## RENAULT 5 A MODERN HISTORY

#### 1972-2022, RENAULT 5 AT THE CORE OF RENAULT'S INNOVATION



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LUCA DE MEO CEO of Renault Group Renault is going back to basics to face full-on the challenges of tomorrow, as the fiftieth anniversary of its legendary R5 approaches! By reading these pages, you will appreciate the extraordinary challenge of the R5. It took a stroke of genius to create such a car - at first incongruous, soon to become iconic. The history of the R5 is that of a manufacturer capable of embracing an era and its aspirations: autonomy, individual fulfilment, mischievous irreverence, and economic solutions following the oil crises.

50 years later, the pioneering character of this epochal car remains striking. Rediscovering it means rediscovering the passion and power of innovation that have enabled Renault to reach the top without hesitating to head off the beaten path. Faced with unprecedented challenges, and at a time when the Renault Group is resolutely choosing zero-emission vehicles, this spirit that enabled us to invent a new automotive modernity is a source of inspiration. That is why we are launching the new Renault 5: mischievous, innovative and popular, to embody our desire to generalise zero-emission cars. In one word, faithful to Renault's style to better invent the car of today and tomorrow. The following pages invite you to experience this philosophy first hand.

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## RENAULT 5 PROTOTYPE

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#### 1967-1985

| Timeline of a legend in 25 acts |  |
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# RENAULT 5

1967, showcasing the genius Renault 5!

### Boué le 26 Avril 67 Nº 64 Dires **A SUCCESSFUL DESIGN RIGHT FROM THE DRAWING STAGE!**

The Renault 5's design came from a proposal by a designer who had not yet produced much. Those in charge at the time remember this stroke of genius...

the design theme of the Renault 5. And yet, at the time, the design offices of Renault were always busy. In 1967, at the start of Project 122, the designers there were only ten of them - were also working on a large V8-powe-

t took only two years to define In 1968, the Alpine A310 was guickly prepared, while the Renault 15 and 17 coupés got creative juices flowing. That same year, Project H was scaled down in size and became Project 120. In 1969, the year when the Renault 5's design was fixed, this project 120 still monopolised three red hatchback, known as Project H. full-time designers: Beligond, Mor-

The Renault 5 project 122 remains the only **Renault project** with a design theme that was accepted from the first mode

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1970, the designer Michel Beligond dreams of a coupé.



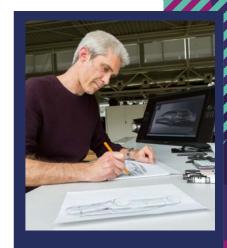
nard and Juchet, Design Director, in was rather nonchalant. You could say therefore costs. And the design office ciple of Raymond Loewy.

#### A secret weapon: the Renaultrama

person! They represented one third he was reserved. The way he sculpted had a weapon for this. A true innova of the design team. The Renault 5, on his models was unusual. As for the Re- tion: the 'Renaultrama'. Yves Georges the other hand, slipped through the nault 5, he was lucky that the plastic then said "We had a long look at the cracks of all this pretty mess. We have bumpers had been invented, as they little model of Boué, and we ran it to thank a discreet man for its design: considerably enhanced the pebbled through what we call the 'Renaul-Michel Boué. Boué joined Renault at appearance of his model". Michel trama'. It was a system that allowed the end of the 1950s and was a dis- Boué designed the Renault 5, but he the model to be visualised in driving drove a Peugeot 404. Yves Georges, conditions, with scenery flashing up Director of the design office, said at behind it. This was an ingenious systhe time that "Inside the small team, tem that allowed you to better choose His automotive culture was impres- the youngest designer, Michel Boué, the shape you wanted to work on, on sive and he had a sharp mind, even had not come up with anything re- a full scale". This system was the preif at work his friend Robert Brover markable. And in any case, none of decessor of virtual reality headsets! (creator of the Renault 5 dashboard, his ideas had been chosen. From the The first full scale model of the Resee p.26) would later explain that "He design specifications of the future nault 5 was the right one.

Renault 5. he created a gouache based on a photo. He got the green light, but his paintwork had resulted in a small sports coupe rather than the ideal hatch back we had in mind Undeterred, Michel Boué set about ma king a 1/5th scale model and it was a stroke of aenius!"

The primary aim of project 122 was to reduce deadlines and



#### HOW IT IS VIEWED TODAY

Nicolas Jardin, Designer of the 2021 Renault 5 Prototype, comments on the drawings of Michel Boué:

« I see a unique silhouette. with clean sides that are reminiscent of today's electric vehicles. In 1967, Michel Boué already imagined such an architecture. What is verv beautiful is the attempt to integrate the technical functions in a natural corner of the car (grille, lights), so as not to disturb the form. He wanted to draw an essential object, devoid of aggression. The Renault 5 is benevolent and wants to be perceived as a friend. »



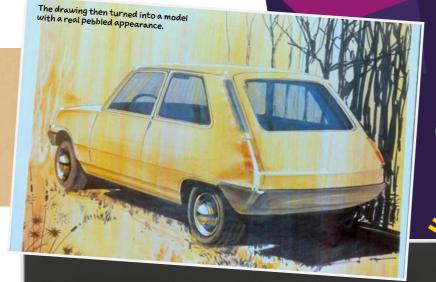


Gaston Juchet, then Director of Renault's design department.

#### Estate and coupé models

While the design theme was guickly chosen, the design of the grille required numerous models (see p.18). Project 122 was not limited to its two-door tailgate model. A four-door car with a classic boot was designed for Spain and other estate and coupé variants were conceived. Different coupé projects were submitted, from Gaston Juchet and even Robert Opron for the restyling of the Renault 5, when he joined the Company's design office. In his notebooks, Gaston

Juchet perfectly summarised the extremely rapid stylistic genesis of the Renault 5: "A sketch inspired by the designer Michel Boué, executed according to specifications that were still vague at the time, suddenly struck a chord during the first presentation: a sort of pebble with no sharp edges, emerging from the classic treatise of the time, without a grille, and featuring lights and headlamps embedded in the body. Looking at the drawing, Bernard Hanon foresaw this car would transcend the norms linking social status to vehicle size: 'Women, doctors or workers must have felt at ease, side by side at a traffic light', he thought. The only real technical problem was the development and integration of the laminated bumpers, which played an essential part in the concept of this little



Sketch by Michel Beligond, dated 1969.

car, which was a huge success as we all know". Michel Boué, the father of the Renault 5 design, unfortunately did not know his child for long, as he died at the end of 1972 of bone cancer. A few months after his death, his friend Robert Broyer was one of the two people who brought Madame Boué a Renault 5, as a tribute to this brilliant designer that forms part of automotive history.

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#### DIGITALLY-ACCELERATED CREATION

At the origin of the first Renault 5, new **3D HEADSETS** technologies were introduced, such as Today, digital calculations or design al- teract via an avatar in their 3D helmet. parts designed with digital assistance, low the number of physical models to However, 'fully-digital' is not the future, or the Renaultrama system. Renault be reduced, exchanges between design as the artistic contribution of traditional wanted to use them to shorten the pre- and engineering to be controlled, and modelling remains a very strong aspect paration period. The UNISURF system production times to be shortened. De- of automotive culture. Even though they of the mid-1970s was a step towards signers and engineers wear 3D headsets are limited in number, full scale models this goal. It was developed by a Renault that immerse them in a virtual world are still sacred, as they act as JP when it engineer, Pierre Bézier. He created the where they can communicate remotely, comes to lead presentations before the transfer machines after the war to acce- even if they are not in the same room. top management. lerate the production of the 4CV engine. Nor in the same country. They can see The engineer thus participated in the development of computer-aided design (CAD).

#### **DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION**

It is based on a digitised points statement capable of being read by a milling machine, a copy of which was quickly set up close to the design office, in order to materialise the studio's creations as quickly as possible. Since then, digital technology has become a solid link between design and engineering, and has made it possible to increase efficiency and quality. All the software used in design and engineering today come from these 1960/1970s innovations. At Renault, 3D made a giant leap forward in the early 1990s, thanks to the work of a team led by Bruno Simon, who began the digital transformation and introduced new tools. Jobs are changing: the designer/ modeller duo is becoming a designer/3D designer duo. Throughout the 1990s Renault became the leader in this sector

their colleagues with whom they can in-





3D VISION AND VIRTUAL REALITY REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PHYSICAL PROTOTYPE

### REDUCED DESIGN 🖉 AND MANUFACTURING TIMES

At the Rueil design office, IT was in its infancy. At the Flins plant, robotisation was just beginning...

he notes of Gaston Juchet, Renault's head of design, revealed that the drawings for project 122 - the future Renault 5 - began in April 1967. Two years later, when the Renault 12 was unveiled,



The design was decided quickly, but not the figurehead!



Gaston Juchet noted that the design of the Renault 5 was already fixed. three more to develop and market this unprecedented project in 1972 were simply unthinkable deadlines at the time. The Renault 5 benefitted from new digital design methods: the era of computer-assisted design led to exponential change, right up to the current virtual reality headsets worn by desi-

gners and engineers. Yves Georges, Director of Studies at the time of the Only two years to create a design and Renault 5, recounts that "in the design office and the milling workshop, the beginnings of digital technology meant that simple milling of bodywork elements or reduced-scale models could be carried out from computer files in just three days". A new material was making its way to the centre of design alongside plaster and clay:

To produce the Renault 5, the Flins plant received its first welding robot.





First step into the digital age with UNISU.

polystyrene. This material allowed the bulk of the car to be quickly determined. As Yves Georges confi ded, "we were very far ahead and many people laughed at us... but they

guickly followed our lead!" Lead times were also reduced through industrialisation.

#### 25 hours to build a Renault 5

The in-house "Renault Magazine" of Januafirst industrial robot of the Unimate type in major innovation: the development of paint pilot site for the production of the Renault 5. assembly time for a Renault 5 was 25 hours. would immediately prove to be consistent in help of 134 robots. its work, cost effective and maintaining dead-







lines. It was one of the mere 500 robots used in industry all over the world at the time! In 1976, with the arrival of the Renault 14, the older sibling of the Renault 5, the Douai factory became the most robotised industrial ry 1972 announced the appearance of the site (arc welding, gluing) and introduced a the Flins factory, established in 1952, and a robots. A new era had begun. At Flins, the The welding robot was being implemented It would be reduced to 20 hours to produce on an experimental basis at station no. 11. It its 1984 Supercing replacement with the

### **THE RENAULT 5 OF TOMORROW...**

#### NEW PLATFORM AND « MADE IN FRANCE »

When work began on the nault 5 will be introduced in fore it became a pilot site for become the largest manufacthe Renault 14 from 1976. Al- turing centre for zero-emismost half a century later, the sion vehicles in Europe. new Renault 5 EV will be manufactured at this emblema- RENAULT 5 AND RENAULT 4 tic site, which has joined with WILL MEET AGAIN the Maubeuge and Ruitz sites The Renault 5 EV will the-CMF/B EV platform for the Re- future «4ever» project.

Douai plant, it was to be 2023. The ElectriCity ecosysnaugurated in 1975 by ma- tem, with 400,000 vehicles nufacturing the Renault 5 be- produced per year, aims to

to form the ElectriCity EV in- refore be manufactured in dustrial facility. The Renault France and will dramatically 5 will join the zero-emis- reduce production costs - as sion C-segment range: the it will be 33% cheaper than Megane E-TECH hatchback the current ZOE. And if the and a second vehicle which 1972 Renault 5 shared its is already being planned. A technical architecture with perfect command of flexibi- the Renault 4, the Renault 5 lity. The new zero-emission EV will do the same with the



DOUAI PRODUCED THE FIRST RENAULT 5 AND WILL PRODUCE ITS DESCENDANT IN

## THE SMALL URBAN CAR CAPABLE OF DOING IT ALL

With the Renault 5, Renault offered a versatile urban and road mobility solution. Compact but comfortable and practical, it is immediately appealing.





ively, colourful, airy: the Renault 5 appeals to everyone.

ters. Stories of women and The Renault 5 has benefited from magic pencil stroke had been convin-

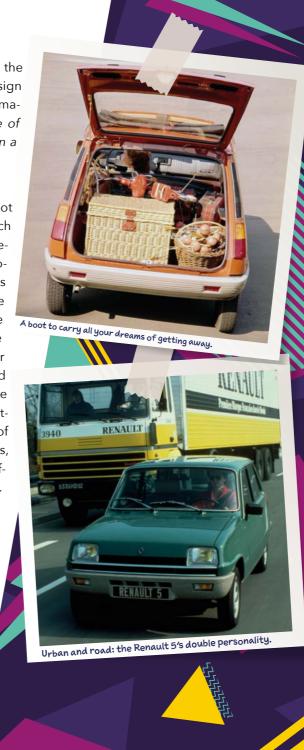
utomotive success is often challenged what was already in place: the result of simple encoun- a two-door hatchback, a coupé-like silhouette, with both urban and road men whose decisions led a mobility... Bernard Hanon was hired in project on the right track. 1967 as an advisor to the CEO Pierre Dreyfus, a few weeks before the 122 these benefactors at the head of its project began. He was the first to beconception. Though Michel Boué's lieve in the viability of a car that was not just a commercial vehicle like the cing enough, Bernard Hanon nee- Renault 4. A car that appealed to woded more time to impose ideas that men, and in which a whole range of

The Renault 5 is a nonconformist product. It is not just a car, but a friendly everyday companion.

engines could be installed. Bernard Hanon, in the IT and Planning Department, influenced the design brief. Yves Georges, Director of Studies, summarised it as "the desire to create a car capable of covering the distance from Paris to Marseille in a comfort worthy of a mid-range hatchback car".

#### Playing in the big leagues

Hanon was a product-centric man, but he did not neglect the science of market research, which was a novelty in the late 1960s. He then integrated the famous customer tests into the product development schedule. Together with his teams, he used it to define an outlook of the evolution of customer demand and therefore to improve future design specifications. The 1960s saw households move towards greater freedom, sometimes with a second salary, and the 1968 protests materialised desires that were very different from those of the immediate postwar period. In May 1968, the development of the Renault 5 was put on hold for a few weeks, but without losing sight of the objective of offering its future customers a new way of life. For the first time, Renault incorporated some subjectivity into its surveys. The Renault 5 would not be a downsized Renault 6. It had a nice-looking front and became the first multi-purpose small car, while its tailgate makes it easy to load. What a cheerful car with its seventies colours and an original look! All of this with record-breaking interior space, despite its 3.50 m length. Long before the Clio, the Renault 5 had all the makings of a great car!



### CLIO, THE WORTHY HEIR

#### HYBRID AND DIGITAL, A CAR WELL IN TUNE WITH THE TIMES

Born in 1990, the Clio is the response to the urgent need worthy descendant of the to protect the environment, Renault 5 in its ability to the range has been extended offer the ideal compromise to include the 140 hp E-TECH between urban and road Hybrid version, which can be use, including motorways. driven electrically by up to Just as the Renault 5 did 80% in the city. And to blend in its time with variants as in with growing urbanisation, diverse as the GTL, the Au- it relies on its 4 m length, tomatic and the Alpine, the which is only 50 cm longer Clio has adapted, in many than the Renault 5 was in its versions and five genera- original form... 50 years ago! tions, to the societal trends It also accepts that it will that are causing profound soon be accompanied by a upheaval today.

#### **50 CM IN 50 YEARS**

As our world becomes more cessful concept, in becoming digital, it now offers a large, a societal product, like the Eshigh-resolution 9.3-inch verti- pace or the Twingo. Or like the cal touch screen on board. In Renault 5 in its day!

zero-emission Renault 5. The 2022 Clio is of its time and has triumphed, thanks to its suc-



CLIO: INFLUENCED BY THE RENAULT

### THE RENAULT 5 GIVES THE GRILLE A FRESH LOOK

The grille had always been showy and distinctive, but then it became more discreet on the little Renault. It gave it more of a jovial look!



n 1969, the Renault 12 hatchback had a large grille that included the headlamps. It also included indicators on the front apron, which itself was pierced by small air inlets. Two coupés were fitted with a vast black the indicators and hid the sheet me-

cated on the apron, revealing the inlets to cool the engine. The only difficulties of creating a smooth and thing missing from this delicate decrisp figurehead. In 1972 the Renault sign was a tiny grille, which had more 5 changed radically! The headlamps of an aesthetic function rather than were no longer embedded in the a technical one. It highlighted the grille, but created a jovial look, while two large headlamps and joined the years later, the Renault 15 and 17 underneath, the bumper integrated bonnet. surface bumper, in which the main tal apron. The simplified figurehead **From style to design** beam headlamps were once again improved the style, which resembled Effective and brilliant because the visible. The indicators are now lo- a pebble. This bumper had four air Renault 5's features were only made

Penault Class

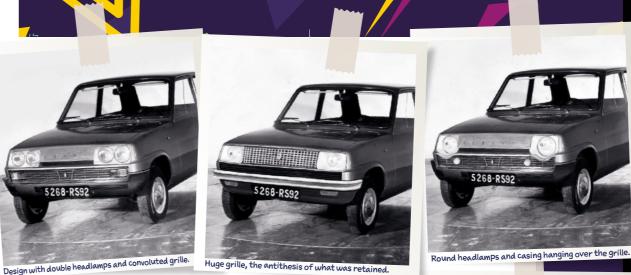
Next to the Renault 12 with its massive 'old-fashioned' grille, the Renault 5 has a real modern touch.



Renault Classic







up of these simple elements! Rather fenders on both innovative at the time, the slim grille sides. The TL verwas made of ABS and was uniformly sion had a second black. It thus had the dual quality of chrome element, being able to deform slightly without located at the base breaking, in the event of a soft im- of the grille, just pact, and of being protective in case above the bumper. a pedestrian is hit. The design of the It's not about the front end was based on the rigidity of style but the dethe body and consisted of only seven sign, as the grille removable parts: the two front fen- covered the front ders, the bonnet, the two headlamps, of the Renault 5 the bumper and the grille. There was with sobriety. Until then, cars without therefore no sheet metal support large air intakes were rare, with the plate or anything to surround the exception of the 1955 Citroën DS grille. The grille had a chrome band of course! Indirectly, due to its miunderlining the entire width of the nimalism, the Renault 5's grille did car, under the headlamps, and joined not show the logo, which was moved the distinctive embossing of the front onto the bonnet.



#### Name, logo, large grille: the overload to avoid

### **GRILLES TODAY...**

#### REVOLUTIONISED BY THE SWITCH TO EV

The grille is a key element **OFFICIALLY MISSING** of a manufacturer's iden- PFor the future Renault 5 EV, tity. It is usually designed to the almost total absence of achieve this objective rather a grille is compensated for than to fulfil its primary by two square vents, posifunction: to let air into the tioned at the two ends of engine compartment. It is the bumper. If the future gradually disappearing on Renault reminds us of its electric vehicles, or is only a ancestor, it is not because of used to make the logo stand its grille, but because of its out. It is no longer the engine headlamps. The absence of that needs to be cooled, but coarse air inlets is beneficial rather the batteries which for aerodynamics. Like the are located lower down, in Renault 5 EV, the new Meorder to ensure their effi- gane has no open grille, but ciency and durability. De- instead has a bumper with signers will still have to de- two air vents designed to sign thin air intakes into the optimise the aerodynamic shields to address this.

coefficient.



## **INNOVATIVE** COMPOSITE BUMPERS

Engineers were thinking about replacing the metal bumper with a composite one. Renault made it a reality with its Renault 15 and Renault 17, before generalising it with the Renault 5.



he jovial style of the Renault 5 is due in part to its composite bumpers, which replaced the curved sheet metal parts that previously served as bumpers. Renault thus refined the concept which appeared four months earlier on the Renault 15 and Renault 17 coupés. This innovation can even be traced back to research for the 120 project for a large hatchback designed in 1968.

Yves Georges, Director of Studies, and Claude Prost-Dame, then in charge of the bodywork, imposed this solution on the 122 project. It wasn't easy to sell the idea when a plastic component cost more than a chrome-clad bumper! The advantage of this composite bumper, in addition to its shock absorption at speeds of up to 7 km/h, is that it provided more protection than a sheet metal bumper. To ensure that this new ele-



The factory in Dreux dedicated to the manufacture of bumpers.

The plastic **bumpers** contributed to its sleek style and were capable of absorbing shocks at speeds of up to 7 km/h.

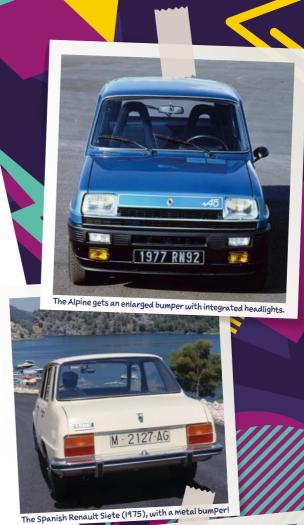


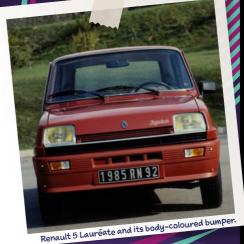
ment served its purpose, the material chosen consisted of glass fibres steeped with polyester resin. The resulting product was then processed to create a material with the consistency of a thick filler. It was then wound onto 1.5 tonne reels and delivered to the Dreux factory, which is specially equipped to manufacture these bumpers.

#### **Composite is fantastic!**

Presses weighing 1,500 tonnes shaped them at a temperature of 150°C to allow for thermosetting, all under a pressing force of around 70 kg per cm<sup>2</sup>. The plants made forty pieces per hour per press, of which there were four. This innovative material was a perfect fit for the 1970s, when synthetic materials were used in various areas such as furniture. clothing and household accessories. The result was fantastic, as these light grey parts fully contributed to the style of the Renault 5. However, these composite elements went far beyond mere design or protection. They could be used to reduce

the number of parts that made up the structure, by removing some sheet metal elements in the lower front part of the vehicle. Clean, crisp and simple, the Renault 5's figurehead was both compact and non-aggressive. While the 4-door version of the Renault 5 produced in Spain (the Renault Siete) kept the classic sheet metal bumpers, the 1976 Renault 14 generalised the concept for generations to come.





### **BUMPERS TODAY...**

#### **FROM PHYSICAL TO LASER PROTECTION**

The 1972 bumper impro- tems on vehicles incorpoved the functions of this car rated with level 2 advanced part. From the 1970s, it be- driving assistance systems. came "soft nose" by incor- It is now produced with porating deformation zones recycled materials. Since for pedestrian impacts. It April 2010, Renault and its now integrates the air vents, partners Rhodia, INDRA joins with the engine cover, SAS/Re-source Industries, and facilitates the redesi- Steep and Mann&Humgning process. All of these mel have set up a recycling functions have increased network for plastic from its thickness. As with the used vehicles in order to Renault 5 Prototype, it also re-use not only its own recy adapts to the changes in as- cled parts but also those of sisted driving.

#### RECYCLED MATERIALS

and now radar and laser vestment in manufacturing remote sensing (Lidar) sys- of several million euros.

its competitors in its future products. Today, bumpers have become highly tech-It includes parking sensors nological and require an in-



## **NEW SIDE** PROTECTIONS

The side strips protect against minor impacts, 'especially when stationary" according to the catalogue

The Renault 5 GTL protects against knocks and costs. Its new lateral protection makes you forget that the car was also designed to cope with the oil crisis.

n 1973, when the supply of robust and economical, this answers to this crisis. Its technical department suggested to install the pearance in February 1976 - the "big" 1,289 cc engine, lowering its same year as the Renault 5 Alpower to 44 horsepower. Flexible, pine - the GTL did not stand out

black gold ran out and fuel four-cylinder engine enabled the prices exploded around the new Renault 5 GTL to claim fuel world, Renault realised that consumption of 4.7 litres per 100 its Renault 5 was one of the km at 90 km/h (see pages 40-41). However, when it made its ap-





for its new economical powertrain, but for the lateral protection that encircles the body. While the engineers gave this GTL a considerable "engine" advantage in these times of crisis, the designers adopted a mass production device from their research in the 1970s extending the protection of the bumpers along the sides of the Renault 5.

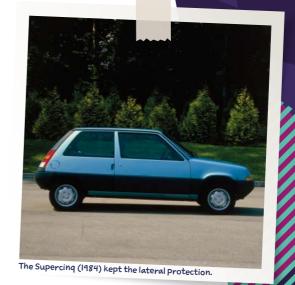
#### Nothing is lost

These side strips, made of the same material as the front and rear bumpers - a reinforced plastic made from a mixture of synthetic resin and fibreglass protect against minor impacts, "especially when stationary" according to the catalogue. They are screwed directly onto factory-fitted lugs and there are three per side, with one module covering the rear wheel arch. They are striped, like the bumpers.

In 1980, when the Renault 5 was restyled, these elements were adapted to the arrival of the 5-door model. The designers did not invent these protections only for the Renault 5. In the mid-1970s, they worked on a project for a small hatchback to replace the Renault 4, with a programme called Véhicule Bas de Gamme (lower-range vehicle) (left). Many models were made prior to the release of the Renault 5 GTL, and the vast majority of them were fitted with very large lateral protections, some of which went very high up the sides. Nothing is lost in research, the Renault 5 GTL was born to confirm it!



ET CEST DRUCEMENT PRATIOUE CES PROTECTIONS LATÉRALES. ELLES SONT EN POURSTER ET ELLES RÉSISTENT À TOUTES LES POUSEETTES, VELOS, CHARLOTS ET AURES ENSINS DE CHORC. HAIS CE OUI VOUS DONNERA LE RUIS DE SMITISMETION CEST LE MOTEUR DE LA REINAUT 5 GTL. UN 1300 CM (44 ch. DIN). CONCU AOUR DONNER SON HAXIMUM DE PUISSANCE MÊME À BAS RÉGIME. CE QU VEUT DIRE TOUT SIMPLEMENT PUIS DE SOURLESSE, DE ROBUITESSE ET MOINS DESSENCE: A 90 KM/H AVITESSE STABILISÉE LA RENAUT 5 GTL NE CONSOMME QUE 4,7 L AUX 100 - CHOUETTE ALORS! DEMANDIT S GTL (1) 20E 4.7 L AUX 100 - CHOUETTE ALORS! Remarks LI 2009 - Silves Notine Wards - Stream Store Store - Store adding - Remarks Store - Store adding - Store adding - Remarks Store - Store -



### **PROTECTIONS TODAY...**

#### SUSTAINABLE DESIGN AND RECYCLED MATERIALS

Damaging a Renault 5 GTL concerns the production protection, rather than a chain and even goes further, door, was a first approach during the recycling stage. to sustainable design! To- With its Re-Factory unveiled day, it imagines and designs in 2020, Renault has created new concepts with recycled an ecosystem that aims to materials. For example, the develop innovation to supupper part of the Megane port the circular economy. E-TECH Electric's door trim and to achieve a negative is made of a new material carbon footprint by 2030. consisting of laser-cut lime Manufacturing of electric leaves bonded to a fabric cars will be directly impacted with a low environmental as almost 80% of the recy impact adhesive. This is a cled materials will be reused world first.

#### CIRCULAR ECONOMY

gning 'sustainably' is not *materials in <u>new vehicles</u>* just about design. It also worldwide» by 2030.

in new batteries. Renault wants to become «the car manufacturer with the hi-The new way of desi- ghest percentage of recycled



THE MEGANE E-TECH ELECTRIC USES A LOT OF RECYCLED MATERIALS



### **TWO DOORS ONLY...** AND NO HANDLES!

For sales people, it was madness to launch a two-door car! It didn't even have handles. But, in fact, it was a stroke of genius.

he Renault 5 was the first mass-produced model with only two doors. The doors were a small feat of ingenuity, as they frame was made separately and then welded to the lower part consisting of an outer skin and an inner box. It should be noted that in 1972, only the TL version had hard point hinges at the end, which

These doors are fitted with dropdown windows, not sliding windows as was discussed at the outset of the project. They have no deflectors, which provides a somewhat better protection against theft and improved side vision. But the issue at the beginning of the project was not really technical. Rather, it concerned the marketing department: "Would allowed the doors to stay open. it be possible to sell a "coach" with

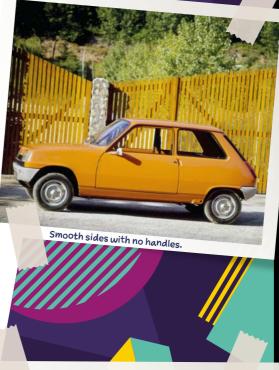
Elegance, efficiency, ingenuity: the entire personality of the Renault 5 is reflected in the absence of classic handles.



only two doors in France in 1972?" The answer from some analysts was clear: "no". However Bernard Hanon, who was supervising the study of this little Renault, already perceived the socie tal evolution that awaits for such a product that didn't yet exist on the market.

#### A Renault 5 «2+1 doors»

To reassure the sceptics, the designers created a four-door variant in the late 1960s, with the same length as the two-door. But it would only appear with the 1980 restyling! Better still, the architects gave the Renault 5 a magic tailgate (see p.30) to facilitate loading, while the two very long doors and the reclining seats provide good access to the back seats. This two-door original architecture came from the Design department who refined their panels by piercing them with a small push button opening. To avoid the handles, a small notch was stamped into the side of the body. The Renault 5's entire personality was defined by this detail: purity efficiency, ingenuity. However, the designers had to give up this idea when it came to manufacturing the four-door version in Spain (the Siete), and in Europe when the fivedoor Renault 5 appeared in 1980. The chief designer, Gaston Juchet, even imagined a Renault 5 having a 5-door opening version on the right and a 3-door opening version on the left in order to create a model with asymmetrical openings. An idea that never went further than the drawing stage.





### **DOOR HANDLES TODAY...**

#### HIDDEN IN THE BODY, **IT'S MORE "CHIC"**

The new Megane E-TECH ... AND MORE AERODYNAMIC Electric, like the Renault 5 The system takes into acout door handles. When the safety, in particular pasdriver or front passenger sive safety. When an airbag approaches to open a door opens, it automatically un- or when the vehicle is un- locks the doors and pushes locked - the handles, which out the handles. The system are hidden in the bodywork, is equipped with a "manual" are automatically popped opening safety device in out of their slots through case of power failure. This an electronic system. The so-called "emergency re doors can then be opened in lease" function is manda the same way as a conven- tory when retractable door tional handle. They return handles are installed. In adto their hidden slots two mi- dition to their high-tech apnutes after parking or when pearance, these handles imthe car starts to move and prove aerodynamics thanks the doors are locked.

Prototype, features pop- count all factors related to to their smooth sides, free of rough patches.



AERODYNAMIC AND ELEGANT WITH HIDDEN HANDLES

### **THE RENAULT 5 INVENTED** THE USER-FRIENDLY DASHBOARD

e implementation of the

controls within fingertip reach was revolutionary and would be adopted by all

The most striking innovation on board the Renault 5 was the control panel, bringing together all the information and controls in a single, highly ergonomic component.

he Renault 5 would be modern and easy to drive. A logical approach led to the implementation of a simple, clever and compact dashboard. But keeping it simple was complicated! The designer Robert Broyer, whose project had been selected, explained that he based it on inno-

vating the structure of the shell: "The windscreen bay beam was designed to channel air, hence the big air vent in the centre. This sheet of metal was guite useful in terms of protection in the event of an accident. The intention was to cover it with a fabric-foam coating for greater efficiency. It was a

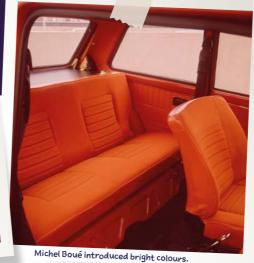


The control panel was very techno in 1972.









simple solution, which I applied even a dashboard body that spanned the fingertips was ground-breaking and cushioning pad".

with the knees. The simplicity of the or glasses". dashboard design by Robert Broyer had to be paired with an innovative **The history of the knob** control panel. "Instead of designing Implementing these controls at one's intuitive, not like the front-mounted

to the steering wheel hub, with its width of the car, I focused on innova- would be adopted, in a different form, ting the small block in front of the dri-by competitors a decade later. This put The dashboard thus adopted signifi- ver, moving the controls there, which an end to buttons scattered here and cant innovations in terms of passive were previously scattered all over the there. A logic that incorporated a sosafety, meaning safety following an place». This was completely new at called oscilloscope control panel, with impact. So, it could be deformed, had the time, with the windscreen wiper the tachometer and lights in the centre, no aggressive sections and received a control taking the form of a switch surrounded by the controls. A set-up protective foam. The steering column at fingertip level, and others on the similar to the one found for the 1976 was gimbaled and fixed to a defor- right-hand side of the control panel. Renault 14. The dashboard of the Remable bracket to prevent intrusion. «I designed a set square shape for the nault 5 was innovative, but according The shell that closed the column cover dashboard, with the speedometer and to Robert Brover, it could have been was made of soft polypropylene, limi- its return at 90° to the steering wheel. more so. "I had positioned a headlamp ting the consequences of an impact In this area I added a pocket for coins height adjustment knob on the side

The 1974 Renault 5 LS with its rev counter.

of the control panel. It was simple to use: turn forward to lower the optics turn backward to raise them. It was



#### **HOW IT IS VIEWED TODAY**

Stéphane Maiore, Head of Interior Design, talks about the 1972 icon :

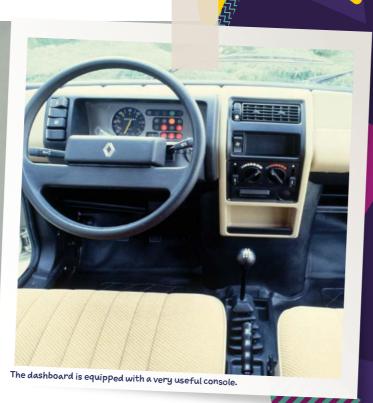
« You can feel that the designers designed a passenger compartment that broke the rules, even with plastic materials, which seems strange today, but which was very new back then. The dashboard was faded to put the emphasis on the control panel. The idea was to free up space, which contributed to the impression of modernity. We can see that technology was needed to compact everything, and there was a hierarchy that resulted from this: we first discover this new part featuring the control panel-integrated wheel and then we find the dashboard banner below it that sets the scene. »



controls where you never knew if you were raising or lowering the headlamps! Unfortunately, the architect was not interested by it. Yet, Pierre Dreyfus liked this innovation, so much so that he asked me why it was no longer present on the final dashboard. When I explained why, Yves Georges gave me an earful because 'I was not supposed to answer the president on engineering issues'!"

#### Colourful seats

In order to be as compact as possible, the control panel was given a flexible printed circuit board (PCB) to bypass the speedometer bowl. Considered modern architecture for its time, it required a single multi-channel connector to the electrical network for greater reliability. The whole thing was clad in black plastic parts, while the on-board environment was very colourful. Robert Broyer explained that, at the time, it was difficult to match colours between the different plastic materials, "so the board was bathed in grey or black, because the colour combinations were very risky". Plastic was fantastic in the 1970s!



In terms of ergonomics, the heating controls were located in a no-contact zone. As for the window winder crank handles, they were deformable in the event of a side impact. What about the seats and their colourful covers? They were created in the colours and materials department, where a certain artist was working at the time: Michel Boué, designer of the Renault 5! Robert Broyer confirmed that "Boué found the idea of the leatherette upholstery brilliant but a little uncomfortable, let's face it! But in terms of visual impact, it was very effective!"



### DASHBOARDS TODAY...

#### **USER-FRIENDLY: TOUCH-SENSITIVE AND DIGITAL**

At Renault, the arrival of the Megane places the dashboard body and becomes space to design the passenger compart- display and a multimedia touch screen. ment within a more compact exterior. Part of this extra space is in the front **100% DIGITAL** block. Architects use it to house the This equipment, unique on the market. passenger compartment from the engine if Robert Brover, at compartment. Designers have taken ad- the end of the 1960s, vantage of this extra space to streamline was obliged to design the dashboard. This is a far cry from the a visor to protect his invasive "buffet", the famous engine co- small control unit from ver under the Renault 5 dashboard!

#### OPENR

Refining continued under the console. gane E-TECH Electric's The absence of a transmission tunnel, screens has been opcombined with the flat floor of this 100% timised for better visielectric architecture, benefited the in- bility in the sun thanks terior space. The gear lever, which was to anti-reflection techslow to move from the dashboard-pier- nology. This makes it cing stick to the floor in the Renault 5, possible to do without was moved behind the steering wheel the classic visor. The in the Megane E-TECH Electric. However, OpenR Link infotainthere is one thing in common between ment system is based the first Renault 5 and the 2022 archi- on Android OS, which tecture: the desire to group information powers over 75% of the and controls as much as possible. It's all world's smartphones. about the new OpenR concept of putting In 1972, a car radio was screens all in one place. It is the centre- not even an option on piece of the Megane E-TECH Electric's the Renault 5! passenger compartment. It virtually re-

E-TECH Electric marked a breakthrough the embodiment of integrated technoloin automotive architecture. With the gy. The OpenR screen is shaped like an CMF/EV platform, designers have more upside-down "L" and integrates digital

air-conditioning units. This overhang integrates the central air vents, just as frees up the canopy, a highly technical the dashboard of the Renault 5 intearchitectural feature that separates the grated the large air vent in its day. But

> reflections, half a century later the light reflection rate of the Me-



INTUITIVENESS, OUALITY AND SIMPLICITY ON BOARD THE MEGANE E-TECH



### THE RENAULT 5 HAS A DARING **TAILGATE** FOR MORE VERSATILITY

The tailgate was successfully introduced on the Renault 16, and was generalised by Renault on the Renault 5, which then became a very practical car, despite its two doors.



n 1965, the Renault 16 invented an unprecedented architecture with its tailgate giving access to then, the hatchback had been tainted with a "utilitarian" image, but now it was nault 5's French rival: the Peugeot 104, a real jewel, full of intelligence. This fif- from the end of 1972, neglected the tailth door was generalised by Renault and became the standard for multi-purpose took advantage of this late reaction from hatchbacks. In 1972, however, the Re- competitors to impose its "3-door" ar-

nault 5 was the first to impose it in its segment. Its competitor, the Fiat 127, which was launched nine months earlier, the boot. Something never before had to make do with a boot lid and had seen on a family hatchback. Until to wait until 1973 to offer the magical tailgate. The same was true for the Regate until it was restyled in 1976. Renault



**Renault took all** its competitors by surprise. The Renault 5 was the first model in its class to have a real tailgate.



Renault 5 Société marketed since 1975, without a bench seat





chitecture. This was made possible with the design of a new body shell featuring a large cut-out at the back. Renault used its experience with the Renault 16 to work on the rigidity of a more compact model.

#### A tailgate and a folding rear seat

The rigidity of the body also allowed the Renault 5 to offer a canvas type sunroof over the entire length of its roofline. The tailgate integrated the license plate lights and extended over the entire width of the vehicle, the lights being now located on the

sides. The air extracts in the passenger compartment, which are usually hidden, were instead highlighted here and gave the little Renault a strong personality. In addition, the designers covered the hinges, so they were not visible. The advantage of the tailgate is that it sat perfectly with the bumper, providing an extremely low sill height. A metal compensator on the

> left side locked it once opened. Access to the loading area became easy, with a width of 1.06 m. Between the wheel arches, the Renault 5 still had 88 cm and, with the rear seat folded down. 1.17 m length for loading volumes varying from 270 to 900 dm<sup>3</sup>. The tailgate was combined with a practical folding seat. This was the Renault 5's strength, which wiped out the so-called handicap of having only two doors with a wave of its magic wand!

### TAILGATES TODAY...

#### MOTORISED AND CONTROLLED BY HAND OR BY FOOT

The fifth door has shed its **EASY TO OPEN** utilitarian status and beco- WITH LOADED ARMS me part of the architecture From the outside and with of cars in all segments, inclu- your arms loaded, moving ding the upmarket range. It your foot back and forth has evolved over the years by over a sensor under the rear integrating part of the tailli- shield triggers it to open or ghts, a windscreen wiper, the close. A towing system does 3rd brake light, a rearview not prevent the sensor from monitor and, today, an au- being installed, it is simply tomation that offers several moved to the left. A push opening and closing possi- on the button on the edge bilities. On the Renault Talis- of the tailgate allows for a man Estate and Espace, for motorised closing. It is also example, the remote control possible to adjust the opeallows the car to be opened ning height, depending on entirely remotely, by hol- the garage where you park ding the button pressed for a the vehicle most often. while. It can also be opened or closed by pressing a button on the dashboard



A SENSOR UNDER THE SHIELD CONTROLS THE

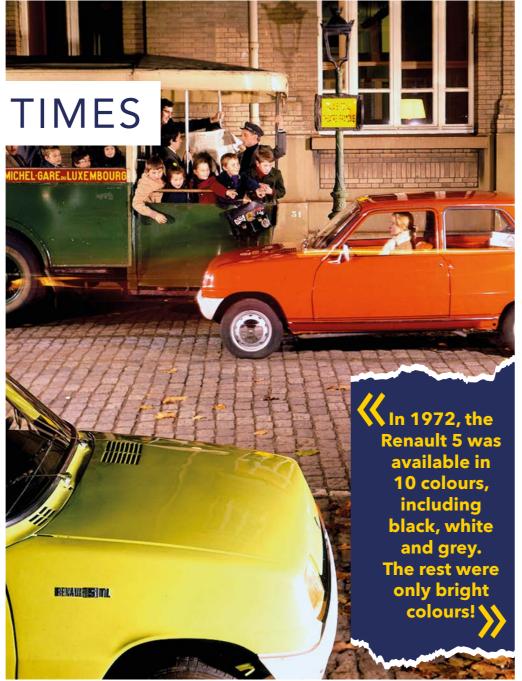
### **BRIGHT COLOURS** IN TUNE WITH THE TIMES

The last years of the Trente Glorieuses (1945-1975) were bright, cheerful and colourful! The Renault 5 was 100% in line with this happy trend.



e Renault 5 had 68 bodywork colours throughout its career, including fifteen shades of blue, nine shades of green, four of yellow, three of red, two of orange and only five shades of grey. The little Renault thus demonstrated its drive, its joie de vivre and its roots in the 1970s. In orange, it sparkled and fitted

perfectly with the fashion, architecture and furniture of the beginning of the decade. It was a crazy idea. And they liked it! Everything was orange back then. Parisians and suburbanites discovered the orange card for public transportation in 1976, a colour also adopted by Tefal pans, Corail trains, slot-in record players and teenagers for their bedrooms'





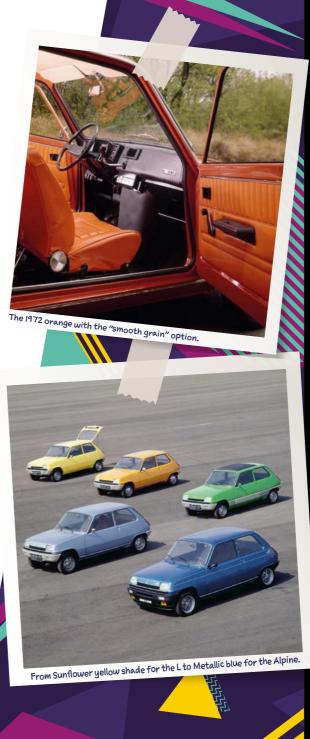
wallpaper during the beatnik years. The colour is unabashedly assertive.

On board, the seats of the Renault 5 were this colour, with a rather slippery material: the famous "smooth grain" imitation that was available as an option. It was also found on the car interior door panel. Later, the wicked Turbo of 1980 would choose bold colours (bright blue and red) in its sports car interior, taken to the extreme.

#### **Renault dares everything**

In 1972, it had only been three years since man walked on the grey moon, but in and it The 1972, The 1972 orange with the "smooth grain" option. walked on the grey moon, but in the street, cars would be another four years before the very first Apple computers were built. And only 8% of households had colour television! To see life in colour, you had to look out of the window at the increasingly busy traffic.

Renault was certainly the most daring manufacturer with its orange, green or yellow Renault 5. In 1976, the Renault 14 was also orange, the Renault 20 TS was red, the Renault 5 GTL was green and the redesigned Renault 15 was blue. The Renaulution had begun. Even the shade chart for the Renault 5 Alpine, although marginal in terms of volume, offered 15 different colours between 1976 and 1978! At the end of its life, the 1983 Renault 5 Campus even tried a burgundy colour usually reserved for cars in higher segments. There's no doubt about it: the Supercar's shade chart played a big part in its success.



### **COLOURS TODAY...**

#### RENAULT MAKES LIFE COLOURFUL

The Renault 5 electric concept the Flame Red shade is ablaze car is swathed in a vibrant yel- on the Clio. low. This signals a future that is keen to revive colours, as IT'S IN THE BRAND'S DNA 81% of the cars on the road In 1953, Paule Marrot created today are white, black or grey. a department specialised in Orange, yellow and green colours and materials. A very each account for barely 1%! fashionable designer in Paris, In this dullness, Renault is the she set up her workshop in the most assiduous in reviving bri- heart of the technical departght colours. François Farion, ment in Rueil-Malmaison. Her Renault's Design Director res- first accomplishment was the ponsible for colours and ma- Dauphine. Until 1965, Paule terials, says that "Renault has Marrot marked Renault's DNA a more colourful offer than design with her audacity. In the average manufacturer. We addition to its seventies pesell about 10% more coloured riod, Renault shook up the shades than our competi- design world in 1993 with its *tors!"* The ZOE introduced the Twingo marketed in four new Celadon Blue shade, while the colours: Ultramarine blue, Co-Atacama Orange shade was ral red, Coriander green and imposed by the Captur and Indian yellow.



THE RENAULT 5 EV WITH ITS YELLOW AND BLACK COLOUR



## RENAULT 5 A STAR IS BORN



### THE RENAULT 5 BECAME A «SUPERCAR» IN ADVERTISING





In order to be convincing, advertisers innovated in every respect and transformed the Renault 5 into a resourceful and friendly comic book character: «Supercar»!



hen it was launched in January 1972, the Renault 5 was showcased as a character called Supercar. The Publicis agency, a long-standing partner of the Company, had the brilliant idea of personifying the car. They needed a guick and strong impact. The

objective was ambitious: in two weeks, the whole country had to know the Renault 5 and want to buy it!

#### The Renault 5: a movie star

The headlamps became eyes and its famous plastic bumpers a mouth, thus allowing it to speak. The stage was set for "Les Aventures de Supercar" (or "The Adventures of Supercar"). The new little Renault was invested as a film star in 1,500 cinemas in France (at the time, car advertising was banned from television in this country). Two cartoons called "Les Aventures de Supercar en ville" ("The Adventures of Supercar in the city") and "Les Aventures de Supercar sur la route" ("The Adventures of Supercar on the road") began and ended the pre-film advertising sequences. The first episode compiled the urban quali-

At a time when black and white was still the norm, the Renault 5 stood out with colour. 🔨



ties of the Renault 5 in forty-five seconds. Scripted like a cartoon, the film spewed at full speed the car's assets instead of gags, although the tone was not lacking in humour. Its new bumpers were the ultimate weapon in the event of a collision.

Designed like the bangers of yesteryear, its competitors with their fitted metal bumpers were really dated. It even gave them an aggressive look, the opposite of the smooth Renault 5, which reassured and protected its passengers and other road users. Thanks to its compactness, the "Supercar" easily weaved in and out

between the cars in traffic and brilliantly defied the challenge of parallel parking. Finally, it capitalised on its third door, the famous tailgate. And to keep a potential client only half convinced on the edge of their seat in suspense, the end of the advert announced a sequel. It took place in a complementary dimension: the road. The strength of the Renault 5 was precisely that it was "the first city car designed for the road". In this sequel to "The Adventures of Supercar", the focus was on dynamism, suspension comfort and the car's frugality. The test vehicles, made available by the Renault network, were also "humanised": they too had eyes instead of headlamps.

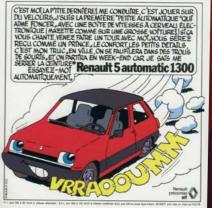
#### Goodbye, cruel world

The graphics of the cartoons were reproduced in the form of

comic strips in the press, on billboards and on bus shelters. Supercar was also advertised on the sides of buses in Paris and its suburbs. In the national daily newspapers, Renault was going big, with real posters spread over two pages or in a broadsheet format that was already turning the heads of readers with the Renault 5. At a time when black and white was still the norm, the Renault stood out with colour. It innovated with a printing process called Pulc, which superimposed a plastic film on the paper. The brilliance of bright colours was thus amplified. The Renault 5 would remain true to the cartoon until the end. The poignant commercial "Adieu monde cruel" ("Goodbye cruel world") in 1985 is a good example.



### CA Y EST ! UNE RENAULT 5 AUTOMATIQUE



### HOW IT IS VIEWED TODAY

#### **«IT'S SUPERCAR NICKNAME CAME** AS A SURPRISE... BRILLIANT!»

OOKS BACK AT THE ADVERTI D TO LAUNCH THE RENAULT 5:

the Renault 5 very well. What stuck. I do remember, however, is that it represented a break That being said, the car had a and even conceptually spea- culture. At the time we were a singular and offbeat way era of the all-powerful creathrough comics was smart. It tives and it was cool. » was cheeky, irreverent,

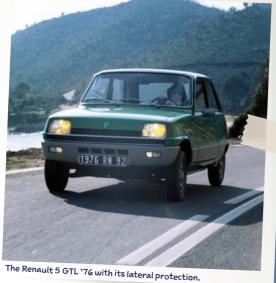
and its 'Supercar' nick name, almost an oxymoron for the R5. came as a surprise... brilliant!

In hindsight, however all car marketing professionals know that the cartoon treatment doesn't work ideally purchasing a car is a thoughtful process because of the financial stakes for the buyer. The risk of the car not being taken seriously is too great. This

« I'll tell you a secret... in probably why the comic di-1972, I was five years old, so I sappeared so quickly and don't remember the launch of why the 'Supercar' nickname

from what was available, cult following - so did its adtechnologically, aesthetically vertising - it's all part of pop king, and 'publicising' it in trying things out. It was the





## 4,5 L.C'est de la sorcellerie!

## **RECORD-BREAKING** CONSUMPTION

No more cheap petrol. Oil price shocks gave a wake-up call, leading the world to wage war on waste. A challenge that the Renault 5 will take on valiantly.

A 90 km/h vitesse stabilisée, la Renault 5 GTL vitesses ne consomme que 4.5 L aux cent. 'est incroyable | Comment fait-elle, se deman-La Renault 5 est une sorrière qui ne dévoile

pas facilement ses secrets. On est pourtant sur que son moteur 1108 cm<sup>3</sup>, son spoiler aéro amique y sont pour quelque chose et sa velle boîte 5 vitesses aussi, bien sûr

#### **RENAULT 5 GTL 5 VITESSES.**

aux 100 km, à vitesse stabilisée - 4.5 L à 90 km/h, 6.1 L à 190 km/h, 6.3 L en cycle untu

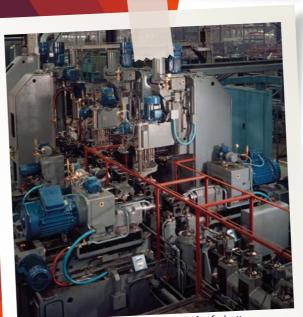
he Renault 5, launched in January 1972 in the care- GTL. A mid-range version powered by a "big" 1289 cc engine nault 5 to reduce its petrol consumption. Even though the the rear bonnets of the Renault 8, Floride S and then Carafirst advertisements emphasised its frugality, this was not velle. The Renault 5 GTL's engine was extensively reworked, enough. Further steps needed to be taken. In early 1976, the downsized from 54 to 44 hp and fitted with a single-barrel engineers of the Renault company showed off their Renault 5 carburettor, with the sole aim of saving fuel.

free atmosphere of France's Trente Glorieuses period (the original Renault 5 had only 782 cc and 34 hp). This en-(the 30-year post-war boom), was soon confronted gine, known as the "Sierra engine" or "Cléon-Fonte engine", with the first oil crisis. This barely allowed a year and named after the factory in Seine Maritime that produced it, a half's respite before putting pressure on the Re- was not a novelty. It proved its worth as early as 1962 under The Renault 5 was the first car to fall below the symbolic 5 L/100 km mark at 90 km/h.





In 1981, the engine displacement was reduced.



Manufacturing of the Sierra engine in the Cléon factory.

The car, which weighed only 785 kg, was now below the symbolic 5 litres per 100 km mark. Renault reported a record value of 4.7 liters per 100 km, officially recognised at a cruising speed of 90 km/h. The second oil crisis in 1979 forced the company to go even further.

#### GTL's popularity took over

In 1981, the engine displacement was lowered to 1,108 cc, a 5-speed gearbox replaced the 4-speed gearbox and a spoiler was integrated into the bumper. The Renault 5 GTL claimed 4.5 L/100 km. Advertisers, inspired by this magical fuel-efficient car, took advantage of this and came up with the slogan "my Renault 5 is a witch". The car was shown as flying through the sky on a broom. It also used its roof antenna like a magic wand with a laser beam to knock down a petrol station sign. And it also filled the tank right up with a tiny drop of petrol; it couldn't be clearer, Renault was straight to the point and right on target. The 41-litre fuel tank allowed it to cover more than 850 km, which meant that you didn't have to visit the petrol station so often. An initiative that came just at the right time during a period when a "no-waste attitude" was the order of the day. Renault made no mistake, the Renault 5 GTL would be the most popular version of the range.

#### HYBRID CARS TODAY ARE **REDUCING CONSUMPTION**

#### THE CLIO E-TECH HAS THREE **ENGINES UNDER THE BONNET!**

More than ever, car manufac- ONLY 4.3 L/100 KM turers need to reduce their FOR 140 HP models' fuel consumption The Renault Clio E-Tech has and limit their carbon foot- a combined power output of print. In the 21st century, 140 hp but consumes only 4.3 optimizing an internal com- litres per 100 km according to bustion engine is no longer the WLTP combined cycle. A enough; an electric engine is good score for a 1,3-ton car. now essential. In the Renault To achieve this amazing feat, range, it was the Clio, the le- the engineers used a clutgitimate heir to the Renault chless dog-type gearbox, an 5. that introduced hybrid F1 technology that conside technology. Its 'watted' ver- rably limits internal friction sion, called E-Tech, appeared and consequently reduces in 2020. It combined a 91 hp consumption. The other good 1.6 L petrol engine with two news for the clients' money is electric engines powered by that the service interval has a small lithium-ion battery been extended to 30.000 km pack.

or two years. This Clio hybrid is as virtuous as it gets.



## **A CHIC LITTLE PIONEER** PLAYING IN THE BIG LEAGUES!

4.10 . 1.8

Ten vears after its launch, the Renault 5 went upmarket. With its TX version, it was the first to prove that a chic car did not have to be a big car.



career quietly with a 782 cc enversion really caught the eye with its bright colours on the outside as well as on the inside, especially with its orange vinyl upholstery. It embodied the modern-day city car. But over the ly the Renault 5 TX. Presented in Octocourse of a decade, the expectations of ber 1981, it marked the peak of the car's its broad customer base had changed. The brand's upper-class clients - always years. Under the bonnet, the Renault 5

n 1972, the Renault 5 began its in a hurry - wanted a more stylish, more powerful and above all, a better equipgine delivering 34 hp. This basic ped Renault 5. A Renault 5 that really distanced itself from the rustic "4L" from which it was derived.

1982 RN92

The range was progressively extended with the TL, LS and TS versions, and finalcareer during the 1982 to 1984 model



The Renault 5 TX showcased a leather steering wheel.

The Renault 5 TX was the first in a long line of small city cars that were both chic and powerful. 🔪

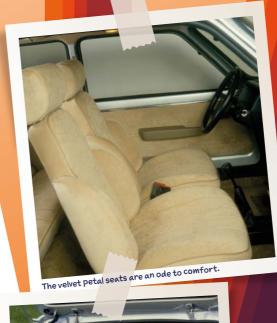


TX had doubled in engine size and power. With a displacement of 1,400 cc and 63 hp, its dynamic engine was equipped with an electronic ignition system for better reliability and durability. It was paired to a 5-speed manual gearbox that limited both fuel consumption and noise levels when the Renault 5 TX was on the motorway, where its top speed of 155 km/h allowed it to run into the left-hand lane confidently. But the city car was not afraid to take on traffic jams, where its optional three-speed automatic transmission ensured a smooth ride.

#### High range equipment

The standard equipment was extensive. Everything was included in the TX (except the automatic gearbox). Electric front windows, power steering, a leather steering wheel and a digital clock completed the rear seats whose backrests, which could be folded in half, could hold its own against today's modularity. The comfortable petal seats were upholstered in sand-coloured corduroy and enhanced by a lacquered

coat of metallic colours that were both chic and discreet. Even the black roof antenna was in tune. The sportiness of the model was modestly hinted by a front bumper - made of plastic, of course - that was placed closer to the asphalt than that of the lower ranking Renault 5. The TX took it from the Renault 5 Alpine and Renault 5 Alpine Turbo - minus the fog lamps - and was distinguished by its exclusive Amil light alloy wheels, making it a confident car.





The carpeted boot was also stylish.



### TODAY, THE CAPTUR **INITIALE PARIS...**

#### THE ECO-CHIC URBAN SUV

often more popular than add to the car's exclusivity. small city hatchbacks. In On board, the white quilted good view of traffic. Renault fully digital dashboard hit adapted, making the Captur their mark. Initiale Paris a proud descendant of the Renault 5 TX. In HYBRIDISATION between came the Supercing IN ALL ITS FORMS and the Clio Baccara models. Under the bonnet, the enexpertise. There are many 140 or 160 hp petrol engines. with a stylised Eiffel Tower polluting.

Nowadays, urban SUVs are on each of the five spokes, the city, people like to get a leather upholstery and the

and then the Clio Initiale Pa-gines chosen are the best in ris, building on 40 years of the range which span from similarities. Nothing has hybrid technology offered in been left to chance, the Cap- 145 hp and finally, the 160 tur Initiale Paris is dressed hp plug-in hybrid. The latter in a Amethyst Black colour, allows the car to be driven contrasted by an Alabaster for 50 km in zero emission White roof. The chrome grille mode, perfect for urban jourand 18-inch wheels, each neys without consuming or



## THREE DIAMOND LOGOS FOR THE RENAULT 5!

A mini diamond adorned the preseries, then was replaced by a new logo. However, due to plagiarism, it was soon replaced by the diamond designed by Jean-Pierre Vasarely.



he Renault 5 is one of few cars last years of the Trente Glorieuses. to have received three logos birthday! To understand the full story, let's rewind to the mid-1960s. With the Renault 16 and Renault 12, the manufacturer switched to frontwheel drive in an innovative style. The Renault 15 and 17 coupés revived the brand's image. The Renault 5 would drive the company into the 1970s, the evolution of this emblem, which is so-

The brand's identity was then changed before even celebrating its first to a tiny logo, inherited from the diamond-shaped logo created in 1925. In 1967, when the 122 project - the future Renault 5 - was launched, the logo that was available in the range was a remake of the diamond shape dating from 1959. The ongoing 'modernisation' projects have seen an

On the right, the tiny 1971 logo (pilot). Below, the forbidden logo and the Vasarely logo.

 $\bigcirc$ 

RENAULT 5



The steering wheel proudly displays the new logo.

The Renault 5 was the first Renault to bear the famous diamond designed by Victor Vasarely's son. 🔪

RENAULT 5

354 BE 92



metimes smaller, sometimes longer, as on the first Renault 15 and 17. This logo appeared on the Renault 5 pre-series, but was very quickly replaced by a sleek, graphic diamond-shaped emblem.

#### The "Kent" diamond, the forbidden logo!

The new logo was soon affixed to the bonnets of the first Renault 5s marketed in 1972. Pierre Dreyfus, the head of the company, posed proudly next to the small hatchback with this logo. The story could have ended there. But it turns out that the newcomer's design plagiarised a subcontractor's one: Kent, a company specialising in chemicals for the automotive and maritime sectors. Before a possible lawsuit could loom, Renault decided to rework it by calling on Victor Vasarely's son, Jean-Pierre, better known as Yvaral. He is the founding artist of the French visual art research group, GRAV. His work immediately appealed to Renault and his new logo was quickly installed on the facades of dealerships and, from the end of 1972, on the models in the range. It remained as the manufacturer's identity for 20 years, before the Renault Safrane removed it in 1992.

The famous forbidden logo - known as the "Kent logo" - had been replaced by the new one on the Renault 5 cars already on the road, at the request of the manufacturer. As the recall campaigns were not as effective as they are today, not all Renault 5s with the "Kent" logo were changed and these models are now a collector's item!

### **A NEW LOGO IN 2021...**

#### THE RENAULUTION OF THE DIAMOND

To support the change sought at the Renault design centre by the Renaulution plan, in 2019, in collaboration with what could be more natural the Landor&Fitch agency. The than to adapt the brand's brand's Design Director, Gilles emblem to its new values? Vidal, explained that the logo The new Renault logo is still is "a balance between recoa diamond, the chosen shape gnising the brand's heritage since 1925. To create it, we and beginning a new era. had to take into account its It must be in line with the new means of expression, changes that are currently such as digital media which taking place." It was guite narequired a sober design: the turally on the Renault 5 Profamous "flat-design". Re- totype that it would make its nault had to come up with a appearance in January 2021, design in a tiny format that and it will gradually be apwould be legible both on the plied to all Renault vehicles dealerships and on a smart-

#### LEGACY AND CHANGE

Work on the new logo began bear this new emblem.

- starting with the Megane E-TECH Electric - as well as in the dealers' network. By 2024, the entire Renault range will



## **CONQUERING** AMERICA



## Only one of the world's four biggest car companies specializes in small cars.

Renault & Le Car Company

The Renault 5 benefited from comparative advertising.

Uncle Sam's land of milk and honev was, for a long time, the Holy Grail for European manufacturers. The Renault 5 dreamt of making a fortune there. But not everyone is a **Rockefeller.** 

n the spring of 1976, the Renault 5 sang along "America, I want to have it and I will"! It followed in the footsteps of the 4CV and the Dauphine that had been exported there earlier. In order to be successful in the USA, Renault approached and then took over the management of AMC (American Motors Corporation), the fourth largest American manufac-

turer. Its network of 1,300 dealers was the ideal bridgehead for the Renault Le Car, the name given to the Renault 5 in the United States. In the northern part of the American continent, where it starred from 1976 to 1986, Canadians simply called it La Cing.

Across the Atlantic, the little Renault complied with stringent safety legislation. Its headlamps were no longer

**Thanks to** the Renault 5 Le Car, Renault nevertheless multiplied its sales by 6 in North America. 🔪



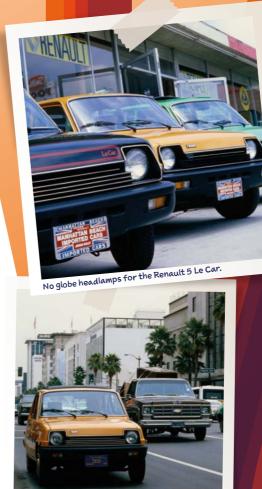


protected by a fragile glass globe, the sunken eye sockets taking away its joviality. On the other hand, the bumpers were beefed up to absorb impacts, while side reflectors adorned the four corners. The pretty, flat face was no more, the Renault 5 was disfigured by this jagged bumper. From some angles it even looked like the Pacer from the AMC range. Renault was hoping for a success story worthy of the Rabbit, the American Volkswagen Golf. But in the land of ketchup, French mayonnaise was not appreciated as well as hoped. The Detroit giants did not look kindly on this intrusion of the "Frenchie". The Chevrolet Chevette (a clone of the Opel Kadett), Ford Fiesta and Chrysler-Simca Horizon, three small front-wheelers also equipped with a tailgate, were all in the way.

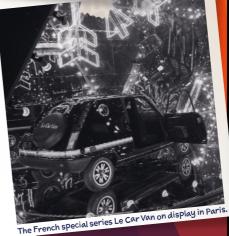
#### TV extra

The Renault Le Car did not make it to the big screen in a Hollywood production, but it did appear in the television series "The A-Team". Extremely light and cranky, it was the ideal hunting vehicle, according to Hannibal Smith, who ordered his team to transform it into a tank! It was a totally off-the-wall role that it took on valiantly. Heroically, the little Renault is charred at the end of the episode.

In reality, it had a good rep. From a low of 5,780 units in 1975 before it arrived, Renault's sales on the American market rose to 37,702 in 1982 thanks to the Le Car. The Renault 5 therefore left the American scene with its head held high in March 1983.



The Renault 5 Le Car at home in Los Angeles



### **RENAULT TAKING ON** THE WORLD TODAY....

#### A GROUP OF 5 BRANDS PRESENT **ON ALL CONTINENTS**

The group, which has five perfectly target their needs. car brands (Renault, Dacia, Samsung Motors in Korea, 38 FACTORIES Alpine and Lada), now has The Africa, Middle East and many other locations at its India area has 6 manufactudisposal. Present on eve- ring sites, i.e. as many as in ry continent, the Renault Europe (excluding France) Group registered more than Both Eurasia and South 2.9 million vehicles world- America (Argentina, Brazil wide in 2020. And while Eu- Colombia. Chile and Mexico) rope is still by a small mar- have a total of 5 plants each. gin the main market, almost Finally, there are 2 sites that half of manufacturing is supply the Asia-Pacific recarried out outside the old gion. France still holds the continent. Over the years, top spot, with 14 plants. You Renault has set up 38 plants can't deny your roots. around the world, manufac-

Renault can now definitively turing as close as possible to tick North America off its list. local customers in order to



ENVIGADO SOFASA PLANT IN MEDELLIN, C

## THE TURBO PIONEER

In his hut at the bottom of his garden, Louis Renault had begun pondering about turbocharging. But it would take some time before the turbocharger became a part of the Renault 5.



The engine compartment is quite welcoming for the turbo.



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blood. At the beginning of the duction cars. twentieth century, Louis Re- Almost 80 years later, in July 1979,

urbocharging is in Renault's anyway. It was still early days for pro-

nault, the brand's founder, was on the Dijon Prenois circuit, the idea thinking of solutions to boost clicked when Jean-Pierre Jabouille Renault's engines. In 1902, he filed a won the French Formula 1 Grand Prix patent based on a fan or compressor in his Renault RS 10 turbo. It was the supercharger. A technology that was Renault team's first ever victory in the not yet called turbocharging, as the sport's flagship event, and it was also turbine under the bonnet didn't exist. a landmark moment in the history of But his idea was used for competition F1... but not only that. Turbocharged

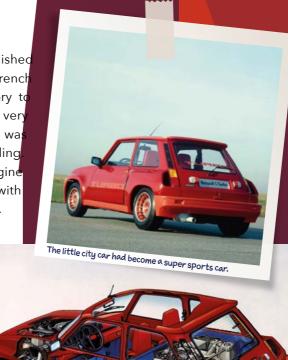
The Renault 5 was the first production Renault equipped with a turbocharger, a technological feat that would become a speciality of the brand.



engine technology had just become established among engineers. For the next decade, the French manufacturer used motorsport as a laboratory to refine the recipe of its magic potion, which it very guickly gives to its entire range. The Renault 5 was no exception, on the contrary, it got the ball rolling It began with its surprising 160 hp central engine Turbo version, which appeared in 1980, then with the Renault 5 Alpine Turbo in September 1981.

#### **Renault 5 Alpine Turbo:** 110 hp under the bonnet!

The installation of a Garett turbocharger transformed the Renault 5 Alpine launched in 1976. After 3,000 rpm, the 1.4 litre engine hit maximum performance. This gave it wings and catapulted the driver into a whole new world. The little sports car got a new lease on life with a power output of 110 hp and a torgue value of 15.2 mkg. It could reach 187 km/h, complete the 1,000 m standing start in just over 30 seconds and accelerate from 0 to 100 km/h in 9.7 seconds. Renault's bomblet of a car had now reached the same level as the new star of the segment, the Volkswagen Golf GTI. Mission accomplished for the turbocharger, which was to become a milestone, and later to be repeated for its successor, the Renault Supercing GT Turbo. The latter managed to keep the fun going until the early 1990s. A fine example of longevity.



Central engine and rear-whee drive for the Renault 5 Turbo.



TURBOCHARGING TODAY...

#### TURBO HAS BECOME WIDESPREAD, THE HYBRID TAKES OVER

Today, turbo technology is **GOAL: REDUCING CO** used under many bonnets. **EMISSIONS** More than just offering pure The next steps for Renault's performance, the turbine cars: simple hybridisation also supports the combus- then rechargeable hybridisation engine. The engine tion - also known as plug-in, then limits its displacement in reference to the power plug and reduces fuel consump- to which the car is connection. This process, known ted. In 2020, the Renault Clio as downsizing, does not E-Tech was the first milesonly reduce the displace- tone, followed by the Captur ment of the cylinders, but it and Arkana SUVs. At the same also reduces their number. time, the Megane hatchback Three-cylinder engines are and estate models, as well as now the norm for city cars the Captur, were starting to to family hatchbacks and ur- use plug-in hybrid technology. ban or compact SUVs.

This technology significantly increased the vehicle's zero emission range, during which both fuel consumption and



### THE FIRST LITTLE FRENCH SPORTS CAR

The Renault 5 Alpine, followed by its turbocharged version, introduced a new genre in French car manufacturing: turbulent little sports cars.



car had ever covered so much ground. It also had a way of seducing sports-

rom the economical entry-le- 5 Alpine made an entrance, a first for their car's appetite. Smaller engines vel model to the chic TX with such a small car. The Renault 5, powe- were therefore naturally booming. This its comprehensive standard red by the Alpine, was now blocking was in contrast to the big cars, which equipment, the Renault 5 offe- the path of the very young Volkswared something for every taste gen Golf GTI. In an economic context and every budget. Until then, no city where the effects of the oil crisis were **The Alpine advantage** still looming, Renault pulled off a stroke of genius. It appealed to sporty persons. In March 1976, the Renault driving enthusiasts who cared about

were no longer praised as much.

1976RM92

Renault entrusted the design of its sharp city car to the Alpine brand, with which it had been closely associated **N** To keep the 93 hp in check, the front brake discs were borrowed from the Renault 12. **\** 







for two decades. The advantage was two- coupled to the 5-speed gearbox of its The large front bumper of the Retribution manifolds were specific. It was matched this new tune.

fold. Firstly, it benefited from the fame big sister, the Renault 16 TX. The front nault 5 Alpine would bite the taracquired in competition, on the circuit brake discs were borrowed from the Re- mac. Painted in matt black and as well as in rallies, by the blue cars of nault 12 to keep the 93 hp in check. In equipped with a pair of fog lamps the Dieppe firm. Secondly, it drew exten- order not to add to the cost, there were it made a sporty statement. But not sively on Renault's organ bank in order still drum brakes at the back. The torsion only that, its aerodynamic contri to control costs. Under the bonnet was bars, anti-roll bars and shock absorbers butions were very tangible. The the Cleon engine, which powered the were also new, and the chassis was tuned reduction in drag (sCx) significantly Renault 8 in 1962. Its displacement was to handle the increased power with ease. reduced fuel consumption and alincreased to 1,397 cc and it was topped From the very first tests, the specialized lowed for a higher top speed. This by a hemispherical cylinder head which press was won over by the homogeneity innovative bumper optimised the significantly improved its performance. of the vehicle. Especially since, without downforce (sCz), ensuring good In its entrails, pistons and intake and dis- making too much of a fuss, the plumage stability at high speed. This was ne-

cessary when the Renault 5 Alpine



The Moto-Lita steering wheel adds a sporty style.







The Renault 5 Turbo had 160 horsepower!

was travelling at 175 km/h. Subtle war paint adorned the bodywork. On each side of the car, red lines on the black and grey bodies, or white lines on the blue bodies, framed an A5 logo. The light and modern design immediatelv set the tone. Just like the 14-inch diameter wheel inherited from the Renault 17 Gordini, which cleverly and inexpensively completed the package.

#### Storm warning: the turbo effect

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This was just a first step. In 1981, in order to compete with better rivals, Renault speeds things up with the Renault 5 Alpine Turbo. It was based on the technology of the Renault 5 By way of comparison, in the early 1980s,

It's hard to imagine a more original interior.

Turbo, its 160 hp central-engine cousin which appeared in 1980. However, the Alpine "turbine-powered city car" reused the naturally aspirated engine of the Renault 5 Alpine due to its size and, above all, to limit development costs. The additional turbocharger was based on upstream supercharging. This technical solution, known as aspirated assembly, was the most economical because a conventional carburettor could be used, instead of a downstream installation, which required a "blown" carburettor that had to be completely sealed. A solution from the competition considered too expensive at this level of the range.

the Renault 5 Turbo was priced at 115,000 francs, more than double the price of a Renault 5 Alpine Turbo, which was priced at 55,000 francs. The economic equation remained under control for performances which, compared to the Renault Alpine without the turbocharger, were a step ahead. Power was up 17 hp to 110 hp and the top speed was up 12 km/h to 187 km/h. The first French city car to be equipped with a turbocharger opened up a new path, one that the Renault Supercing GT Turbo followed in 1985!

### RENAULT GROUP'S SPORTS CARS TODAY....

#### ALPINE'S COMEBACK

by Jean Rédélé, who was then the youngest Renault They were sketched as early as 14 January 2021, when dealer in France, it was almost a single-model company the group announced its 'Renaulution': a B-segment up until 1995. The Alpine A110, A310 and A610 coupés hatchback, a C-segment crossover and the future rewere all in the catalogue. Then it was over. In 2017, like placement for the current A110 "berlinette". Three mothe phoenix, Alpine rose from the ashes thanks to Re- dels that combine sportiness with zero emissions. As it nault with the much-anticipated launch of a new Alpine was at the origin of the brand, this ambitious strategy A110 "berlinette". A model that immediately rallied enthusiasts to its cause thanks to its ideal combination of lightness, agility and performance. A car that could be **COMPETITION: A VEHICLE FOR IMAGE** enjoyed by anyone without the need for professional driving skills. Alpine had not denied its roots. This new Group, which has entrusted it with its racing activities, A110 was the first step in the modern era in which the in Formula 1 with the Alpine F1 Team founded in 2021 Dieppe-based brand would take on the role of the Renault Group's top-of-the-range sports label.

The Alpine brand had had a first life. Founded in 1955 expanded. At least three models have been planned. was logically based on competition...

Alpine is also a technological showcase for Renault and in endurance with Signatech. Still in endurance, in 2024 Alpine will officially enter the new premier Hyper car category (LMDh) alongside Toyota, Peugeot, Por sche, Audi and Ferrari. Alpine has never been afraid to



THE ALPINE A521 WAS THE BRAND'S FORMULA 1 CAR IN 2021

#### SPORTY AND ELECTRIC

Its catalogue, which, as a sign of the times, will abandon take on the big boys. combustion engines to become entirely electric, will be

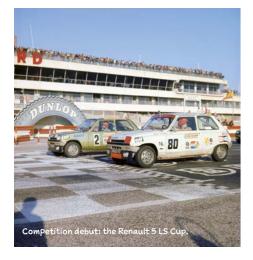




THE ALPINE A480 FOR THE 2021 ENDURANCE CHAMPIONSHI

## IT METAMORPHOSES FOR RACING

Before the Renault 5 Turbo, no city car had ever undergone such a metamorphosis. For competition she becomes an athlete. With an impressive architecture and musculature.



ike the incredible Hulk, the Renault 5 Turbo was impressive with its muscularity and untameable character. The differed. A two-tone palette rationalised manufacturing, which had to reach

possible. Her raison d'être for which than the steering wheel to wiggle the she had sacrificed everything. The en- rear end. gine was no longer under the bonnet rence was that it was not green but in the passenger compartment First victory at but Olympus blue or Pomegranate with no consideration for the rear seat, which was of no use to the dri- The Renault 5 Turbo had a chaotic ver or the passenger. On paper, the start in 1980, as it was only trying its the 400 units required to be officially front end was only steerable, but the hand, and then won the 1981 Monte

approved for competition as soon as 'bends experts' use the throttle rather

### Monte Carlo 1981

Born with 160 hp as a production car, the Renault 5 Turbo had up to 370 hp for competition!





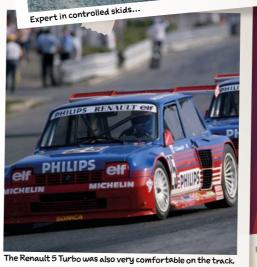
Carlo Rally with the victory of Ragnotti and Andrié. The Renault 5 Turbo's career had taken off! It remained at the top of its game until 1985. Its secret: adaptability and constantly questioning the market in order to keep competition at a safe distance. Turbo, Turbo 2, Group 4, Group B and then Maxi Turbo, as regulations were modified, power and performance evolved in stages: 185, 240, then 285 hp. On the other hand, the weight decreased. The 160 hp, 970 kg and 1,397 cc of the production version, which appeared in 1980, were transformed into 350 hp, 905 kg and 1,526 cc respectively on the Renault Maxi 5 Turbo in 1985. This new car was designed for the road, with improved suspension, aerodynamics and larger diameter wheels and brakes.

The Renault 5 Turbo was an accomplished athlete. In addition to rallies, it also competed brilliantly on asphalt tracks. In the Renault 5 Turbo Elf European Cup, it was as comfortable on the Formula 1 track in Hockenheim as it was on a track

dedicated to endurance racing, as a curtain raiser to the 1981 Le Mans 24 Hours.

The final stage of development was the Renault 5 Turbo 2 Production, whose small 1,419 cc engine delivered a whopping 370 hp for a weight of 1,060 kg! Unwilling to push it into retirement, its designers came up with an all-wheel drive system to keep it in the race. It would retire when the Group B dissolved. Competing was its life!







Ragnotti and Andrié win the 1981 Monte-Carlo.

### TRIBUTE TO JEAN RAGNOTTI

#### THE PILOT WHO TAMED **THE RENAULT 5 TURBO**

is inseparable from the Renault 5 Turbo career. Skilled tightrope walker, acrobat on asphalt, there is no shortage of qualifiers for the pilot from Vaucluse, who has no equal to achieve a "360 degrees" at the wheel of a Renault Maxi 5 Turbo. The latter is not, however, his first tov marked with a diamond. He had already had many 205 Turbo 16. After a busy opportunities in the 1960s career, "Jeannot" retired as to use the rubber of Renault a pilot in 2019. 8 Gordini tires.

VICTORY YES. **BUT WITH PANACHE!** 

The Renault 5 Turbo is the car that gives him the most pleasure. Beyond the spectacle that h always provides with a smile and a lot of generosity, this ace Dui Je suis. of the slide, who of ficially presents himself as a "corner trader", has forged quite a record at the wheel of this formidable

The name of Jean Ragnotti machine. Monte Carlo 1981. Tour de Corse 1982, Rallye du Mont-Blanc and Tour de France Automobile 1984 bear witness to this. The last stand of the Renault 5 Turbo in Group B, before the dissolution of this famous rally category, was a large victory for Ragnotti in the Tour de Corse 1985, ahead of the four-wheel drive Peugeot

radio el





## RENAULT 5 GREEN AHEAD OF ITS TIME

### **A NATUREL FIBER ROOF HEADLINER**

This innovative roof headliner alone made it possible to improve soundproofing, space, design and even the fuel consumption of the Renault 5!



polvester bumpers, like the large tailgate, were two highly visible innovations of the Renault 5. The latter also introduced another new technology on board, but you had to look out for it. It was not in front of the driver, nor behind, nor to the

headliner. Something that anyone rarely pays attention to. However, the one in the Renault 5 immediately and constantly made life easier for the user. The Renault 5 broke away from the traditional percale (cotton fabric) lining attached to the inside of the roof with metal hoops. A process that was still used by the Renault 4 in its early days, which caused it some noisy issues. The vibrations of the side, but on the ceiling: the hoops on the body reinforcements gave

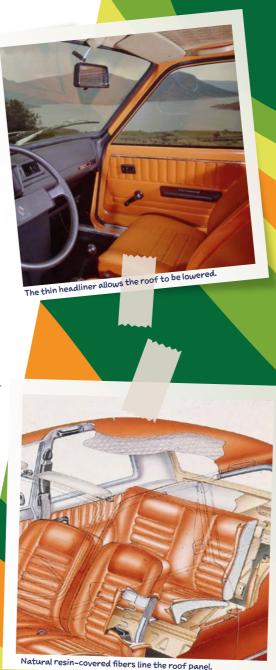
**K** This slimmer panel allowed the roof to be lowered, thus improving aerodynamics and fuel consumption.



a poor image of the quality of the car and really degraded the acoustic comfort of the passengers. For the Renault 5, the engineers devised a clever process. Natural fibers suffused with resin were moulded and glued to the inside of the panel. This technology, with no vibrating metal, immediately solved noise pollution, while also allowing for a much thinner finish

#### Easier to install

As a result, the headroom, in other words, the space between the top of the passengers' heads and the roof, was bigger. Alternatively, the roofline could be lowered to maintain the same space. This was the approach chosen by the Renault 5 designers. They lowered the panel by 15 millimeters. In addition to a more dynamic and modern style, this aesthetic solution actually limited wind resistance, a virtuous cycle that consequently reduced fuel consumption. Another advantage, and a good one at that, is that it significantly improved the ergonomics of the workstations on the assembly lines at the Flins factory (west of Paris) where the Renault 5 was manufactured. Until then, with percale, the manual preparation of the panel lining was time-consuming and arduous for the workers assigned to this task. Indeed, they had to work with their arms up in the air throughout the process. With the pre-moulded headliner of the Renault 5, the installation was carried out semi-automatically and with greater speed. In short, everyone wins!



### ON THE ZOE TODAY...

#### **RECYCLED NATURAL FIBERS, GUARANTEED LIGHTNESS**

natural fiber roof was a hit. its seats and the trim of its In the Renault range, the use dashboard, its doors, as well of 'bio-composite' mate- as the console around the rials, also called 'bio-based', gearbox. has been optimised over time. They are produced by LINEN'S GREAT QUALITIES thermo-compressing a ma- Plant fibers, such as linen. terial that is not woven and are now used to reinforce contains vegetable fibres plastic materials. They and polypropylene. This have undeniable advanprocess is called the NFPP tages for the automotive panel, which stands for Na- sector, beginning with their tural Fibre Polypropylene. In more concrete terms, mechanical functions. Im since 2012, they have been pact resistance and sounspread over a surface area of dproofing are of the highest more than 8 square metres quality. Not to mention, they on board the Renault ZOE have a reduced carbon foot electric city car. It is used print and can be recycled.

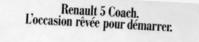
The Renault 5's moulded for the fabric that covers

light weight and very good



## IN 1986, THE RENAULT 5 ENTERED THE CIRCULAR Renault 5 ECONOMY **ECONOMY**

To appeal to younger or budget-conscious customers, Renault began reconditioning used Renault 5s. Stickers, a sunroof and that's it!



OCCASION GARANTIE OR RENAULT

**"RENAULT 5 COACH** 

he Renault 5's career came to a quiet end in April 1985 with the unique Lauréate finish. The car that had been the best-selling model in France for ten years, from 1974 to 1983, captured up to 16% of the new car market. Since then, no one has done better, and

today the best-seller barely totals 5.6%. Successful and with nothing left to prove, the Renault 5 did not go out of business immediately. On the contrary, forward-thinking to the end, it ventured into a final

nomy, well before it became topical. The Renault 5 was the first-ever car to be recycled. The Renault network recovered two- (company version) and four-seater models, often in the basic specification, challenge in 1986, by entering the circular eco- which it cleverly transformed into a special series

The main target of the Renault Coach is clear: you

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called Coach. Making something new out of something old was unheard of in car marketing!

#### A special second-hand series

The Renault 5 Coach was recognisable from the lateral decoration, which consisted of an adhesive strip with a gradation from fuchsia pink to purple and ending in mauve. This enhanced the generally white bodywork colour. A Coach logo - an English name sounded younger - was placed on the doors, while a transparent sunroof that could be half-open illuminated the passenger compartment. This modern accessory had it all: it remained streamlined when open and you could enjoy the light even when it was closed. In the Renault 5 reconditioning workshops, you could

hear the sound of jigsaws cutting off the roof panels non-stop! The finishing touch was a set of grey plastic hubcaps that gave the sheet metal rims a new look, and a lockable fuel cap to prevent the tank from being siphoned off. The Renault 5 Coach definitely never lost sight of the practical aspects.

And the manufacturer, pragmatically, mastered the economic equation. Priced from 21,000 francs, a 1983 Renault 5 Coach Société 850 was almost half the price of a new entry-level Renault 5. A master stroke at little cost for the Renault 5, which was given a new lease of life.



The network recovered used Renault 5s, reconditioned and resold them as a special "Coach" series.

#### THE REFACTORY AT THE FLINS PLANT TODAY...

#### **RENAULT INVESTS** IN THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

The Flins plant has had seve- RE-START. The first is already ral lives, among them manu- reconditioning used vehicles facturing the Renault 5 from for resale. This activity is set 1972 to 1984 and, since 2012, to keep growing and will be manufacturing the Renault supported by the conversion ZOE zero-emission city car. It of used commercial vehicles has now become the Refac- to electric power. The second tory dedicated to the circular collects and stores batteries economy. It was inaugurated in order to build up a reserve by Luca de Meo. CEO of the of electricity from solar or Renault Group, a sign of the wind energy of 15.5 MWh, a importance of the project.

#### RECYCLED MATERIALS

The programme includes re- contaminate 10,000 end-ofconditioning second-hand life vehicles (ELVs) each year. vehicles, battery recycling and Today, Renault reuses up to in the manufacture of new its new cars. Finally, RE-START RE-ENERGY, RE-CYCLE and centre for Industry 4.0.

capacity that will reach 200 MWh annually by 2030. The third will deconstruct and de re-using recycled materials 30% of recycled materials in vehicles. This strategy is based encompasses the project for on four services: RE-TROFIT, an innovation and training





### **ELECTRIC** SINCE THE 70'S!

In 1970, EDF (the French stateowned electric company) was working on a zero-emission solution for the car of the future. The electric Renault 5 was born in 1972, almost at the same time as the petrol version!

hen you hear the name Fontainebleau, you think of the Renaissance castle. A few kilometres from the castle, maanificent villages surround the meandering Seine. Samois-sur-Seine, the cradle of gypsy jazz with Django medieval roots reflected in the architecture of the old town. Fifty years ago, on the nearby Renardières site, EDF created

centre dedicated to high voltage electrical systems.

It was here that the idea of a zero-emission car was born, in the spring of 1972, when the first oil crisis had not yet hit the world economy and motorists' wallets. EDF chose the Renault 5 as the "car of the Reinhardt, or Moret-sur-Loing, with its future". At the time, the issue of the type of battery did not arise, as there was only one technology available: lead acid batteries! This was thus the basis for improvement the world's largest research and testing for the researchers at the Renardières site.

K Surprise on June 28, 1974: André Jarrot, **Minister for Quality** of Life, arrives at the **Council of Ministers** in a light blue electric Renault 5. **\** 





The electric motor at the front had 10 hp.



Beneath the rear seat there are 34 batteries.

#### From 120 to 180 km autonomy

They also worked on an electric motor of about ten horsepower which was connected directly to the front wheels. The Renault 5 EV was still a front-wheel drive, with only two pedals, including an accelerator that modulated the electrical voltage to give the engine more or less power. The 34-battery pack was placed behind the two front passengers, and added almost an extra 300 kg to the Renault 5 TL (originally 785 kg).

The little Renault could be recognised from the outside thanks to its particular tailgate; as for the rest, apart from the specific onboard controls, nothing distinguished it from a petrol-engine Renault 5. Its top speed was limited to 80 km/h, compared to just over 135 km/h for the petrol version, according to Renault's technical data sheet. The autonomy was not bad, with a range of 120 to 180 km depending on use. On the other hand, recharging could only be done with a 220-volt domestic plug - a voltage that appeared in the mid-1950s in France - and required no less than 10 hours. While a Renault 5 TL sold for 11,300 francs in 1972, its electric sibling (manufactured in 90 units for state services) cost over 18,000 francs.

### THE RENAULT 5 **OF TOMORROW...**

#### **ZERO EMISSION, OF COURSE!**

The arrival of the future Re- The Renault 5 will obviously nault 5 EV is not just a pro- not be the only one to beneduct event. It is part of Re- fit from this derivative of the nault's goal to move towards CMF/B platform dedicated zero-emission vehicles. The to electric vehicles, as the model unveiled in January outline of the 4ever project 2021 as a prototype, inau- will also be used. A total of 3 gurated a new dedicated million vehicles per year are platform derived from the expected to use it by 2025. Clio and Captur. The Captur's and Clio's CMF/B platform INNOVATIVE BATTERIES will become the zero-emis- To drive the future Renault of the parts will be identical placed at the front and this on both underbodies as the model will remain a frontnon-electric fordable electric vehicles by Envision-AESC batteries that pared to the current ZOE.

sion CMF/B EV platform. Half 5, the electric motor will be components wheel drive. The engine will from the CMF-B platform will deliver 100 kW (136 hp) and be recovered. This will en- autonomy will be around able the company to offer af- 400 km thanks to the new reducing costs by 33% com- will supply the gigafactory in Douai in 2024.



THE NEW CMF/B EV PLATFORM AND THE RENAULT 5 EV

## RENAULT 5 PROTOTYPE, THE WINK IS IN THE HEADLIGHTS





NEARLY HALF A CENTURY FROM THE BIRTH OF THE RENAULT 5, THE RENAULT 5 PROTOTYPE PROMISES TO BE A MISCHIEVOUS MODEL WHICH DOES NOT FAIL TO ALLUDE TO ITS ANCESTOR. A GUIDED TOUR WITH GILLES VIDAL, RENAULT'S DESIGN DIRECTOR, AND SOME MEMBERS OF HIS TEAM...

> «THE PROPORTIONS WORKED OUT INTEGRATE ALL THE CURRENT CONSTRAINTS, WHILE RESPECTING THE HISTORICAL MODEL.»

> > Gilles VIDAL, Renault Design Director

#### «IN THE END, THE HEADLAMPS **TURNED OUT** DIFFERENTLY **FROM THOSE OF** THE RENAULT 5, **BOTH IN THEIR** PROPORTIONS **AND IN THEIR DESIGN.**»

Nicolas JARDIN, exterior Designer

T t the end of the led them to sketch headlights which joined the fenders, the 1960s, when it bonnet, the grille and the bumper, without artifice. All this came to defining the to 'close' a figurehead that would become, through adverlook of the 122 pro- tising, a young, smiling and mischievous face! Nearly fifty ject for the future years later, this look was vital to the design of the Renault Renault 5, the desi- 5 Prototype unveiled in January 2021, as Nicolas Jardin, the gners did not neces- concept's exterior designer, tells us: «The Renault 5 had a sarily imagine that very particular look. We put a lot of energy into focusing on it would have such this theme, and to make it a prominent and even a living elea mischievous and ment in our design. The promotional cartoon of the Renault almost human-like 5 in the 1970s really gave us the desire to recreate this lively personality. Firstly, aspect. We analysed the geometry of the headlamps, its prothey needed to limit the number of parts on the front that portions, contours and even the radius values to redesign it.»





**«THE RENAULT 5 PROTOTYPE EMBODIES** MODERNITY. THIS URBAN, ELECTRIC, **CHARMING CAR MOVES WITH THE TIMES.**» Gilles VIDAL, **Renault Design Director** 65

#### LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

This concept car project took on a new dimension with the ar- the 1972 icon, and not only in its look. rival of Luca de Meo as CEO of the Renault Group in July 2020, and with the arrival of Gilles Vidal as Design Director for Re- **BLUE-WHITE-RED** nault in November 2020. Gilles Vidal tells: *«When I arrived on Gilles Vidal highlighted the red border running along* November 2, I obviously discovered the many models of the the windscreen pillar and the roof, in tribute to the faplan in progress. The Renault 5 Prototype project was among mous Renault 5 Turbo, which also inspired the rear fenthem, of course. It was Luca de Meo who, in July 2020 during a ders and the small fake air extractions along the lights. major presentation, was swept under its spell. Luca, who has These same lights are a very modern reinterpretation a keen sense of the product, took this proposal and brought of the original Renault 5. They are split into two comit out of the shadows and into the product plan. Now that I ponents, one of which acts as an aerodynamic deflecknow him better, I imagine that he had instantly thought of tor. It is entirely chiselled like a jewel and features very what value it would have and what marketing would go with "product design" lighting wires. The design elements it! He triggered a real enthusiasm for this project within the inspired by the original Renault 5 also conceal modern

brand team!» A project that uses many references to

functions: the bonnet air intake now serves as a charging hatch. The fabric-covered roof builds on a

**«THIS CONCEPT IS BASED ON CODES THAT BELONG MORE** TO THE RENAULT **5 THAN TO RENAULT'S FUTURE DESIGN** LANGUAGE.»

> Gilles Vidal, Renault Design Director



« EVERYTHING **IS STILL TO BE** DONE ON BOARD AND WE WANT **TO DESIGN AN INTERIOR** FITTING PERFECTLY WITH THE **EXTERIOR.** »

> Gilles VIDAL, **Renault Design Director**

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the vehicle a touch of French charm, terior. Now we are in the phase where but also plays on nostalgia, as it evokes we have to make this project viable and that of the 1978 Automatic version. that is what we are working on with the The rear doors handles are concealed, *team.*» reminding us that the Renault 5 was a Finally, don't get us wrong: the future produced in the spotlight.

its design language to create an inte- To the future!

"furniture design" concept and gives rior that would fit perfectly with the ex-

two-door car from 1972 to 1980, while Renault 5 zero-emission will not rethe front door handles are hidden, present tomorrow's design for Renault again evoking the simplicity of the ori- cars. On this point, Gilles Vidal is very ginal push buttons, while adding the clear: «Between this retro-futuristic ob-2020's technology. Finally, the French *ject*, *which has the right to enjoy its own* flag on the wing mirrors put the country use of form, and the future cars in the where it was designed and where it is range which will be sold more or less at the same time, there will be a purposeful difference in the design language, of **AND NOW, TO PUT IT INTO PRACTICE** *course*». In 2021, with the simultaneous But for Gilles Vidal, the hardest part is arrival of the Renault 5 Prototype and undoubtedly still to come: to put the the future zero-emission Alpine in the idea into practice and to not disap- B segment - as part of the Renaulupoint. «When I joined the Renault de- tion plan - can we foresee an alliance sign team in 2020, I discussed details of the two labels and create a descenof the concept, the design language in dant of the 1976 Renault 5 Alpine in the basic terms and adjusted the balance medium term? «There are connections between its retro and futuristic natures. with Antony Villain, head of design for The Renault 5 Prototype had to be mo- the Alpine brand. The idea is to design dern, not vintage. There were so many an Alpine line, the same way there was things that could be worked on! But the the Renault Sport line. With Anthony, concept did not reveal much of the in- we are discussing which codes could be terior. Everything was still to be done activated to define these versions, but and we wanted to go even further with not necessarily on all Renault models».



## **1967-1985** TIMELINE OF A LEGEND IN 25 ACTS

#### 1967 FIRST SKETCHES



On April, 26, 1967, Michel Boué - one of ten designers at the Renault studio - sketched two gouaches of a small two-door hatchback coupé for the 122 project. His design was selected for a transition to 1:5 scale and then to full scale. The design theme was guickly fixed, but other full-scale models would be used to validate the figurehead with its small grille.

#### 1972 LAUNCH OF THE RENAULT 5 L AND TL

On January 28, 1972, the press introduced

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the new "little" Renault to the general public. The entry version, which was called the "L" (type R1220), used an engine derived from the Renault 4, with 782 cc and 30 hp. The upper version is the "TL" (type R1222) with its 956 cc engine, derived from the Renault 6's 1,108 cc, with 45 hp.

#### SPANISH "950" RENAULT 5

At the end of 1972, the Renault 5 was produced in Spain by the FASA subsidiary. It is not yet the notchback version (Siete then Renault 7) but the bodywork of the French Renault 5. Only one trim level - the TL - was called 950, a number in line with its displacement. It already had a floor-mounted gear lever.

#### 1974 RENAULT 5 LS

The first major evolution of the range: the creation of a third version, the LS. After the L and TL, the Renault 5 arrived with the 1,289 cc 64 hp engine derived from the Renault 12 TS. Distinctive features: floor-mounted gearbox lever, rev counter, 'LS' logos on the bonnet and sides. And, above all, it was highly appreciated as a small road car!



#### **BENAULT SIETE**

In October 1974, two years after the manufacturing of the Renault 5 began in Spain, FASA presented the Siete. It was not a four-door Renault 5 before its time, because the Siete had a wheelbase that was ten centimetres longer, a boot that matched the expectations of local customers and a specific dashboard. The rear doors were adopted by the Renault 5 in 1980.

#### 1975 RENAULT 5 LS « KITÉE »

The LS's career was short, but this version served as the basis for a sporting evolution (the LS

Kitée) to compete in an official Cup, replacing the Gordini Cup. Its engine kit boosted power to almost 90 hp and its top speed was close to 175 km/h. Its front spoiler at the base of the bumper made the LS Kitée easily identifiable.



#### **RENAULT 5 TS**

In March 1975, the LS was replaced by the TS. The latter was recognisable for its reverse lights attached to the number plate lights and its perforated integral seats.

The TS name played a greater role inside the range (Renault 12 TS, Renault 16 TS) while the equipment was enriched: centre console, front seat belt retractor, etc. The top speed was 151 km/h.

#### **BENAULT 5 SOCIÉTÉ**

To support its Renault 4 vans, Renault transformed its Renault 5 into a small delivery car: the Société, capable of carrying 350 kg. It was equipped in the same way as the TL, the rear seats were removed and it had two rear-view mirrors. Its sides were made of sheet metal, but in the spring of 1977 the Société was also available with rear windows.

1976 **RENAULT 5 GTL** 



Barely three years after the first oil crisis, Renault launched the "no-waste" GTL in February. Its engine was the same as the TS, but its power was limited to 44 hp. The engine speed was low, the torque generous and the combination offered good performance while keeping fuel consumption under control: 4.7 L at 90 km/h, which is one and a half litres less than the TL per 100 km!

#### **RENAULT 5 ALPINE**



Only one month after the presentation of the GTL, it was the Renault 5 Alpine's turn! The latter enriched the range from the top with its arrowed A crest. Its engine was derived from the 12 TS and was coupled to a gearbox based on the R16 TX. 93 hp and 11.7 mkg of torque: the Renault 5 Alpine would rival the first Golf GTI!

#### **RENAULT 5 LE CAR USA**

The Renault 5 took on the VW Rabbit in the

#### 1967-1985 : TIMELINE OF A LEGEND IN 25 ACTS

North American market. But it didn't begin well, as the Renault, heavily modified to comply with US standards, had a poor start. In 1977, it adopted the name "Le Car" and its success was confirmed by Renault's figures: 120,000 cars were registered until 1983!

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#### 1978

#### RENAULT 5 AUTOMATIC

Bernard Hanon's idea of designing the Renault 5 with the possibility of installing all kinds of mechanical parts received an original finish in February 1978, with the Renault 5 Automatic. The 1300 engine of the GTL was increased to 55 hp and the three-speed automatic gearbox (+ reverse gear) was derived from the Renault 12 and Renault 16.

#### **RENAULT 5 MONTE-CARLO**

In 1978, Renault participated in the F1 and prepared for its third (and victorious) appearance in the 24 Hours of Le Mans. In January, two small Renault 5s finished 2nd and 3rd in the Monte Carlo Rally. A limited edition "Monte Carlo" series, in Sunflower yellow and a black roof with red rocker panels, was marketed straight afterwards in 2,400 units, based on the TS.

#### **RENAULT 5 TURBO**

At the Paris Motor Show, four months after its victory in the 24 Hours of Le Mans, Renault unveiled the model of the Renault 5 Turbo, which was destined for a sporting career. The



Renault 5 Turbo went on sale in 1980, with its 1.4 litre rear central 4-cylinder engine developing 160 hp, a few months after Jean-Pierre Jabouille led the turbocharger to a F1 victory.

#### **RENAULT 5 LE CAR**

One year after the Renault 5 USA adopted the name "Le Car", Renault offered a limited series with the same name in Europe. The "Le Car" was based on the TS and produced in 6,000 units for the French market (14,000 units for Europe). It had lock protectors and turn signals like the US version, as well as alloy wheels.

#### 1979 BENAULT 7

RENAULI /

Marketed for five years in Spain, the Renault Siete - a Renault 5 with a longer wheelbase and a classic boot - adopted the name Renault 7 in 1979. Renault benefited from this and modernised the dashboard (different to that of the Renault 5) and adopted the 1,108 cc engine in 1980 on the only version available, the GTL.

#### **5 DOORS AND A NEW DASHBOARD**

The arrival of the Citroën Visa and a Peugeot 104 hatchback prompted Renault to bring out its five-door Renault 5. The quality was enhanced: a new, highly statutory dashboard and 'petal' seats were featured. The transformation was accompanied by an engine change in the TL and GTL. They adopted the 1,108 cc engine of the Renault 4 GTL.



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#### **1982** Renault 5 Alpine Turbo

For Renault, the turbocharger was a sign of victory: at Le Mans (1978), in F1 (1979), not to mention a rich range then comprising 18 Turbo, 5 Turbo and later Fuego Turbo. The time had come for the 5 Alpine Turbo, with its additional turbocharging on the 1.4-litre engine and its 110 hp and 15 mkg of torque. Four-disc brakes and Renault 5 Turbo style wheels differentiated it from the 5 Alpine it had replaced.



#### **RENAULT 5 TX**

Marketed for model-year 1982, the Renault 5 TX and TX Automatic brought the little Renault into a more chic world: varnished paint, alloy wheels, power steering, Renault 18 Turbo steering wheel. On board, elegance was in the spotlight with thick carpeting and velvet for the upholstery. The luxurious Baccara finishing will took over on the Supercing.

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#### 1983 RENAULT 5 TURBO 2

At the 1982 Paris Motor Show (1983 model-year), Renault made substantial changes to its 5 Turbo, which became the Turbo 2. The specific features of the first generation interior design disappeared in favour of the Renault 5 Alpine Turbo dashboard. The price then fell below 100,000 francs, boosting sales. The Renault 5 Turbo 2 lived until 1986.

#### **RENAULT 5 CAMPUS**

We had not seen the last of the Renault 5 just a year before the presentation of its replacement - the Supercinq. In September, the Campus limited series appeared, with 8,000 units produced for Europe. It was an opportunity to draw on the 845 cc engine's stock and add a wealth of equipment: sunroof, Renault 5 Alpine wheels, rear spoiler but only one colour: burgundy.

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#### 1984

#### **RENAULT 5 SUPER CAMPUS**

As for the engineering part, after the Campus' 856 cc engine, the Super Campus took the 956 cc powertrain with 44 hp. It kept the same goal as the Campus it replaced: to offer a very competitive price in the face of constant competition. The rear window wiper completed the equipment of the previous Campus.

#### **RENAULT 5 LAURÉATE TURBO**

It was (almost) the most promising deal: the Lauréate Turbo replaced the Renault 5 Alpine Turbo with a more classic upholstery and a limited offer in equipment and colours. The aim was to bring the price down to 6,000 francs less than the Renault 5 Alpine Turbo. It was true that the Peugeot 205 GTI had just joined the exclusive club of fashionable hot hatches!

#### LAUNCH OF THE RENAULT SUPERCINQ

The 140 project had a much more complicated beginning than that of the Renault 5 it replaced. In the end, the proposal of Marcello Gandini, designer of the Lamborghini Countach and a consultant for Renault, was chosen. Same design theme, a platform derived from the Renault 9 with a transverse engine and more room on board, at last!



#### 1985 RENAULT 5 LAURÉATE

The name Lauréate, until then reserved for the replacement for the 5 Alpine Turbo, was used a year later for the entire Renault 5 range - or what remained of it after the appearance of the much more modern Supercinq. In its versions L,TL, GTL and Turbo, the Lauréate marked the end of the Renault 5's career, alongside the Turbo 2 which was sold until 1986.

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