

CLASSIC DRIVER

CP Project One: Batbike Returns



With their inspiration coming “directly from the culture of comics”, French designers Frank Charriaut and Vincent Prat of Southsiders MC have produced a show motorcycle that combines custom, vintage and dirt-track styling cues, all sublimely executed by Daniel Delfour, one of France’s leading motorcycle builders.

It’s called the ‘**CP Project One**’, and combines a **Norton** ‘featherbed’ frame with a **Triumph 750 Bonneville** engine. ‘CP’ obviously stands for the creator’s names, while the ‘MC’ bit is not – as you would expect – for ‘Motorcycle Club’; it’s actually ‘Motorcycle Culture’, meaning that the company is style-driven, taking its inspiration from the world of bikers and biking. Marlon Brando in *The Wild One* has a lot to answer for.

The project started when the pair came back from the Californian **Legend of the Motorcycle** event in 2008. Stimulated by the range and quality of custom bikes, they decided to build a truly different machine, definitely not ‘another café racer’.



The result is an all-black design, “a mix of **Batman**’s motorcycle with a **T Rex** fastback and a general feeling of **Catwoman**’s curves,” said **Prat**. You’ll need to be something of a superhero to ride it, though, as the front brake has been sacrificed at the altar of style (and, okay, it’s a typically ‘flat-track’ feature).

Delfour, who is also a violin maker, carved multi-part moulds for the bodywork in plywood from sketches supplied by **Charriaut** and **Prat**. Many parts are handmade and everything is exquisitely finished.

The gloss black frame with black metalflake bodywork was painted by the legendary French customiser **Momo Bikes Service**, which also fabricated the exhaust system and heat guards.



Vincent Prat is unrepentant about the uncompromising machine, commenting, "Purists will say that it's a sacrilege, but why do we have to follow any rules? The only thing we're talking about here is fun. Why the length of the fork tubes? Why a front wheel without brakes?"

"Just because we wanted it like this."

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