of futuristic-looking yet traditionally inspired Maltese buses - a concept which has taken them seven years to develop.

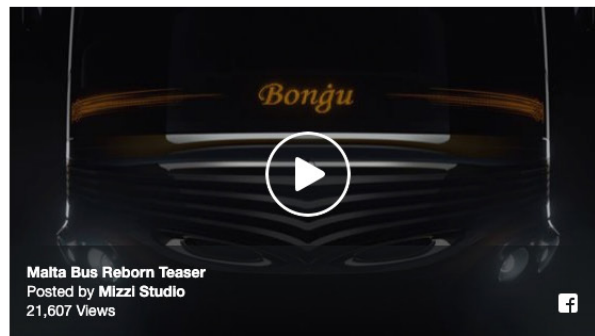


The buses blend several characteristic features of the old buses, such as chrome bumpers and hand-painted lettering, with modern-day features like LED lighting, electric motors and air conditioning, because we all know what it's like to travel on the island during the summer months. #SweatyBetty



Mizzi Studio's Jonathan Mizzi said, "losing Malta's buses was a devastating blow to Malta's identity," so much so that he wanted to create something that represented the past. Malta Public Transport's general manager Konrad Pule' has said that they were "delighted" to support the project, and Transport Malta even described the initiative as "fully aligned with the objectives and general direction of the electro-mobility programme."

The exhibition, titled Malta Bus Reborn, will be open between July and September. [Watch the teaser here:](#)



*What do you think of the designs? Wouldn't it be cool to see these buses back on the road again?*

SHARE



Written by  
**Jillian Mallia**

A book lover, writer and globetrotter who loves exploring new places and the local gems that the Maltese Islands have to offer. An avid foodie and arts fanatic, Jillian searches the island and beyond for the perfect settings to write about.

## News

# Malta's iconic buses reborn as an electric fleet designed by Mizzi Studio

- Mizzi Studio reveals innovative designs for a new electric fleet of Maltese buses
- The design incorporates key characteristics from the iconic, traditional buses
- The new buses will provide an eco-friendly solution to public transport on the island
- The new bus design, along with a 1:6 scale model, will be showcased during a free public exhibition
- Arts Council Malta and Heritage Malta have all expressed their support.

Award-winning London and Malta-based architecture and design practice Mizzi Studio, has revealed innovative designs for a new electric fleet of buses for Malta, which could enable the country to lead the EU in the charge towards zero-emission public transport. The studio hopes to ignite a renewed sense of national pride through a contemporary, eco-friendly reimagining of the iconic Maltese buses that were decommissioned in 2011. The new designs will be showcased as part of a public exhibition at the parliament building in Valletta in July 2019.

In 2011, Malta's traditional, colourful, driver-owned buses were retired as they no longer met EU standards for carbon emissions. Even so, these buses remain one of the country's most recognisable symbols. Many of the buses originated in the UK, with some dating as far back as the 1950s and classified as antique. Some of them were replaced by London's 'bendy buses', which were brought to the island by Arriva - but proved unsuitable for Malta's road infrastructure and were eventually replaced.

With its new designs, Mizzi Studio aims to improve the environmental efficiency of Malta's current diesel fleet while simultaneously bringing back the lost character that made the traditional buses so iconic. The fact that each vehicle was lovingly customised with painted images of cultural and religious references made each bus as distinctive as the personality of its driver.

The studio has identified the strongest common characteristics of the traditional fleet and transposed them onto a modern chassis, including an oversized chrome grill, round hooded headlights and a visor overhanging the windscreen. The chrome bumper of Mizzi Studio's bus adopts the form of the angel wing imagery often seen on traditional buses to symbolise victory and flight, while at the rear, a dual set



of chrome wings provides cooling for the motor. These rear wings, in combination with the curving rear glass, form the negative space around an abstract Maltese cross, reinforcing a sense of national pride. Badges of a Maltese cross, along with horse-shoe badges that were traditionally fixed to the buses to ward off evil spirits, can also be found on the new design.

Over the years, the traditional buses' livery was transformed by local body shops, from a routed multi-coloured system to a uniform fleet painted in green and then yellow with an orange stripe in Malta and grey coloured with a red horizontal stripe in Gozo. Mizzi Studio has opted to revert to the multi-coloured system due to the nostalgic value that this holds. One of the most captivating details of the traditional buses was the hand-painted line patterns and lettering (*Iberfil*), which has been reimagined by the studio in digital form so that the drivers are able to customise each bus with text and imagery using LED technology, paying homage to the craftsmanship and pride associated with the traditional buses.

Mizzi Studio's proposal is for a fully electric, emission-free fleet that is in line with the EU's long-term strategy for a climate-neutral future. The new fleet would also have a full vision panel at the front, state-of-the-art air-conditioning and cooling systems, middle doors for efficient boarding and disembarking and low floors and ramps for disabled ac-

cess. The studio hopes that these features, in combination with the considered design that gives a nod to its predecessors, will make public transport a more appealing option and help to relieve traffic and associated pollution on the island.

Director Jonathan Mizzi, said: "I fell in love with our colourful Art Deco buses as a child. They were so friendly, almost like Pixar Cars characters with their anthropomorphic features like their cute hooded headlamp eyes, split windscreens that gave them a puppy-dog eyes expression and large smiling chrome bumpers. To lose them was a devastating blow to Malta's identity as they truly were one of our country's greatest icons. Since 2012, my studio has been developing a state-of-the-art, eco-friendly bus that pays homage to its heritage and aims to fill the large cultural gap that was left behind. I hope it will enable us as a nation to move forward whilst staying true to ourselves and have a national bus fleet that makes us proud to be Maltese."

A free public exhibition, *Malta Bus Reborn*, will be held between July and September 2019 at the parliament building in Valletta. The exhibition will detail the steps in Mizzi Studio's design process, including the research and development over a seven-year period that has informed the vehicle's technical and aesthetic features. Highlights of the exhibition will include the unveiling of a 1:6 scale model of the proposed

bus, hand-built by expert model-makers 2D3D, and a five-minute film produced by Stargate Studios, picturing the new bus on routes through some of the islands' most picturesque locations.

Konrad Pulé, general manager at Malta Public Transport said: "Malta Public Transport is delighted to support Jonathan Mizzi and his team in their vision of creating Malta's future electric bus. We believe that the iconic traditional design combined with modern technology can be part of the solution to take mobility to the next level in Malta."

Transport and Infrastructure Minister Ian Borg said: "Mizzi Studio's proposal definitely brings about nostalgic memories of the traditional iconic Malta bus. We do currently have a fleet of buses which will eventually need to be changed and this idea is something to think about. Thinking of having a public transport system which is composed of an electric fleet of buses is obviously a perfect world. So when the time arrives for the country to change its fleet, considering such a fantastic design with the added benefit of being electric is something to look at. We look forward to studying the idea further together with this talented team of designers."

Transport Malta (TM) said it "is very pleased to see such effort from a renowned international architecture and design firm of the likes of Mizzi Studio. This work is fully aligned with the objectives and general direction of the electro mobility programme

and ideas put forward therein. This is definitely an ambitious endeavor utilizing smart and sustainable technology that, if fulfilled, will contribute towards Malta's meeting its European and International environmental obligations, improving air quality as well as making Malta a cleaner, healthier place live-in. TM fully supports such an initiative."

Justin Vella, Heritage Malta's curator for Industrial Heritage said: "Heritage Malta is committed to safeguard and promote Malta's tangible and intangible cultural heritage. We welcome Mizzi Studio's innovative concept of re-awakening the nostalgic and historic value of the Malta bus which remains a salient and colourful note in Malta's industrial heritage and identity. We are delighted to be able to contribute to an initiative that helps us appreciate our transport and social history, giving it a platform from which to continue growing."

A spokesperson from Arts Council Malta said: "It is ACM's pleasure to support designer, Jonathan Mizzi through the Malta Arts Fund's Project Support Grant; his vision is not only highly functional, but also demonstrates a deep understanding of Malta's traditional bus fleet whilst simultaneously paying tribute to its artistic value. Arts Council Malta embraces Mr. Mizzi's artistic concept and supports him and his team in the field of automotive design."

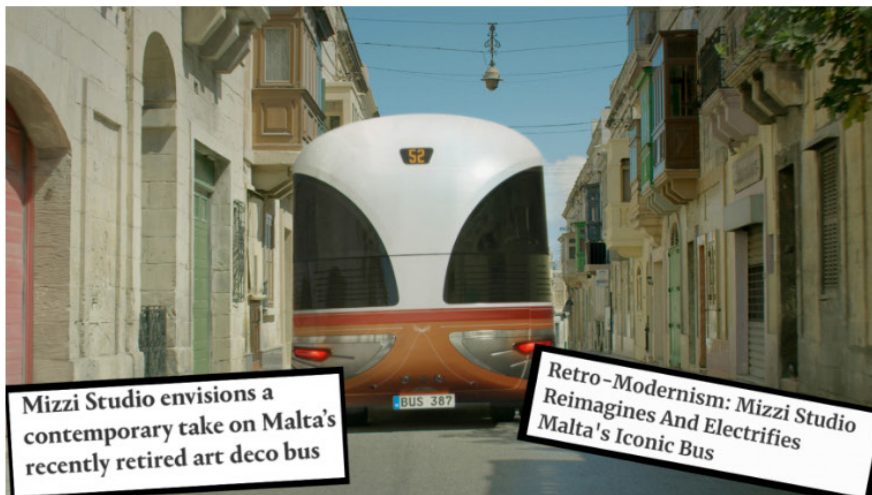
Visualisation by Stargate Studios on behalf of Mizzi Studio

News | Local

## Looks Like Malta Absolutely Loves The Retro-Modern Design For An Electric Bus Fleet

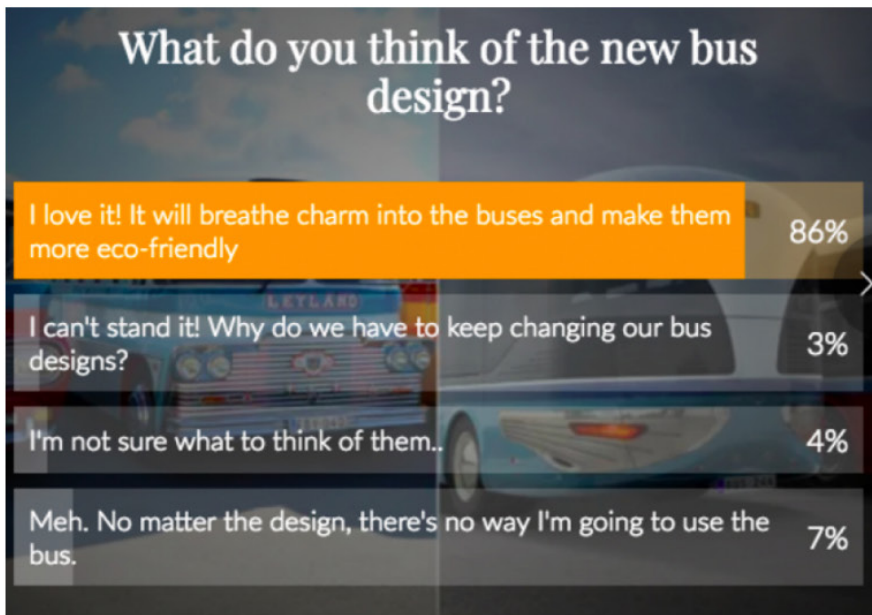
Online poll finds 86% of people in favour of innovative design for Maltese buses

Tim Diacono



An innovative design for Malta's buses which blends futurism and nostalgia appears to be going down extremely well with the public.

In an online straw poll conducted by Lovin Malta among 328 people, 86% of respondents said they loved Mizzi Studio's design, while only 3% said they can't stand it and 4% said they were unsure.



Meanwhile, 7% said it was completely irrelevant to them as they wouldn't use the bus no matter the design.

**Mizzi Studio recently launched plans to bring back the multi-coloured and idiosyncratic designs of past buses, but this time in an electric and emission-free fleet.**

Their plans have already been [endorsed](#) by the Transport Minister, Malta Public Transport and Transport Malta, and have received international attention - with the likes of [Forbes](#), [Wallpaper](#) and [Designboom](#) writing about it.

## These are some of the main features of the proposed buses



- They will be multi-coloured, just as they were several decades ago when the colour of the bus represented a particular destination.
- They will be electric and emission-free, in line with EU and Maltese government plans to shift towards less polluting vehicles in the near future.
- The traditional hand-painting line patterns and lettering (*tberfil*) that had characterised the old buses will return, but this time through LED technology that will allow drivers to customise their own vehicles.
- They will be equipped with state-of-the-art air-conditioning and cooling systems, the lack of which was a major shortcoming of the old buses.
- They will be adorned with traditional symbols, such as angel wings to symbolise victory and flight, an abstract Maltese cross to symbolise national pride and horseshoe badges to ward off evil spirits.
- They will be fully accessible, with middle doors to avoid long queues and low floors and ramps to ensure full accessibility for people in wheelchairs.

What do you make of these designs?

## READ NEXT: POLL: What Do You Think Of The Futuristically Nostalgic Look For Malta's Buses?



WRITTEN BY

**Tim Diacono**

Tim Diacono tends to clam up when asked to describe himself. You can contact him on [timdiacono@lovinmalta.com](mailto:timdiacono@lovinmalta.com)

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## Don't want Maltese culture to die out? It's up to us

It is true that certain traditions may have taken on a more slick appearance and have lost some of their raw, quaint charms, but to say that they are dying out would not be correct either



**Josanne Cassar**  
4 April 2019, 9:31am



I often hear and read alarmist talk about how our Maltese culture and national identity are at risk of being lost. The recent high turnout for St Patrick's Day, for example, seemed to bring out all the usual pessimists wailing and wringing their hands, claiming that we are "no longer Maltese".

But even as I read these melodramatic comments, I wondered to myself whether this is really true. Take the religious, traditional aspects of our cultural identity. From our village feasts and patron saints to the symbolic liturgic rituals which mark Christmas and Easter, and even the crowds flocking in devout procession to follow the statue of the Redentur ta' L-Isla, I do not see any signs of them being obliterated. Have they become overly commercialised? Yes, definitely.

Are our feasts more like raucous, boozy street parties rather than solemn affairs? Sure they are (but, then again, they have always been like that). However, if you steer away from the commercialisation and zero in on the traditions which are intrinsically Maltese, they are still there. The enthusiasm for the annual Festa sees no signs of slowing down, nor has the rivalry between supporters of different saints in the same village, or the fierce competition to see who has the best fireworks - no matter how silly and pagan it may all seem, it is still there, in full force with a new generation of young people lending a hand as volunteers every year just like their parents did before them.

It is true that certain traditions may have taken on a more slick appearance and have lost some of their raw, quaint charms, but to say that they are dying out would not be correct either.

Carnival, for example, which often used to be mocked because it all looked so amateur and naff, has been taken to another level with the no-expenses-spared intricacies of some of the costumes. The Nadur Carnival, renowned for its more subversive, dark side, has continued to grow each year in popularity.

Despite what seems like an onslaught of fast food and the McDonaldisation of Malta, nowhere is the staunch presence of our culture more keenly felt than in our culinary traditions. On the feast of St Joseph people were asking where they could buy the best Zeppoli. As Easter approaches, there will be the high demands for our unique figolli. In November the L-Ghadam tal-Mejtin are still popular, while Christmas brings with it an abundance of sweets and home-made pastries such as Qaghaq tal-ghasel, bread pudding, fruit cake and the Christmas log.



It's not just the seasonal food, however. All those of us who have relatives who live abroad know that the absolute best kind of gifts to take them are packets of Twistees and bottles of Kinnie. There is something about receiving typical food from home which cannot be rivalled and which stirs up a mixture of nostalgia and yearning homesickness for the country they left behind. Who knew that a cheesy, savoury snack and a bittersweet soft drink could evoke such longing? But there you have it: our tastebuds do not lie which is why the cuisine of one's native land is inextricably linked to the memories stored in our brain of where we grew up, acting as a powerful magnet which draws us back to our roots and flashbacks to our childhood. It is no wonder that Twistees recently won a Facebook poll and named Malta's favourite snack. Speaking of perennial favourites, is there anyone who can really say that the delicious temptation of pastizzi is on its way out?

As if to further cement the importance of food to culture, we have just learned that the inimitable Maltese ftira is being considered as an intangible UNESCO cultural heritage. I found this news fascinating because, let's face it, who knew that our humble hobż biż-żejt as we so fondly call it, could reach such heights? I was not the only one who was enthralled - the news was shared on FB thousands of times, in a rare demonstration of national unity with everyone agreeing that there is nothing quite like this scrumptious 'sandwich' (if I can dare refer to it in such mundane terms). I challenge anyone to eat a properly-prepared ftira and not be immediately transported back in time to sun-drenched days by the beach, with the taste and smell of tangy salt water bringing back vivid, happy memories.

And while there are areas which are in danger of anonymous, bland, gentrification, I still see other indications that Maltese culture is not only alive and kicking, but is heading towards a resurgence. I have seen young adults buying old houses and carefully and lovingly renovating them, complete with typical Maltese tiles, restored furniture and a retro design which pays homage to the past. Some new developments, such as one recently spotted in Santa Venera, have resurrected the style of a Maltese townhouse. And although we have gone overboard with boutique hotels, there is no doubt that they are being finished to a high standard which respects the original features of the buildings. Similarly, old houses in the village core are being transformed into quaint cafes, replete with vintage touches. A recent proposal by designer Jonathan Mizzi is suggesting bringing back the unique designs of the old Maltese buses while changing them to electric.

I know many may not agree, but our language is also thriving. I see shops and cafes, using Maltese names and (thank you) the correct orthography such as Stanjata and Il-Kikkra. A company which creates high-quality prints of objects synonymous with Malta is aptly named Te fit-Tazza. New groups such as The Travellers and Sterjotipi have emerged who sing contemporary, original songs in Maltese. Tikka Banda is a band which brings the flavour of a Maltese festa band to different events. Even seeing brand names like Hanini being used for dairy products makes me happy. As do protest picket signs written in colloquial Maltese, driving the point home often much better than an expression in English ever could. These may seem like trivial things when all around us we see the Maltese language being butchered (especially on Facebook), but at least we are not still sneering at our own language as was, unfortunately, the case for many years.

So while it should be in the remit of the authorities to save old houses, respect our heritage and preserve our culture, on an individual basis, I do see some beacons of hope.

Ultimately it is down to us really, to keep promoting and passing on what makes us 'Maltese'. Our culture will only die out if we let it.

TVAM



**TVAM** **TAL-LINJA ĠODDA**  
KUMPAĊIJA INTERNAZZJONALI MALTJA TIPPRONI MILL-ĠDID TAL-LINJA L-ANTIKA  
07:58 PAOLA, PAUL BOFFA LEJN IT-TRAMUNTANA: TRAFFIKU MAFIF

TVAM huwa niċċa għall-gurnalizmu intuwittiv u li jgħiegħlek taħseb. Ta' kuljum, dal-breakfast show se jaġġornak b'aħbarijiet ġodda, jaġġtik pariri dwar l-istil ta' ħajja, u jaġġti ħarsa ħafifa lejn il-media soċjali u l-avvenimenti ta' divertiment, mit-Tnejn sal-Ġimgħa mis-07:00 sad-09:00.

Dal-istaġun, TVAM se jingħata dehra ġdida, imżewwaq b'kontenut iktar interattiv u iktar attraenti, b'kollegamenti diretti, u ħa jservi ta' pjattaforma ta' komunikazzjoni integrata biex tintlaħaq firxa usa' t'udjenzi. Il-programm se jkun qed jieħu ħsiebu Quinton Scerri, flimkien ma' ġurnalisti u preżentaturi oħrajn.

Episode #135

☆ Żid mal-favoriti

Il-programmi favoriti tiegħi



Ixxandar: 5 t'April 2019  
Numru ta' jiem li fadallu fis-sit:  
23 ġurnata  
🕒 120 minuta



NEW & NOW

## WATCH: The Malta bus reborn! Amazing new video clip shows futuristic buses on the road

*The full video will be shown during an exhibition in July.*

by Sarah Micallef 6th April 2019

SHARE    

Earlier this week, we shared London-based Mizzi Studio's [contemporary take on Malta's traditional old buses](#), and now, we've been given a sneak peek into how these babies could look on the road!



This previously unreleased video clip of the #maltabusreborn project comes courtesy of Stargate Studios Malta, and reveals a glimpse of a longer video that is currently being developed and will be released during the exhibition in July.

The exhibition, which will feature scale models of the futuristic-looking yet traditionally inspired Maltese buses, will be open between July and September, and Malta's parliament building will play host.

*Will you be checking it out?*

SHARE    



Written by

**Sarah Micallef**

A keen traveller with an interest in most things, Sarah loves her island home as much as she loves getting away from it, and enjoys discovering and re-discovering the gems, hidden corners and unique stories of her native Malta and Gozo.



Lifestyle | Technology | Video

## WATCH: It Lives! Malta's Electric Bus Concept Takes To The Coast Road In New Majestic Video

If you thought this week's designs looked good, wait until you see them in motion

David Grech Urpani

If you, like practically all of the Maltese Islands, fell in love with the [retro-modern redesign of our buses](#), then you absolutely need to watch this.

After renders of the proposed electric bus fleet tore through social media and gained international traction, we now have something even better to stare at and fantasise over; a video of what the buses would look like driving down our roads.

A short clip courtesy of local VFX wizards [Stargate Studios](#) sees one of the yellow buses cruise down the Coast Road, looking majestic AF. And while it may only be 10 seconds long, it sure has us wishing we could get these beautiful buses already!



The glorious revision of Malta's buses is thanks to Mizzi Studio, a London-based Maltese design studio with an impressive portfolios and flawless designs and big awards.

Their plans have already been [endorsed](#) by the Transport Minister, Malta Public Transport and Transport Malta, and have received international attention - with the likes of [Forbes](#), [Wallpaper](#) and [Designboom](#) writing about it.

Share this post if you'd love to see this video become a reality!

## READ NEXT: [Looks Like Malta Absolutely Loves The Retro-Modern Design For An Electric Bus Fleet](#)



WRITTEN BY

**David Grech Urpani**

Sarcastically ironic, Dave is a recovering hipster musician with a penchant for chicken, women's clothes and Kanye.

Home > News > Local > Watch: Malta's iconic buses reborn as an electric fleet

News Local

## Watch: Malta's iconic buses reborn as an electric fleet

By **Coryse Borg** | 06/04/2019, 8:10 am | 1 minute read | A+ A-



Award-winning London and Malta-based architecture and design practice Mizzi Studio, has revealed innovative designs for a new electric fleet of buses for Malta, that could enable the island to lead the EU in the charge towards zero-emission public transport.



The studio hopes to ignite a renewed sense of national pride through a contemporary, eco-friendly reimagining of the iconic Maltese buses that were decommissioned in 2011.

The new designs will be showcased in a free public exhibition at the Parliament building in Valletta to be held between July and September 2019.

*Visualisations and video by Stargate Studios on behalf of Mizzi Studio.*



# THE BIG DRIVE HOME

**WITH TRUDY KERR, WEEKDAYS FROM 16:00 – 19:00**

Trudy makes it her mission every evening to see listeners home as quickly and safely as possible and hopefully with a smile on their face.

Trudy is a familiar face on local television and a known voice on Maltese radio - making the transition to XFM 100.2 in 2016 and bringing her own unique style to the show.

The Big Drive Home combines great music with news, exciting and interesting interviews, informative weather reports and of course, essential traffic information - all brought together by Trudy's notably energetic style... and signature laugh.

Engaging with the audience is Trudy's number one priority, and she fulfills that with flair.

## OPINION & LETTERS



Traditional Maltese buses... and an electric revisionalised by the author. PHOTOS: MIZZI STUDIO, MALTA BUS REBORN. Visualisation by Stargate Studios on behalf of Mizzi Studio.

# Fusing tradition with technology

### A clean route for public transport in Malta



JONATHAN MIZZI

**T**ransport is a hot topic of conversation in Malta, now more than ever. There's much debate surrounding the planned Malta-Gozo tunnel and the possibility of introducing a metro system.

One thing that we can all agree on is that our transport infrastructure is essential to safeguarding our economic progress and enabling us to become a global player.

Transport also has a significant environmental impact, and in turn a huge effect on our quality of life. Any investment into permanent links between our major islands should be to the benefit of us all.

Our buses have been the lifeblood in the veins of our country's transport infrastructure for over a century, and in recent years Malta Public Transport have made huge improvements to the service. But what we have lost since the demise of the traditional buses in 2011 – which we experienced as a devastating blow to our cultural identity – is that sense of pride that was felt by the drivers and instilled within all of us, a pride in being Maltese. The buses were not only beautiful, bold and dynamic, but one of Malta's most recognisable icons and loved by tourists.

They were so full of character, almost like Pixar Cars characters with their cute hooded head lamp eyes, split windscreens set below a rounded visor that gave them an endearing puppy-dog eyes expression and large smiling chrome bumpers. They were uplifting to behold, adorned with cultural and religious emblems like angel wings symbolising victory and flight.

The loving customisation by their driver-owners, including the heartfelt decorative flourishes of tberfil, is also what made them so captivating. I feel strongly



that we need to keep these vibrant symbols of our industrial and cultural heritage alive for future generations, similar to the way in which London has celebrated and reimagined its iconic Routemaster.

However, it's no secret that the old buses were terrible pollutants, contributing to a poisonous problem in Malta that we do need to tackle urgently. Air pollution is linked to asthma, heart disease and lung cancer and it also affects the built heritage and animal and plant health.

If we are to hit our emissions targets and clean up our air, we must make people love the buses again and get them on board with making better use of them.

“  
Why not transpose the beloved characteristics of the old buses onto a state-of-the-art fleet that is fit for the roads?”

This will help to curb the number of vehicles on the roads, which would not only help reduce pollution but also free up space for the bus service to run more smoothly.

I see marrying the charm of the traditional buses with the environmental benefits of the latest technologies as the ideal solution. Why not transpose the beloved characteristics of the old buses on to a state-of-the-art fleet that is fit for the roads?

Electric buses are an increasingly common sight in European cities. London has already stopped acquiring diesel buses and made the commitment that all single deckers will be zero-emission by 2020. This is not a futuristic technology. We can have it now.

In fact, we have to. New EU laws mean that at least a quarter of new buses purchased by public authorities in cities across Europe will have to be 'clean' by 2025, at least half of which should be zero-emission. The government has made a positive start by announcing a pilot project in Gozo, where eight electric buses are expected to be implemented in 2020.

The cost gap between electric buses and their diesel counterparts is narrowing and there are also generous subsidies available. For example, the EU Cohesion Fund recently allocated €41 million to the purchase of 130 electric buses for Warsaw.

Once the infrastructure is in place, it is cheaper to power buses with electricity than diesel and electricity prices are generally much more stable.

Excellent progress has already been made in revamping Malta's road network and the country is perfectly suited to an electric upgrade with its potential for solar charging and short distances, which means range anxiety is not an issue. It would be possible to start to implement an electric bus fleet within three to five years and we could do it sustainably by gradually introducing electric models on to our historic tourist routes in tandem with our existing fleet.

Buses are, of course, not the only answer. We do need a multi-modal system incorporating a metro or light rail. But this will take time – we've heard that Malta's metro could take a quarter of a century to be realised.

Technology is ever-evolving and we must strive to get ahead of the curve. Buses will always complement other methods within a wider framework and the bus network can be evolved, for example, by introducing a bus rapid transport system on to the proposed dedicated bus lanes of our much-needed Central Link project.

Electric bicycles and shared electric cars would also complement electric buses as part of a holistic system, along with smaller electric shuttles for our narrow urban lanes in our characteristic villages.

In transforming transport in Malta, we need to be ambitious but play to our strengths. Let us build on the foundations of one of our greatest cultural icons, the Maltese bus, and transport it into the future by reimagining it as an electric vehicle.

Let us have a fleet that makes us proud to be Maltese and is the envy of other cities around the world. Let's add some colour and joy back on to our roads and let us lead the charge in Europe towards an emission-free future.

Jonathan Mizzi is the director of Mizzi Studio, an award-winning architecture, interior and industrial design studio with studios in London and Valletta.





INTERNATIONAL MEDIA

LIFESTYLE | BY JONATHAN BELL

## Mizzi Studio envisions a contemporary take on Malta's recently retired art deco bus

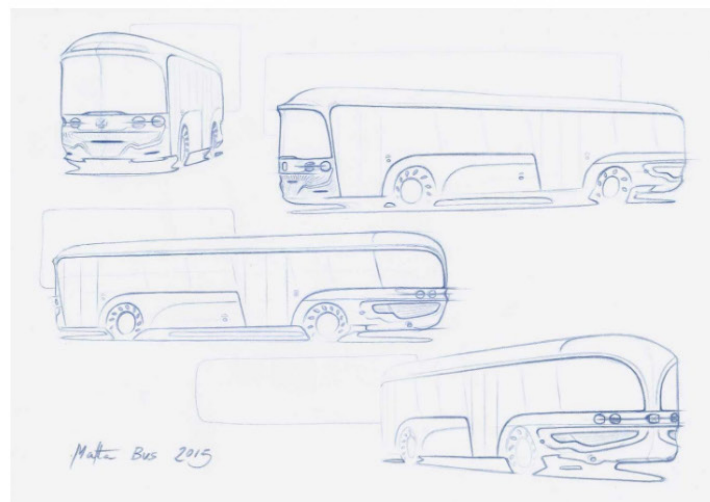
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Traditional Maltese bus. Courtesy of Koptaco

The battle between modernisation and regional character claimed another victim back in 2011, when Malta's famous fleet of art deco buses was retired due to their age. Usually operated by owner-drivers, the eccentrically varied Maltese bus fleet was considered a unique characteristic of the Mediterranean island, with many painted in bold colours and bright murals. Now a London- and Malta-based design studio has suggested a contemporary alternative, one that combines zero emissions technology with all the visual charm of the originals.

The island had been doubly cursed by the arrival of emissions legislation – not only did it lose many of its distinctive visual buses, but it ended up as the final destination for London's cast-off 'bendy buses'. To add insult to injury, the latter were found to be largely unsuited for its network of winding roads. Mizzi Studio hopes to put all that behind it. The new buses are boldly styled and unapologetically art deco in influence.



Malta Bus sketches, by Mizzi Studio, 2015

Jonathan Mizzi and his team have dived into the eclectic history of the island's bus services and come up with a be-chromed machine that is decorative, playful but completely contemporary, with a zero-emission, all-electric powertrain and sleek, aerodynamic stylings.

Mizzi believes that customisation and individuality were a key part of the original fleet. 'I fell in love with our colourful Art Deco buses as a child,' he explains, 'they were so friendly and to lose them was a devastating blow to Malta's identity as they truly were one of our country's greatest icons.' His team has been working on a replacement since 2012, working in decorative elements that reflect the personalisation of the original fleet. 'This is a state-of-the-art, eco-friendly bus that pays homage to its heritage and aims to fill the large cultural gap that was left behind,' he continues.



Visualisation of the new Malta bus design, by Mizzi Studio

There's abstract imagery in the new buses as well, from the angelic sweep of the 'wings' on the front chrome grille to the abstracted Maltese cross formed from the negative space between the curved rear windows. Colours are deliberately bold and the studio has even suggested an LED strip beneath the front screen that allows each driver to name their bus, just as they did in the past.

Aesthetics aside, the new buses would set the island on a path to climate-neutrality, improve the take-up of public transport and help reduce pollution across the island. The designs will go on show at the parliament building in Valletta in July 2019, alongside a model bus and CGI film, where Mizzi hopes to drum up further support for this very personal project with island-wide implications. ✨

#### INFORMATION

For more information, visit the Mizzi Studio [website](#)

TRANSPORT

SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

1,367 views | Apr 2, 2019, 08:00am

## Retro-Modernism: Mizzi Studio Reimagines And Electrifies Malta's Iconic Bus



**Nargess Banks** Contributor

Cars & Bikes

*I cover cars and design — and where they intersect*



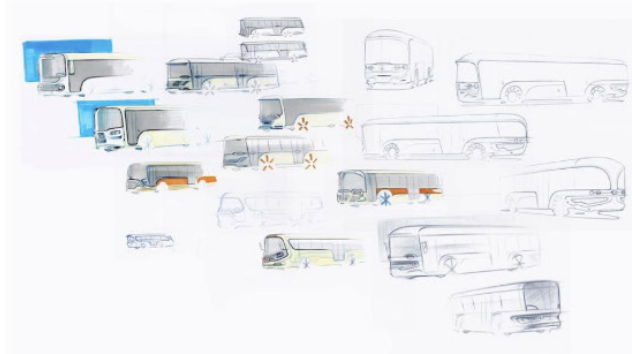
Mizzi Studio resurrects the much-loved cultural icon of Malta, the traditional bus STARGATE STUDIOS FOR MIZZI STUDIO

The traditional Maltese bus was hugely popular with locals and tourists. Dating back to the 1950s, they were owned by locals who customized their vehicles, adding their own flavor – flamboyant ornamentation, giant lights, writing and religious references. It is hardly surprising then that it caused a huge uproar when the characterful fleet was forced to retire in 2011 for no longer meeting European Union standards for carbon emissions. They were briefly replaced by London’s “bendy buses” which proved to be hazardous on the island’s picturesque, winding roads. Now [Mizzi Studio](#) is bringing love and life back to the traditional Maltese bus. Supported by the government, the London and Valletta-based architecture and design practice is planning a return of the buses as an all-electric fleet.



The traditional bespoke Maltese bus will return as an all-electric fleet STARGATE STUDIOS FOR MIZZI STUDIO

“They made a huge impression on me growing up,” Jonathan Mizzi replies when asked why he decided to re-invent the Maltese bus. “As a child, I fell in love with them for their dynamic design and friendly, almost cartoonish appearance, with their cute hooded eyes and big smiling chrome bumpers.” He appreciates their value as one of Malta’s most vibrant cultural symbols. “You see them everywhere from postage stamps to souvenir shops. To lose them from the roads was a devastating blow to our national identity.” Working in London, Mizzi was impressed by the city’s investment in its heritage through projects such as the Heatherwick Studio’s re-imagined Routemaster bus. “It really motivated me to design a new bus for Malta that could similarly bring about a renewed sense of pride.”



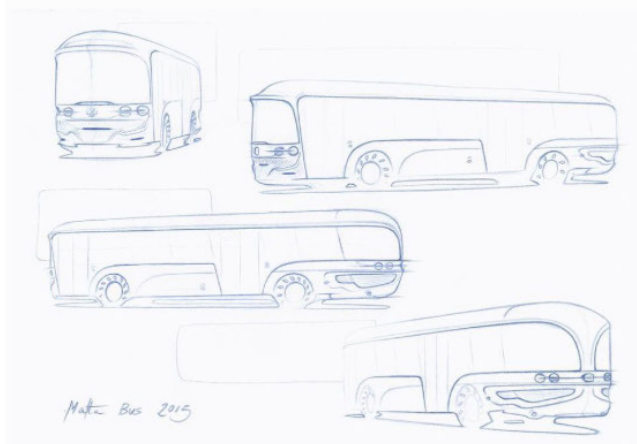
The studio looked for common characteristics to be interpreted in the new buses MIZZI STUDIO

The classic buses were driver-owned who customized their vehicle. Mizzi set his multidisciplinary team the challenge to define the strongest common features, including the oversized chrome grill, round hooded headlights and a visor overhanging the windscreen. He says the hooded visor, set upon a split windscreen, gave the buses “puppy-dog-like framed eyes” and the smiling chrome grill, adorned with angel wing references “symbolizes flight and victory”. Mizzi has re-imagined these classic features. For instance, the chrome bumper of the new bus adopts the form of the angel wing imagery. At the rear, a dual set of chrome wings provide cooling for the motor. In combination with the curving rear glass, they also form the negative space around an abstract Maltese cross. Badges of a Maltese cross and horseshoe, traditionally fixed to the buses to ward off evil spirits, also feature on the new design.



The traditional buses were painted according to route, a concept which Mizzi will return KOPTACO

Over the years, the route-led multi-colored system was made into a uniform fleet painted yellow with an orange stripe in Malta, whilst grey with a red stripe on the tiny island of Gozo. Mizzi is using the former coloring code. One of the most captivating details of the traditional buses was the hand-painted line patterns and lettering, *tberfil*, used to articulate features and emblazon the buses with slogans. This has been reimagined by the studio in digital form so that the drivers can customize each bus with text and imagery using LED technology. “This gives the drivers the freedom to make their bus their own again,” says Mizzi. “They can make it the ‘Saviour’ bus, the ‘Elvis Presley’ bus or the ‘Ave Maria’ bus again! They can also incorporate the traditional symbols and line patterns. We hope that they will feel the spirit of the old and the sense of pride that they had in the old buses.”



Early sketches reveal the design direction MIZZI STUDIO

Mizzi feels that there is an intimate relationship between the form of the bus and its decorative flourishes. “I like to think of the *tberfil* as the mascara that further articulates the bus’s features. This is one aspect where the studio has married our industrial design and graphic design skill-sets, harnessing our background in interactive design to breathe new life into a traditional craft.”



A vintage orange British Bedford bus on street of Valletta JACK MALIPAN TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

The aim is for a fully electric, emission-free fleet that is in line with the EU's long-term strategy for a climate-neutral future. So, the studio's next challenge was to transpose the design elements onto a modern-day chassis. "We incorporated various features to improve safety and comfort too, such as a full vision panel at the front, state-of-the-art air-conditioning systems and low floors and ramps for disabled access. We had to appropriately map the old features onto this new body in a way that makes functional sense, but at the same time retains the familiarity of the old."



The Maltese bus for the 21-century will be a clean-emission electric fleet STARGATE STUDIOS FOR MIZZI STUDIO

Mizzi tells me he is very excited by electric vehicles. "It is fantastic that we are embracing this new technology," he says, "that we have the opportunity to design a bus for the future with zero emissions." Malta's relative small size means the fleet can operate from a central depot. The island also has the potential to harness solar power in the future. "It is the government's ambition for Malta to be the first European state to completely switch to electric vehicles. We hope that our new designs for an electric bus fleet will drum up public support and help to drive the nation towards this goal."

The buses will be on exhibit at the parliament building in the capital Valletta from July of this year.

*I cover cars and design — and where they intersect.  
See my daily design adventures on [Instagram](#) & [Twitter](#) and on my page [Design Talks](#).*



**Nargess Banks** Contributor



## the all-electric comeback of malta's beloved bus

in 2011, malta's traditional, colorful buses were retired. funky, ornately donned with names and scriptures, the locally-owned vehicles captured the hearts of tourists and commuters for half a century. by the early 2000-teens, the shapely buses no longer met EU standards for carbon emissions and they retired the fleet. that is until mizzi studio announced designs for their electric comeback.



image by stargate studios on behalf of mizzi studio

a few photos down, the original buses will jump out at you. a delightful trio — opel, layland, and an orange friend whose name is just out of shot. the day these buses were scooted aside, it was a win for the environment...but if earth were allowed just one cheat-food in its new diet of sustainable vehicles, she might have chosen these colorful beauties. fortunately, we no longer have to choose between environmentally sustainable experiences and lovely experiences.



image by stargate studios on behalf of mizzi studio



award-winning london and malta-based architecture and design practice **mizzi studio** has revealed innovative designs for a new, electric fleet of the mid-century buses that, in a single swoop, may set the small nation to lead the EU in the charge towards zero-emission public transport. the studio may just ignite a renewed sense of national pride through these contemporary, eco-friendly iterations. the new designs will be showcased in a public exhibition at the parliament building in valletta in july 2019.



image by stargate studios on behalf of mizzi studio

**mizzi studio identified the best characteristics of the traditional fleet and imposed them onto a modern chassis.** note: the over-sized chrome grill, round hooded headlights, and the visor overhanging the windscreen. the colors, the slogans, *electric dreams, forever young*, all the nostalgia of the buses get a modern, economic spin.



image by stargate studios on behalf of mizzi studio

**mizzi studio proposes a fully electric, emission-free fleet in line with the EU's long-term strategy for a climate-neutral future.** the new fleet would also have a full vision panel at the front, state of the art air conditioning and cooling systems, middle doors for efficient boarding and disembarking and low floors and ramps for disabled access. regardless of how maltese citizens receive the homage, they're likely to enjoy them more than the deeply despised bendy-buses that were used in 2011.



traditional maltese bus  
image courtesy of koptaco



traditional maltese bus  
image by jack malipan travel photography / alamy stock photo (also main image)

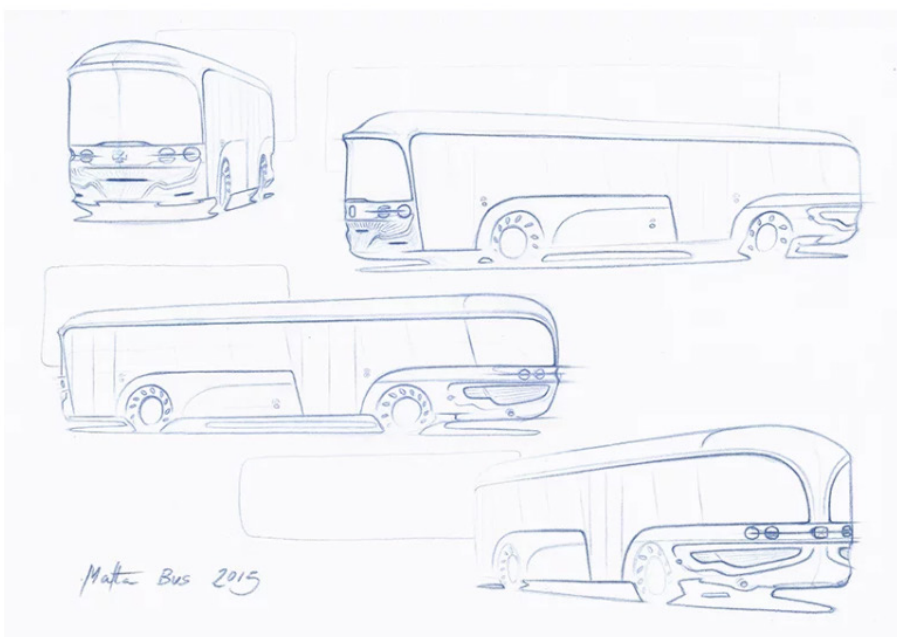


image by mizzi studio

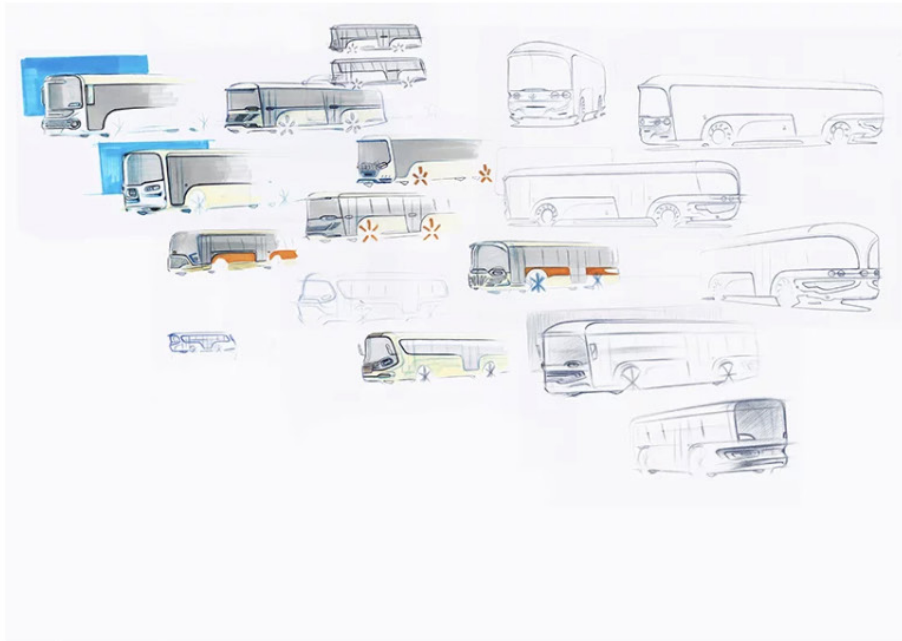


image by mizzi studio



image by mizzi studio

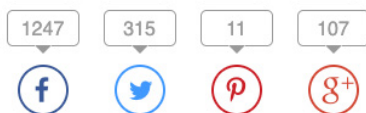
**project info:**

**designers:** mizzi studio

**collaborators:** malta public transport, arts council malta, heritage malta

zach andrews | designboom

apr 02, 2019





TRANSPORTATION

## Malta's iconic Art Deco buses get an eco-friendly modern remake

*Designers have given the bus a sustainable new design*

By **Liz Stinson** | Apr 4, 2019, 10:30am EDT

[f](#) [t](#) [SHARE](#)



Image: Mizzi Studio

Years ago, colorful, chromed-out buses used to traverse the streets of Malta. These buses, often hand-painted by their owner and drivers, sported bright hues, slogans, and murals. They were a far cry from the utilitarian mass transit of today. In 2011, Malta's buses were retired due to old age and dated technology that prevented them from meeting the EU's carbon emissions standards.



Image: Mizzi Studio

It was a loss for anyone who loved slightly quirky, retro modes of transportation—which is to say, it was a loss to pretty much everyone who'd ever seen them. Now the buses are coming back in the form of a proposal from Maltese design studio [Mizzi](#), who has reimagined the art deco buses as electricity powered vehicles.

Like [other transportation reimaginings](#), Mizzi's designs pay direct homage to the original buses with colorful paint, a rounded shape, and chrome-plated grills. But that's where the similarities end.



Image: Mizzi Studio

Mizzi's buses are designed to run on electricity, making them a sustainable alternative to the country's other forms of transportation. "This is a state-of-the-art, eco-friendly bus that pays homage to its heritage and aims to fill the large cultural gap that was left behind," Mizzi founder Jonathan Mizzi [told Wallpaper](#).

For now, the buses are still just a concept. Mizzi's designs will be part of a public showcase at the Malta parliament building in July, where the designers hope people will be smitten enough with the idea to take up the cause.

METALOCUS BUSCAR EN 



## LOS ICÓNICOS AUTOBUSES DE MALTA RENACEN COMO UNA FLOTA ELÉCTRICA DISEÑADA POR MIZZI STUDIO

04/04/2019. MALTA  
METALOCUS, RODRIGO GARCÍA

El galardonado estudio de arquitectura y diseño con sedes en Londres y Malta, **Mizzi Studio**, ha revelado unos innovadores diseños de una nueva flota eléctrica de autobuses para Malta.

Los nuevos diseños, que podrían posicionar a la nación como líder en transporte público de cero emisiones en la UE, se mostrarán en una exposición pública en el edificio del Parlamento en La Valeta en julio de 2019.



Con sus nuevos diseños, **Mizzi Studio** busca encender un renovado sentido de orgullo nacional, reinventando una versión ecológica y contemporánea de uno de los emblemas más reconocibles del país: los coloridos autobuses malteses de 1950, que fueron retirados en 2011 al no cumplir las normas de la UE para las emisiones de carbono.

*"Me enamoré de nuestros coloridos autobuses Art Deco cuando era niño. Eran tan amigables, casi como los personajes de Pixar Cars con sus características antropomorfas, como sus lindos ojos de faro con capucha, parabrisas divididos que les dieron una expresión de ojos de cachorrito y grandes paragolpes cromados sonrientes.*

*Perderlos fue un golpe devastador para la identidad de Malta, ya que realmente eran uno de los mejores iconos de nuestro país. Desde 2012, mi estudio ha desarrollado un autobús ecológico de última generación que rinde homenaje a su patrimonio y apunta a llenar el gran agujero cultural que se dejó atrás. Espero que la nueva flota nos permita como nación avanzar mientras nos mantenemos fieles a nosotros mismos y nos enorgullecemos de ser malteses".*

En palabras del director, Jonathan Mizzi

El estudio pretende mejorar la eficiencia ambiental de la actual flota de diésel de Malta y, al mismo tiempo, recuperar el carácter perdido de los antiguos autobuses. La propuesta consiste en una flota totalmente eléctrica, libre de emisiones, en línea con la estrategia a largo plazo de la UE para la neutralidad climática del futuro.

Las características comunes más fuertes de la flota tradicional se han transpuesto a un chasis moderno, que incluye una parrilla cromada de gran tamaño, faros redondos con capucha y una visera que sobresale del parabrisas. El estudio espera que estas características hagan del transporte público una opción más atractiva.

#### Descripción del proyecto por Mizzi Studio

El parachoques cromado del autobús de Mizzi Studio adopta la forma del imaginario de alas de ángel que a menudo se ven en los autobuses tradicionales para simbolizar la victoria y el vuelo, mientras que, en la parte trasera, un juego de dos alas cromadas proporciona refrigeración al motor.

Estas alas traseras, en combinación con el vidrio trasero curvo, forman el espacio negativo alrededor de una cruz maltesa abstracta, lo que refuerza una sensación de orgullo nacional. Las insignias de una cruz maltesa, junto con las insignias de herradura que tradicionalmente se fijaban a los autobuses para protegerse de los espíritus malignos, también se pueden encontrar en el nuevo diseño.

Con el paso de los años, los colores de los autobuses tradicionales se transformaron por talleres de carrocería locales, desde un inicial sistema multicolor dirigido por una ruta a una flota uniforme pintada de amarillo con una franja naranja en Malta y una gris con una franja roja en Gozo. Mizzi Studio ha optado por revertir al sistema multicolor debido al valor nostálgico que posee.

Uno de los detalles más cautivadores de los autobuses tradicionales fueron los patrones de líneas y letras pintadas a mano (tberfil), que se utilizaron para articular características y adornar los autobuses con lemas como "siempre jóvenes" (forever young). Tberfil ha sido reinventado por el estudio en forma digital para que los conductores puedan personalizar cada bus con texto e imágenes usando tecnología LED, rindiendo homenaje a la artesanía y el orgullo asociado con los buses tradicionales.

La nueva flota también tendría un panel de visión completa en la parte delantera, sistemas de aire acondicionado y enfriamiento de última generación, puertas intermedias para el embarque y desembarque eficientes y pisos bajos y rampas para el acceso para discapacitados.

Una exhibición pública gratuita, Malta Bus Reborn, se llevará a cabo de julio a septiembre de 2019 en el edificio del Parlamento en La Valeta, en la puerta de entrada a la ciudad, a un tiro de piedra de la terminal de autobuses. La exposición detallará los pasos en el proceso de diseño de Mizzi Studio, incluida la investigación y el desarrollo durante un período de 7 años que ha informado las características técnicas y estéticas del vehículo.

Los puntos destacados de la exposición incluirán un modelo a escala 1: 6 del bus propuesto, construido a mano por la compañía experta en modelos 2D3D, y una película de cinco minutos producida por Stargate Studios, que muestra el nuevo bus en rutas a través de los lugares más pintorescos de algunas de las islas.



[VER MÁS IMÁGENES](#)

#### MÁS INFORMACIÓN

<b>Autores</b>	Mizzi Studio
<b>Video</b>	Teaser trailer. Produced by Stargate Studios on behalf of Mizzi Studio
<b>Exposición</b>	Fechas.- De julio a septiembre de 2019. Lugar.- Parlamento de Malta, La Valeta.



#### JONATHAN MIZZI MIZZI STUDIO

Mizzi Studio es una galardonada firma de arquitectura y diseño con estudios en Londres y Malta. Trabajando en una amplia gama de disciplinas, escalas y sectores, buscamos proyectos que tengan un impacto social y cultural positivo. A través de un mejor diseño, nos esforzamos por agregar valor tangible y mejorar el mundo físico.

Aplicamos el pensamiento creativo y el ingenio a las necesidades de cada proyecto. Nuestro enfoque fusiona la artesanía tradicional con las últimas técnicas de fabricación digital. Inspirándonos en el mundo natural, nuestro trabajo se distingue por el

[LEER MÁS](#)



## КУЛЬТОВЫМ АВТОБУСАМ МАЛЬТЫ ПРИДУМАЛИ СОВРЕМЕННЫЙ АНАЛОГ

03.04. Среда / Новости

Яркие мальтийские автобусы считались особенностью средиземноморского острова, пока в 2011 году их не заменили на более экологичные, но не такие примечательные. Лондонская и мальтийская студия дизайна Mizzi Studio предложила современную альтернативу с нулевым уровнем выбросов и визуально напоминающую старые автобусы.



Традиционный автобус на Мальте.

Автобусы на Мальте принадлежали водителям. Владельцы давали автобусам имена, расписывали кузов вручную или приглашали художников. Законодательство Евросоюза запретило использование старых машин, поскольку они не соответствовали стандартам по выбросам. Их заменили на вместительные автобусы с «гармошкой», которые к тому же оказались не слишком пригодными для извилистых дорог острова.

С 2012 года Mizzi Studio разрабатывает новые модели автобусов, взяв за основу узнаваемый стиль культовых моделей. Проект будет представлен публике в июле 2019 года на бесплатной выставке Malta Bus Reborn в Валлетте. На ней будут подробно показаны этапы проектирования в течение семь лет, а также модель автобуса и мини-фильм. В интервью местному изданию министр транспорта Иан Борг назвал предложения дизайнера Джонатана Миззи, «колоссальными» и «феноменальными», и сказал, что с нетерпением ожидает дальнейшего изучения проекта.



Основатель студии Джонатан Мицци признался, что красочные мальтийские автобусы в стиле ар-деко, которыми он был очарован с детства, напоминают ему персонажей фильма «Тачки» студии Pixar.

**«Их потеря была разрушительным ударом по идентичности Мальты, поскольку они действительно были одним из главных символов страны».**

«С 2012 года моя студия разрабатывает современный и экологичный автобус, который отдаёт дань уважения предшественнику и стремится восполнить большой культурный пробел», — отметил Джонатан Мицци.



В отличие от своих предшественников низкопольные электробусы будут оборудованы пандусами и современными системами кондиционирования. Также появится дополнительная дверь в середине салона, а переднее стекло станет значительно шире.

Для новых автобусов намеренно были выбраны смелые цвета. Также над передним стеклом студия предусмотрела светодиодную ленту, чтобы водители смогли давать автобусам имена, как они это делали раньше.



Культовые мальтийские автобусы.

Помимо эстетической и культурной миссии, новые автобусы позволят снизить уровень загрязнения воздуха по всему острову. Mizzi Studio предлагает создать полностью электрический автобусный парк, который будет соответствовать стратегии Евросоюза по переходу к климатической нейтральности к 2050 году.

транспорт

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## AXIS

### マルタ島のバスの魅力を伝えていくためのコンセプト Mizzi Studioによる電気バス「Malta Bus Reborn」

NEWS | プロダクト

2019.04.09 17:32

Mizzi Studio



地中海・マルタ島の公共交通機関として親しまれてきたドライバー個人所有のバスは、EUの炭素排出基準を満たさなくなったため廃止されてしまったそうだ。

そこで、ロンドンとマルタに拠点を置くデザイン事務所 Mizzi Studioが、2011年に引退を余儀なくされた象徴的な伝統あるマルタのバスの魅力とゼロエミッション技術を融合させた、新しい電気バスをプロトタイプングした。



かつてのバスのシャシーは、1950年代のダイナミックなデザインとその先進的なスタイルが特徴的だった。また各車両は、文化や宗教を反映したカラーリングで愛情たっぷりにカスタマイズされており、ひとりひとりの運転手の個性とともに独特なものだった。

同スタジオは、7年間に及ぶ研究開発を通じて、未来に向けたマルタのバスをデザイン。愛らしいフード付きのヘッドライトや微笑んだようなクロムのフロントグリル、リアの天使の羽のようなデザインまで、オリジナルのデザインを参考にし、ドライバーは自分のバスをさらにカスタマイズできるという。



社内前方にはフルビジョンパネル、最新の空調・冷房システム、乗り降りしやすいように中央にドアを設け、身障者用に床を低くしたり、スロープも備えている。

同車は2019年7月から9月にかけて、マルタの首都・バレッタで開催される無料展示会にてお披露目される予定だ。



En 2011, los tradicionales y coloridos Autobuses de Malta fueron retirados. Adornados con nombres y escrituras, los vehículos de propiedad local capturaron los corazones de los turistas y viajeros durante medio siglo.

A principios de la década de 2000, estos vehículos ya no cumplían con los estándares de la UE en relación a las emisiones de carbono, así que tuvieron que retirar la flota. Esto hasta que Mizzi Studio anunció los nuevos diseños para su regreso en versión eléctrica.





El día en que se hicieron a un lado estos autobuses, fue una victoria para el medio ambiente, pero si a la tierra se le permitiera un solo truco en su nueva dieta de vehículos sostenibles, podría haber elegido estas bellezas coloridas.

Por fortuna ya no tenemos que elegir entre experiencias ambientalmente sostenibles y experiencias coloridas y encantadoras. El galardonado estudio de Diseño y Arquitectura y arquitectura **Mizzi Studio** ha revelado diseños innovadores para una nueva flota eléctrica de autobuses de mediados de siglo que, de una sola vez, pueden establecer a la pequeña nación de Malta, para liderar a la UE en la carga hacia Transporte público de cero emisiones.

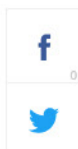
El estudio Mizzi identificó las mejores características de la flota tradicional y las impuso a un chasis moderno. Los colores, los lemas, los sueños eléctricos, siempre jóvenes, toda la nostalgia de los autobuses dan un giro moderno y económico.

Proponiendo una flota totalmente eléctrica, libre de emisiones, en línea con la estrategia a largo plazo de la UE para el futuro. La nueva flota también tendría un panel de visión completa en la parte delantera, sistemas de aire acondicionado y enfriamiento de última generación, puertas intermedias para un embarque y desembarque eficientes, pisos bajos y rampas para accesos de discapacitados.



## На Мальте появятся электробусы в стиле традиционных местных автобусов (фото)

НОВОСТИ | 900 просмотров | 9 апреля 2019, 15:10



Британско-мальтийское архитектурное бюро вдохнет новую жизнь в культовые автобусы острова.



В 2011 году на Мальте, по причине превышения норм выбросов углекислого газа в атмосферу, запретили эксплуатацию традиционных местных автобусов, перевозивших здесь пассажиров, начиная с 1950-х годов. Теперь же культовый для острова вид транспорта может возродиться в виде электробусов, которые будут иметь характерные черты дизайна старых автобусов.

Как пишет [ЦТС](#) со ссылкой на [Forbes](#), проект реализует британско-мальтийское архитектурное бюро Mizzi Studio.



Традиционные мальтийские автобусы принадлежали их водителям, которые собственноручно привносили элементы декора во внешний облик своих машин - яркие украшения, надписи, молдинги, козырьки над лобовым стеклом. Со временем сформировался своеобразный местный стиль дизайна автобусов, которые пользовались особой популярностью у туристов.



Когда в 2011 вступил в силу запрет на эксплуатацию таких транспортных средств, это вызвало недовольство среди жителей острова. И вот теперь аутентичные черты смогут быть воплощены в дизайне электробусов. Так, бампер электробуса будет иметь форму крыла ангела, в дизайне должны будут угадываться образы мальтийского креста и подковы, которая прикреплялась к старым автобусам для защиты от злых духов.

Ожидается, что первые электробусы будут показаны публике в столице Мальты, Валетте, в июле текущего года.

В целом же островное государство намерено стать первой страной ЕС, перешедшей на электротранспорт.



Ранее ЦТС писал о том, что в Японии показали первый из семи поездов класса люкс Laview EMU, которые будут обслуживать пригород Токио с 16 марта 2019 года. Новые пассажирские составы с **футуристическим дизайном** будут курсировать с небольшой скоростью по живописной округе Токио. Дизайн поезда разработан архитектором Кадзуе Сэдзима.



### | Teljesen elektromosan tért vissza Málta kedvenc busz járata

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SZERZŐ: MIFERFIAK.HU PUBLIKÁLVA: 2019/04/12

MOZAIK. UTAZÁS

2011-ben nyugdíjazták Málta tradicionális, színes buszait. A funky, nevekkel és szentírásokkal ellátott, helyi tulajdonú járművek fél évszázadon át varázsolták el a turisták és ingázók szívét.



A 2010-es években azonban ezek a buszok már nem feleltek meg az EU előírásoknak a szén-dioxid kibocsátás tekintetében, ezért nyugdíjazták a flottát. Egészen addig, amíg a Mizzi Studio be nem jelentette, hogy elektromos változatban élesztik újra az ikonikus járműveket.

A képeken láthatóak az eredeti buszok. Egy vidám trió – Opel, Layland, és egy narancsszínű barát, akinek a neve épp nem látszik a képen. A nap, amikor kivonták a forgalomból ezeket a buszokat, győzelem volt a természet számára...de ha csak egy csaló ételt is megengednek a Földnek az új fenntartható diétájában, akkor biztosan ezeket a színes szépségeket választotta volna. Sajnos, már nem választhatunk a fenntartható élmények és a kedves élmények között.





A díjnyertes londoni és máltai építész és dizájn stúdió, a Mizzi Studio nemrég leplezte le innovatív terveit egy új, elektromos busz flottáról, amely összekötheti az '50-es évek hangulatát az EU zéró-kibocsátású tömegközlekedés felé tartó törekvéseivel. A stúdió egy új nemzeti büszkeséget teremthet meg ezekkel a modern, környezetbarát buszokkal. Az új járműveket 2019 júliusában fogják kiállítani a parlament épületében Vallettában.



A Mizzi Studio megragadta az eredeti buszok legjobb tulajdonságait, és egy modern vázra interpretálták őket. Figyeljük csak meg a túlméretezett króm grilleket, a kerek fényszórókat és a szélvédőt áthidaló védőburkolat. A színek, a szlogenek, az elektromos álmok, örök fiatalság, a nosztalgikus buszok modern, gazdaságos csavart kaptak.



A Mizzi Studio egy teljesen elektromos, nulla-kibocsátású flottával álltak elő, amely megfelel az EU hosszú távú stratégiájának egy teljesen klíma-semleges jövő felé.



Az új flotta elől egy teljes szélességű szélvédőt kapott, valamint csúcstechnológiás klímaberendezés van benne, az ajtók középen helyezkednek el a hatékony fel- és leszállás érdekében, valamint a mozgáskorlátozottak számára alacsony padlósak és rámpák is vannak bennük. Függetlenül a máltai állampolgárok fogadtatásától, valószínűleg jobban fogják szeretni őket, mint a 2011-ben bevezetett csuklós buszokat.



公交车设计的革新，都在变得更友好更智能 | 这个设计了不起

胡莹  
4月13日



每个周末，《好奇心日报》都会找个主题为你寻找精彩设计。

谈到公交车的改良设计，大都是在提升外观的同时，提出更友好、更智能的解决方案，有的主打零排放环保技术，有的专注自动驾驶技术等等。这个周末，我们整理了一组公交车的改良设计案例，一起来看。

### Malta Bus Reborn by Mizzi Studio

Mizzi Studio 为马耳他设计了新的公交车，兼顾美观和环保。马耳他之前的公交车曾经因为颜色亮丽、装饰独特而成为这个地方的标志，但因为排放和污染问题被取缔。

新设计的公交车试图把现代设施和传统装饰融合，既植入了当下的零排放环保技术，又兼有装饰艺术风格的传统公交车的经典元素，将在今年下半年投入生产。



旧版公交车





图片来源: [Mizzi Studio](#)

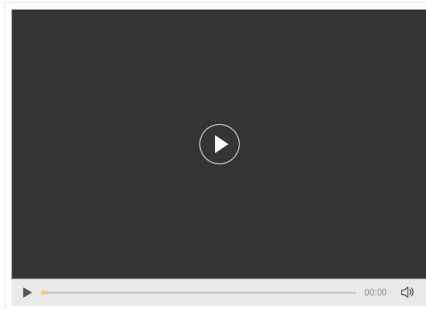
### Gacha Bus by Muji & Sensible 4

日本 MUJI 与芬兰自动驾驶公司 Sensible 4 合作设计了一款名为“GACHA”的自动驾驶公共汽车，计划 4 月开始在 Espoo 对公众开放。到 2020 年，它将在 3 个芬兰城市上路运作。

这款形似玩具太空舱的“GACHA”，是为适应各类天气条件而制造，用 MUJI 的说法表述，“这是世界上第一辆适合各种天气的自动公交车”。该巴士车身长 4.5 米，具有定位、导航与障碍物检测等功能。

GACHA 的设计灵感来自玩具胶囊，旨在传递活泼与快乐。车身由 LED 灯环绕，既作为前灯，也能作外部通信屏幕，用于提醒乘客与路人目的地信息。

车内部保持简洁设计，有 10 个座位与 6 个站立位置，能容纳 16 位乘客。海军蓝座椅呈弯曲形状，扶手等设计与大多数公交车基本一致。





### AB 7900 by Volvo

沃尔沃将在新加坡推出全球首辆全自动无人驾驶电动公交车，目前正处在试验阶段。该公交车为沃尔沃 7900 单层电动公交，由沃尔沃与新加坡南洋理工大学共同开发，长 12 米，最多可容纳 80 名乘客。

沃尔沃的一位发言人表示，这辆公交将在南洋理工大学校园内开始测试，之后测试范围将扩大到公共道路上。

沃尔沃公司还在南洋理工大学内建造了一个迷你小镇，配有十字路口、交通信号灯、公交车站以及人行横道，旨在为无人驾驶汽车的测试提供一个真实的环境，并且还将用于评估无人驾驶车辆驶入洗车场以及是否可以安全停靠在充电站的能力。所获全部的试验数据均将用于改进此项技术。车辆正式上路之前，还将进行严格的测试，预计该无人驾驶公交最早将于 2022 年投入使用。



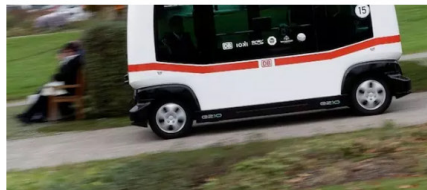


图片来源: [Dezeen](#)

### EasyTen by EasyMile for Deutsche Bahn

2017年10月,德国第一辆自动驾驶公共汽车 EasyTen,在巴伐利亚一个乡村小镇的道路上首次上路,将当地人从火车站送到市中心。

这款由法国公司 EasyMile 设计的 EasyTen 电动汽车通过传感器、激光和 GPS 系统自主导航通过巴德巴赫市。这也是首次将自动驾驶巴士纳入德国的公共交通系统。



### Air-filtering bus by Go-Ahead

Go Ahead 是英国最大的巴士和轨道交通公司之一,2018年9月底,他们在南安普敦市发布了一款新型的巴士。

乍看之下,这辆名为 Bluestar 的巴士和其他普通巴士并没有什么显著区别,但车辆顶部有一套过滤系统,Go Ahead 希望它能成为城市的“移动空气净化器”。

过滤器的制造商是 Pall Aerospace,世界最大的航空和军用过滤器公司。过滤器安装在车辆顶部,并不会影响车内乘客的乘车体验。巴士在街道中穿行时可以吸附街道空气中的超细粒子,排放出清洁空气。根据估算,一辆这样的 Bluestar 行驶一年,能够清洁的空气体积可以“填满”25 个奥运会尺寸的游泳池。

David Brown 是 Go Ahead 的董事长,他表示这项计划的初衷在于,让人们重新认识巴士,“它们不仅是解决城市拥挤的手段,同样可以为治理空气环境提供思路”。

Home > รถเพื่อการพาณิชย์ > รถบัส > จากรถบัสโบราณสู่รถไฟฟ้า โดย Mizzi Studio

รถบัส รอบโลก

## จากรถบัสโบราณสู่รถไฟฟ้า โดย Mizzi Studio

April 17, 2019  10  0



รถบัสโบราณในประเทศมอลตา ซึ่งเป็นเกาะขนาดเล็กในยุโรป ได้เคยเป็นส่วนหนึ่งของชีวิตผู้โดยสารและนักท่องเที่ยวมากกว่าครึ่งศตวรรษ ด้วยรูปทรงที่เป็นเอกลักษณ์ จนกระทั่งปี 2011 ที่ถูกยกเลิกการใช้งานเนื่องจากไม่ได้มาตรฐานการปล่อยก๊าซคาร์บอนไดออกไซด์ของสหภาพยุโรป



ล่าสุด Mizzi Studio บริษัทออกแบบที่มีออฟฟิศอยู่ที่ลอนดอนและมอลตา ได้เผยแพร่การออกแบบที่จะนำรถบัสโบราณนี้กลับมาอีกครั้ง ในรูปแบบยานยนต์ไฟฟ้า เพื่อมอบทั้งประสบการณ์ในการเดินทางที่ดีแก่ผู้โดยสารและเป็นมิตรต่อสิ่งแวดล้อม ซึ่งดีไซน์ใหม่นี้จะถูกเผยโฉมในงานนิทรรศการที่อาคารรัฐสภา เมืองวัลเลตตา ในเดือน มิ.ย. ปี 2019



Mizzi Studio ค้นหาคณะลักษณะเฉพาะที่โดดเด่นที่สุดของรถบัสโบราณนี้ และนำมาใช้กับแชสซีส์แบบใหม่ ซึ่งทำให้มีทั้งมุมมองที่กว้างขึ้นด้วยกระจกขนาดใหญ่ด้านหน้า, ระบบปรับอากาศ และประตูกลางเพื่ออำนวยความสะดวกในการขึ้น-ลงรถโดยสาร





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Could Malta's iconic buses be making a high-tech comeback? 🤖🚗

alvaro\_ungurean love the idea. finally someone took all that feedback regarding buses seriously! 🙌

lovinmalta What do you think of plans to bring back the iconic OG design of Malta's buses? 🤖💛 Let us know in the comments section 📢

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**Times of Malta** ✓  
1 April at 17:25 · 🌐

Imagine Malta's old buses, only electric: it's an idea a Maltese designer believes is entirely possible.



TIMESOFMALTA.COM

**Could Malta's future buses look like the past?**  
What if Malta's iconic buses could return to local roads

Learn More

1.7K · 180 comments · 153 shares

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3 April at 19:00 · 🌐

Yellow Buses 2.0? Yes please! 🙌



1.2K · 165 comments · 1.4K shares

**designboom** ✓  
2 April at 18:03 · 🌐

in 2011, the buses were retired. now, they're back.



DESIGNBOOM.COM

**the all-electric comeback of the beloved malta bus**

295 · 14 comments · 41 shares

**GuideMeMalta.com** ✓  
2 April at 15:17 · 🌐

Mizzi Studio's Jonathan Mizzi said, "losing Malta's buses was a devastating blow to Malta's identity," and we couldn't agree more! ❤️🇲🇹



**WATCH: Could traditional Maltese buses be making a comeback on Malta's roads?**

140 · 13 comments · 63 shares

**Television Malta** ✓  
1 April at 18:38 · 🌐

Timmaġinak tirkeb dil-karozza tal-linja?



TVM.COM.MT

**Timmaġinak tirkeb dil-karozza tal-linja? - TVM**  
Wara seba' snin neqsin mit-toroq Maltin, disinjatur Malti hareġ bi

Silvia Zanolini and 1.8K others · 259 comments · 156 shares

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**Curbed** 4 April at 16:50

Designers have given the bus a sustainable new design.



**Malta's iconic Art Deco buses get an eco-friendly modern remake**

278 19 comments 75 shares

**Lovin Malta** 1 April at 16:43

We got the Transport Minister's opinion after revealing the incredible designs



**WATCH: Transport Minister Looks Forward To Considering 'Phenomenal' Designs For A New Electric Fleet**

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**Lovin Malta** 2 April at 11:12

'We believe this design can be part of the solution to take mobility to the next level in Malta'



**Malta's Buses Could Get Nostalgic Revamp As Public Transport Operator Hails Design For New Electric Fleet**

413 44 comments 37 shares

**Wallpaper\* magazine** 1 April at 15:49

Jonathan Mizzi and his team have dived into the eclectic history of the island's bus services and come up with a be-chromed machine that is decorative, playful but completely contemporary, with a zero-emission, all-electric powertrain and sleek, aerodynamic stylings



**Mizzi Studio envisions a contemporary take on Malta's recently retired art deco bus**

76 7 comments 16 shares

**The Big Drive Home on XFM 100.2 with Trudy Kerr** 8 April at 09:45

You may have seen this in the press, Jonathan Mizzi has put forward a proposal to bring back the old style Maltese bus with a 2019 make over! And Jonathan will be in the studio on The Big Drive Home later today to tell us all about it... and how close he is to making this dream a reality! Tune in to XFM 100.2 from 4-7pm today!



2,776 Views

**designboom** @designboom · Apr 2 in 2011, malta's buses were retired. now, they are back... and fully electric. [designboom.com/design/mizzi-s...](https://designboom.com/design/mizzi-s...)



2 44 171

NEWSFEED

### Mizzi Studio Founder unveils proposals to 'design Malta out of climate crisis'

Amongst other things, the proposals included plans for a Rapid Bus Transport System.

BY BENJAMIN ABELA  
18 NOVEMBER 2021



In a presentation titled 'Designing Humanity out of a Climate Crisis', Mizzi Studio Founder-Director Jonathan Mizzi unveiled a set of strategies to make Malta eco-driven and future facing.

The presentation took place at a TEDx event held earlier this month at the University of Malta.

The Founder-Director unveiled his ideas for how Malta can start to develop its built and natural environment differently - both infrastructurally and emotionally

#### Spotlight

Meet the brains behind iTalent PLUS: Seasoned iGaming professionals & Liana Mifsud  
13 NOVEMBER 2023

Corinthia Chairman A

### TEDx Talks Announces Six Speakers To Explore Hindsight At University Of Malta

By Johnathan Cilia  
October 17, 2021 at 11:45 am



The six speakers for the next TEDxUniversityofMalta 2021 have been announced.

Exploring the theme of hindsight, the poignant talks will take place on Friday 5th November at 6.30pm in the Valletta Campus Theatre at the University of Malta.

You can find the event here - but first, find out more about the six speakers and what themes they'll be exploring in their talks.

Lifestyle

## An eco-driven plan for Malta

Designer-architect unveils proposals to design Malta out of climate crisis.

By Staff Reporter - November 18, 2021 10:37 AM



Mizzi Studio

Home > Economy > Infrastructure > An eco-driven plan for Malta: Designer-Architect unveils proposals to design Malta out...

### An eco-driven plan for Malta: Designer-Architect unveils proposals to design Malta out of Climate Crisis

by The Malta Business Weekly - Thursday, 18 November 2021 at 12:37 pm



## TEDx talk on green infrastructure solutions

Mizzi Studio has dedicated itself to improving the world

Community Design Environment Climate change Lecture

November 5, 2021 | Times of Malta | 0

1 min read

