



Old American buses have a charm that simply cannot be compared with that of their modern descendants. Since much of the automotive production lines of the 1950s were still reliant on the human hand, the vehicles of the era reflect that ingrained sense of care that only human touch can bestow. Of course, these vehicles were also built in accordance with a completely different concept of design. Detailed excesses, shapely curves, and an obsession with size seem to define the period. Today mass production has turned these characteristics on their head. Not only are most production lines governed by the impersonal calculations of machines, but bus design has also begun to bend to the overarching ethos of efficiency, which constantly undermines style for the sake of economic factors. Having all the grace of bricks with wheels, it's not hard to see why newer buses are hardly ever sought for conversions or customizations.

It was out of nostalgia for these old buses that a client of Will Winkelman of Winkelman Architecture, a company based in Portland, Maine, sought to enlist Will's expertise for a conversion project. The original vehicle was a 1959 Chevrolet Viking Short Bus, and the client had quite literally found it rusting away in a field. But the grass growing over the wheels and battered exterior were not enough to put off the ambitious pair. Through its dilapidated state they managed to see potential beauty, and the bus's timeless shape guaranteed it a thorough restoration. Understandably, Winkelman and his client had no desire to modify the old Short Bus, at least not in the sense of imparting it with the cold design features of the current era. Rather, they sought to return it to its former glory, deciding on a 1960s bohemian theme with a Moroccan twist.

A collage of paisley cushions and curtains, velvet sofa, and transparent beads, the interior speaks of hippies, The Beatles' Sgt. Pepper period, and tarot readings. But aside from the

↗ ↘ 1959 Chevrolet Viking Short Bus

→ Cozy bohemian interior with a Moroccan twist

↓ The original speedometer

