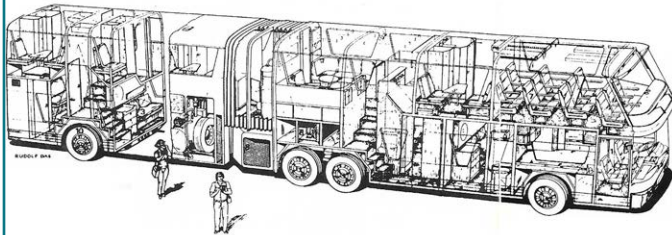


By David Sandmeier

**Editor's Note:** This is a Blast From The Past article that was run in 1982. We thought it would be of interest to some of the folks out there with converted buses, and may inspire someone to recreate this kind of Bus Hotel again.

*Take fifteen friends along and really live on the roads as you relax in the sky lounge, eat, drink, sleep or take a shower*



Passengers on this bus don't have to check into a hotel—they're traveling in one. The concept of the hotel bus originated in 1974 when Fred Nauta, head of the Dutch marketing research firm, Intomart, discovered a service gap in the U.S. tour industry. Operators were not able to provide really luxury over-land travel equipment. Railway tours provided on-board dining and sleeping, but couldn't match the schedule and route flexibility of a bus. So Nauta invented the hotel bus, combining the best features of buses and railway

sleeping cars, then topped it off with something neither offered—hot showers.

To keep the bus mobile at all hours, there is space for two drivers who have bunks and lavatory separate from the passenger area. One can sleep while the other drives or they can both sleep when the bus is parked and the tourists are out on foot. When a tired group of travelers returns to their hotel bus, one of the drivers will swing behind the steering wheel and hit the road. Meanwhile the six-

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