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DAuto Newsletter

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Design engineers turn designs into reality. Without them, a great idea but nothing more than, well, a great idea.

OPEL GT CONCEPT

Opel has revealed the exterior of its new GT Concept, a front mid- engine show car that features an evolution of the brand's sculptural design philosophy aimed at expressing purity of forms.



Set to be revealed at the upcoming 2016 Geneva Motor Show, the Opel GT Concept was developed based on the heritage and philosophy of models such as the Opel Experimental GT and the more recent Monza Concept.

One of the main design elements is the red signature line that splits the vehicle body horizontally, underlining the surface flow and the car's proportions.



The look of this sportscar is avant-garde and puristic, with a minimalistic approach that leaves out all the elements that disturb the pure form, including for example, the door handles and exterior door mirrors.



The main visual link with the past is provided by the proportions – defined by the long hood, the absence of a trunk lid and a minimal rear overhang, reminiscent of another prototype of the 1960s, the 1966 Vauxhall XVR Concept. The side mirrors are replaced by two cameras mounted behind the wheel arches, transmitting their images to two monitors on the left and right-hand side of the cockpit.

OPEL GT CONCEPT

The doors are electrically operated and can be opened through a touchpad integrated in the red signature line of the roof. This space-saving and patented mounting allows a large opening angle – particularly in relatively tight parking spaces.



The front mid-engine layout allows to achieve a low, centrally positioned center of gravity, ideal for sporty handling and excellent cornering dynamics.

The sculptural look is underlined by the semi-transparent fixed “windows” which have a seamless transition from glass to painted surfaces. They result completely fused and integrated into the large doors, which extend up to the front wheel-arches.



The Opel GT Concept is equipped with a 1.0-liter, three-cylinder turbocharged engine based on the all-aluminum engine used in ADAM, Corsa and Astra.

In this version, the efficient direct injection gasoline unit develops 107 kW/145 hp and maximum torque of 205 Nm.

The turbo power is sent towards the rear axle with mechanical differential lock via a sequential six-speed transmission that is operated by shift paddles on the steering wheel.

Thanks to the total weight below 1,000 kilograms, the GT Concept accelerates from 0 to 100 km/h in less than eight seconds and has a top speed of 215 km/h.

The main headlamps with three-dimensional design and integrated indicators feature adaptive full LED light. The Opel IntelliLux LED® matrix light allows glare-free high beam driving.

ŠKODA PREVIEWS VISIONS SUV CONCEPT WITH DESIGN SKETCHES

At the 2016 Geneva Motor Show Škoda will present the VisionS Concept, a study that transfers the new design DNA of the brand to the SUV segment.



The VisionS – where S stands for SUV – adopts the design language first introduced in 2014 with the **VisionC Concept**.

The exterior features the typical surface treatment of the brand, with clear, sharp and lines conveying a sense of precision and giving form to an interplay of light and shadow.

The VisionS gives some indication on a future production mode, which will be larger than the Yeti, with a length of 4,700mm, a width of 1,910mm the 1,680mm.

The spacious interior features three rows of seats, and can accommodate up to six occupants.



At the front the hood showcase a creative use of plastics, with contours flowing towards the brand logo. The character is underlined by the wide grille and four tapered, high-set LED headlights. Crystalline elements in the vertical struts in the grille and on the logo are a tribute to the Czech art of crystal-glass design.

ŠKODA PREVIEWS VISIONS SUV CONCEPT WITH DESIGN SKETCHES

The side view is defined by the sharp tornado line spanning the entire length of the car. Angular wheel arches emphasize the off-road character and the upper-shoulder contour forms a deep groove over the sills.

The quickly sloping roofline with the long spoiler and tapered rear visually accelerate the show car even when stationary.

The rear end has a strong diffuser insert bordering the large exhaust pipes, giving the large SUV a visually powerful stance.



The Škoda logo and shallow rear lights with dynamically cut crystalline housings sit just beneath the low rear window, while the brand's characteristic C-arm, beginning at the rear lights, runs into the flat reflectors in the bumper.

CITROËN SPACETOURER HYPHEN CONCEPT

At the 2016 Geneva Motor Show Citroën will unveil the SpaceTourer, a LCV-based MPV that will be offered with three body variants. The company will also display an off-road stylish variant named SpaceTourer Hyphen.



The Citroën SpaceTourer Hyphen Concept is a special version developed in collaboration with pop band Hyphen Hyphen, from Nice in the South of France. Nominated for the 2016 French music awards, Hyphen Hyphen is becoming hugely popular in the electronic pop scene.

The show car is characterized by a dynamic, rugged look, with a bright color scheme which evokes a sense of freedom and adventure and accentuates the robust style of the production vehicle.



The concept has a broader front bumper design, wheel arch trims and sill protectors inspired by the Aircross concept. All of these features are finished in a matt Dark Moondust color that is contrasted by red-orange highlights.

The interior features a casual, colorful atmosphere. The SpaceTourer Hyphen Concept is equipped with a 4x4 drivetrain developed by Automobiles Dangel.



CITROËN SPACETOURER HYPHEN CONCEPT

With a higher ride-height than the production version, the SpaceTourer HYPHEN sits on 19-inch diamond-cut matt black alloy wheels with red-orange detailing. To emphasise its all-terrain credentials, five elastomer straps are positioned on each tyre to suggest optimum grip.



This strap design also features on the concept's front and rear bumpers. Formed from anodised aluminum, they give the impression of even greater sturdiness. They also bring climbing equipment to mind: straps, ropes and carabiners.



When you open the sliding side door, passengers are instantly ushered into a dazzling world with a bright, dynamic atmosphere that promotes well-being. The roomy, functional interior space is packed with comfort-enhancing features and bold colors – from the roof lining to the door panels and the seats to the center console.

The fresh, soft, iridescent green body color enhances the vehicle's fluid lines and evokes nature. The color stands out even more as it contrasts with the gloss black roof and red-orange hexagonal-patterned decals. The SpaceTourer HYPHEN concept is made for more than just everyday journeys. It brings to life the experience of traveling as a family or group of friends, when fun and freedom awaits you.

ALPINE VISION CONCEPT PREVIEWS 2017 MODEL

The Alpine Vision is a near-production evolution of the Celebration Concept presented at Le Mans on last June.

The final production model of the mid-engined, two-seater lightweight coupé will be manufactured in Dieppe, France, and will go on sale from 2017, initially in Europe and subsequently across the rest of the world.



Capable of printing from zero to 100 km/h in just 4.5 seconds, the Alpine Vision is an essential, authentic sportscar focused on driving pleasure in purest form.



The exterior is virtually the same as the Celebration Concept, without some of the racing-oriented features.

The muscular front end features additional twin round headlights and a sculpted hood – both reminiscent of the car's historic predecessor.

The sculpted sides are characterized by the C-shaped sharp line that creates a distinctive graphic theme. The flowing lines of the roof contour and shoulders gently descend towards the rear end to form an elongated tail incorporating horizontal rear lights.



ALPINE VISION CONCEPT PREVIEWS 2017 MODEL

The cabin look blends a modernity with heritage-inspired elements, with materials ranging from leather and aluminium to microfiber fabrics and carbon fiber.

The bucket-style seats incorporate harness belts coupled with aluminum fastening buckles and feature quilted leather upholstery combined with a microfiber fabric.

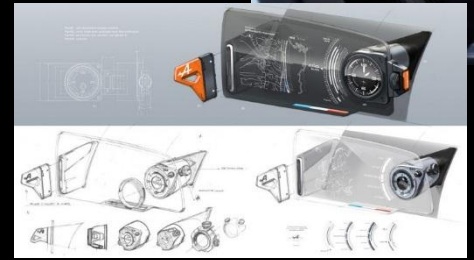
The two pedals and aluminium footrest feature a three-triangle pattern symbolizing Alpine peaks.

The instrument panel is composed of a



customizable TFT (Thin Film Transistor) display underneath a carbon cowling.

The backlit door opening control contrasts with the damasked black leather door panel trim, which is highlighted by white topstitching.



The three-spoke steering wheel, also in aluminium, has a thick rim trimmed in topstitched black leather.



The center console rests upon a prominent, leather-trimmed aluminium structure.

Taking cues from an aircraft cockpit, it appears to be floating inside the cabin. It houses a multimedia touch-screen tablet topped by a circular stopwatch.

DESIGNER ENVISIONS NEXT-GEN DEFENDER

CarWow website has published a set of renderings that envision a possible replacement for the iconic Land Rover Defender, taking inspiration from the DC100 Concept and the Evoque.



Inspiration for this virtual concept came from the **DC100 Concept** revealed in 2011, a show car that could give some hints on the design direction of the future Defender.



The renderings posted by CarWow.co.uk show a plausible Defender that adopts the distinctive, rugged yet clean surfacing of the current Land Rover line-up.

To show the car in context, CarWow has mocked up different variants, including a Camel Trophy version for extreme offroad, a Police model and a version for farmers.

As CarWow reports, "the only noticeable change we're expecting to see is a move from the DC100's circular LED daytime running lights to the more squared ones seen on the facelifted Range Rover Evoque."



MASERATI UNVEILS LEVANTE SUV AHEAD OF GENEVA DEBUT

Maserati has finally unveiled the much-anticipated Levante, the first SUV in its history.

The design of the production Levante appears to be based on the 2011 Kubang Concept.



Compared to it, it has maintained the main proportions, the overall surface treatment and many styling cues, including the arched roofline and muscular shoulders; the front end general layout; the side DLO graphics.

The rear end has been redesigned and features a conventional tailgate design in place of the clamshell element of the Kubang.

The front end introduces new, tapered headlights separated into two elements, with the upper headlight unit connected to the radiator grille.



Among the announced technical specs are sophisticated electronic suspensions with

controlled damping and air springs and the "Q4" intelligent all-wheel drive with a specifically calibrated 8-speed automatic transmission.

The Levante will be offered with both gasoline and diesel engines, all Euro6-compliant. It is built at the Mirafiori plant in Turin; the first cars have already come off the assembly line with the launch planned for this spring.



The side view is characterized by the three iconic air vents on the front wings, the trapezoidal C-pillar with the "Saetta" logo and the large, frameless door windows.

OPEL TO LAUNCH ELECTRIC AMPERA-E IN 2017

Opel has revealed the Ampera-e – a new electric compact car that will be launched in 2017. It is based on the 2015 Chevrolet Bolt EV Concept.

The Ampera-e is a new five-door, five seat family car that will feature a long range and an affordable price – yet to be disclosed – which can be expected to be in the \$30,000 range, as for the **Bolt EV Concept** revealed as a concept in 2015.

The model is part of the company's biggest model offensive with 29 new models to be launched between 2016 and 2020.



In the Ampera-e the flat battery pack is mounted underneath the interior floor, which allows for distinctive, compact proportions in the exterior and enables a roomy interior.



The Ampera-e will offer the OnStar personal connectivity and service assistant, and an advanced connectivity and infotainment system.

FERRARI GTC4LUSSO: THE DESIGN

At the 2016 Geneva Motor Show Ferrari will present the GTC4Lusso, the four-seater GT which evolves the shooting-brake design of the FF.

Designed to be driven not only as a supercar but also for daily use, either in city streets or mountain roads, the GTC4Lusso is an evolution of the FF presented in 2012, and maintains the same shooting-brake body style.



The name GTC4Lusso references predecessors such as the 330 GTC or its 2+2 sister model, the 330 GT and the 250 GT Berlinetta Lusso, while the number 4 alludes to the car's four passenger capacity.

It is characterized by an extremely streamlined, tapered shape that gives it an almost fastback-like silhouette.

Compared to the FF, the GTC4Lusso introduces several changes. The most distinctive one is the new surface treatment of the flanks, which reinterprets the "diapason theme".



Penned by Ferrari in-house Design Studio, the GTC4Lusso is a further refinement of the FF shooting brake coupé,

The front end has new headlights, a hood with different crease lines and a new grille with integrated air intakes to improve the efficiency of the radiating masses

FERRARI GTC4LUSSO: THE DESIGN

Performance

Maximum speed 335 km/h
0-100 km/h: 3.4 sec

That innovative architecture aside, the cabin's most striking feature is the beautiful craftsmanship of the materials which have been painstakingly selected and combined to enrich the atmosphere on board.



The GTC4Lusso is powered by a 12-cylinder engine delivering 690 cv at 8,000 rpm and 697 Nm at 5,750 rpm with 80% already available at just 1,750 rpm . Both its 2.6 kg/cv weight-to-power ratio and its 13.5:1 compression ratio set new records for the category.

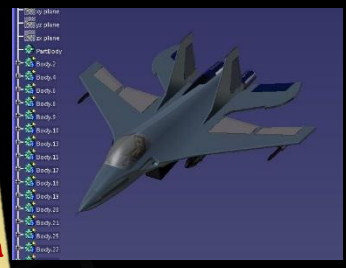
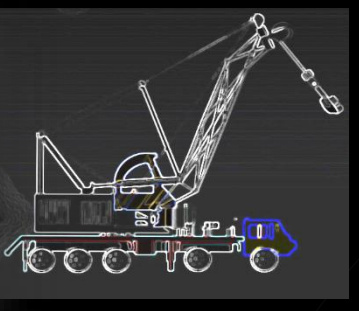
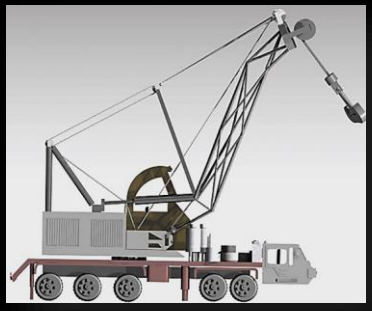
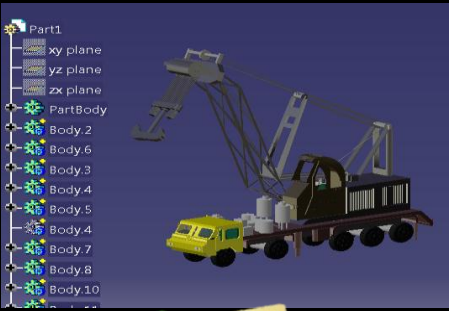


The driver-focused cockpit evolves the concepts of the Ferrari FF, putting even more emphasis on the "sporty" and "hi-tech" feel. One of the main features is the Dual Cockpit architecture, which includes an optional display for the passenger to enhance the shared driving experience.



The Ferrari-patented 4RM Evo four-wheel drive system is integrated with rear-wheel steering for the first time. The result is the newly-patented 4RM-S (four-wheel drive and steering) system which now incorporates the electronic differential (E-Diff) and the SCM-E dampers.

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