







THE BODYWORK AS CONTAINER




Simplicity rather than complexity, purity instead of artificiality, through modifications reductive in form but incremental in substance. Reduction is an aptitude that develops in the simplification of products, functions, behaviors, and components. A simplicity that increasingly veers towards authenticity, as the true parameter for evaluation and choice: removing to obtain, which coincides with enriching.

1980	RONALD REAGAN WINS PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS	
1980	AUDI QUATTRO	
1980	DISCOVERY OF BOTS	
1980	SOLIDARITY UNION IS BORN IN POLAND	
1980	FIAT PANDA	
1980	JAPANESE AUTO PRODUCTION SURPASSES USA	
1980	JOHN LENNON IS ASSASSINATED	
1980	POST-IT NOTES ON THE MARKET	
1980	MTV TELEVISION CHANNEL IS BORN	
1980	“WM-2”, SONY (WALKMAN)	
1981	CARLTON, MEMPHIS (BOOKCASE)	
1981	DE LOREAN DMC-12	
1981	“MODEL 5150”, IBM (THE FIRST PC)	
1981	PRINCE CHARLES MARRIES LADY DIANA	
1981	ANSWERING MACHINE	
1982	FIAT UNO	

1980s

1982	VIDEO RECORDER	
1982	FALKLANDS WAR	
1982	AUDI 100	
1982	ELECTRONIC TRACTION CONTROL	
1982	RED REAR FOG LIGHT	
1982	FIRST EXAMPLES OF "SPACE FRAME"	
1982	MERCEDES-BENZ 190	
1982	GIORGIO ARMANI IN THE "TIME" COVER	
1982	"COMMODORE 64", THE FIRST HOME COMPUTER	
1982	"DURABEAM", DURACELL (FLASHLIGHT)	
1983	"KETTLE WITH MELODIC WHISTLE", ALESSI	
1983	SWATCH, SMH (WRISTWATCH)	
1983	THE PERSONAL COMPUTER IN THE MAGAZINE "TIME"	
1983	ACTIVE SUSPENSION	
1983	CASH REGISTER IN SHOPS	
1983	EXHIBITION "DAL CUCCHIAIO ALLA CITTÀ"	

THE BODYWORK AS CONTAINER

1984	RENAULT ESPACE	
1984	LAUNCH OF SPACE SHUTTLE DISCOVERY	
1984	THE INTERNET TAKES OFF IN THE UNITED STATES	
1984	“STUDIO 54”, MANHATTAN DISCO	
1984	BODYBUILDING CULTURE	
1984	FERRARI TESTAROSSA	
1984	“MACINTOSH 128K”, APPLE	
1985	THE RAMPANT YOUNG “YUPPIES”	
1985	WEMBLEY HOSTS FIRST LIVE AID CONCERT	
1985	HALLEY’S COMET	
1985	FOUR-WHEEL STEERING	
1985	EXPLOSION OF MODERN ANTIQUES	
1986	FIRST SATELLITE SYSTEMS	
1986	THE ERA OF THE SINGER MADONNA IS BORN	
1986	CENTENARY OF THE INVENTION OF THE AUTOMOBILE	
1986	CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR POWER PLANT EXPLODES	
1987	FERRARI F40	
1987	GORBACHEV’S GLASNOST AND PERESTROIKA	

1980s

1987 ANDY WARHOL DIES

1987 "TOLOMEO", ARTEMIDE (DESK LAMP)

1987 "DYNATAC 8000X", MOTOROLA

1988 HP DESKJET, THE FIRST INKJET PRINTER

1988 LANCIA DELTA HF INTEGRALE



1989 RUSSIAN AND SOVIET ART

1989 ZOOMORPHIC OBJECTS

1989 LOUVRE PYRAMID LECH MING PEI

1989 JANE FONDA'S AEROBIC GYMNASICS

1989 COMPUTER VIRUS

1989 TIANANMEN SQUARE MASSACRE IN CHINA

1989 ON NOVEMBER 9, THE BERLIN WALL IS TORN DOWN

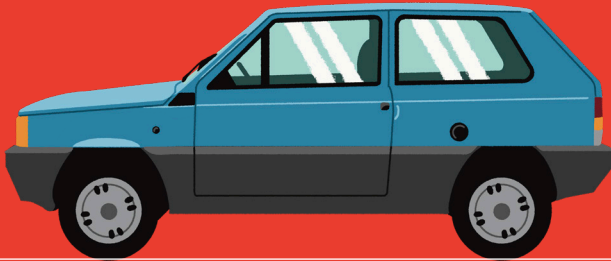
1980



AUDI QUATTRO

Designed by Martin Smith and Ferdinand Piëch, this three-door fastback coupé with a front-mounted engine was produced from 1980 to 1991. The line is characterized by squared and decidedly flared fenders and by the wide spoiler concluding the rear of the car. It is the first large-series European car to adopt four-wheel drive and to win the World Rally Championship for Manufacturers in 1982.

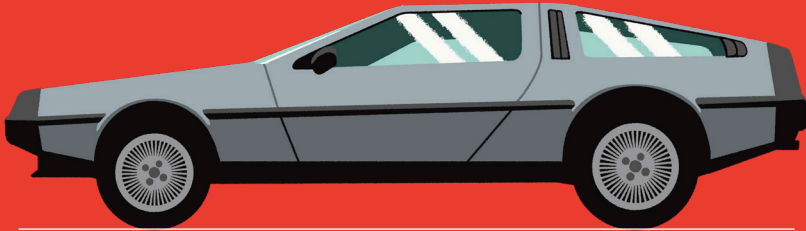
1980



FIAT PANDA

Designed by Giorgetto Giugiaro, this two-box car with a front-mounted engine was produced from 1980 to 2003. The car body consists of elements that are easy to stamp, such as smooth sheet metal and flat glass: the line is decidedly squared and clean and is distinguished by the protective black plastic strip running along the flank, optically reducing the height of the sheet metal to the full advantage of proportions. It won the Compasso d'Oro in 1981.

1981



DE LOREAN DMC-12

Designed by Giorgetto Giugiaro, this coupé with a rear-mounted engine was produced from 1981 to 1983. Characterized by gull-wing doors and an unpainted stainless steel body, it uses the chassis of the Lotus Esprit on which a reinforced fiberglass monocoque is mounted, to which the stainless steel panels are attached. The car is famous for the film *Back to the Future*. About 6,500 units were produced.

1982



FIAT UNO

Designed by Giorgetto Giugiaro, this two-box car with a front-mounted engine was produced from 1982 to 1989. A symbol of Fiat's renewal in the Eighties, it introduces new concepts for medium-small cars that set a standard. Made with a tall cabin and truncated tail and wheels positioned at the extremities, it has a very inclined windshield and a roof devoid of rain gutters. More than six million units were produced.

1982



AUDI 100

Designed by Hartmut Warkuss, this three-box sedan with a front-mounted overhanging engine was produced from 1982 to 1990. It is a milestone in the application of aerodynamic research: it has a decidedly innovative profile for a sedan, in which the very wide and very inclined glass surface makes the line light. For the first time, the windshield is glued directly to the bodywork, thus without rubber gaskets. Attention to detail is highlighted by the various moldings which are reduced to the essential. With this model, Audi introduces a new stylistic concept that will lead up to the present day.

1982



MERCEDES-BENZ 190

Designed by Bruno Sacco, this three-box sedan with a front-mounted engine was produced from 1982 to 1993. A car with contained dimensions and a total absence of chrome and moldings that introduces a new style for Mercedes-Benz. Characterized at the front by the wide A-pillar framing the windshield and roof, at the rear it has a very high trunk lid which is connected to the oblique lines of the flank.

1984



RENAULT ESPACE

Designed by Aimé Sagues, this one-box car with a front-mounted engine was produced from 1984 to 1996. It is characterized by a new architectural layout where the passenger compartment occupies the entire volume of the vehicle. An accentuated wedge shape results, which will in fact be imitated by many other manufacturers. The bodywork, in plastic material, associates a large glass surface and a windshield that continues the line of the engine hood without interruption.

1984



FERRARI TESTAROSSA

Designed by Leonardo Fioravanti (Pininfarina), this mid-engine coupé was produced from 1984 to 1992. The line stands out for the widened tail and for the large side grille that emphasizes the entire flank in body color and which is also repeated on the rear, in matte black. In the first examples, the car was equipped with a single rearview mirror mounted halfway up the A-pillar. About 1,070 units were produced.

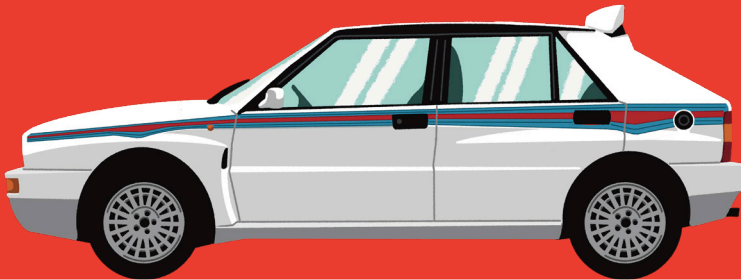
1987



FERRARI F40

Designed by Pininfarina, this berlinetta with a rear-mounted engine was produced from 1987 to 1992. Assembled on a tubular steel chassis and a shell reinforced with Kevlar, it has a fiberglass body. The line is composed of a very wide front end incorporating fenders and retractable headlights and a transparent rear engine hood ending with a large wing. It was the last road-going Ferrari overseen by Enzo Ferrari. More than 1,300 units were produced.

1988



LANCIA DELTA HF INTEGRALE







Designed by Giorgetto Giugiaro, this two-box car with a front-mounted engine was produced from 1988 to 1993. A car designed for rallying, it is the sports version of the Delta presented in 1979. A car of compact dimensions, it has a flow with taut lines tracing the entire flank marked by widened fenders aligned at the top. It won 5 Manufacturers' Championships and 3 Drivers' Championships. Its Martini Racing livery is an icon of Motorsport.

FORM AS SYNTHESIS

Building a system based on knowledge and creativity through continuous exchange. Indeed, the desire to continuously rework one's experience is inherent in people, considering memory not just as an archive of recollections but above all as fertile ground to be rediscovered, both in terms of stimulation and inspiration and in terms of creativity and innovation.

1989	BMW Z1 ROADSTER	
1990	ANTI-SMOG MEASURES	
1990	BIODYNAMIC AGRICULTURE	
1990	THE IKEA PHENOMENON SPREADS WORLDWIDE	
1990	“JUICY SALIF”, ALESSI (CITRUS SQUEEZER)	
1990	THE GULF WAR BEGINS	
1990	JAPANESE DESIGN BOOM	
1990	EXHIBITION “CIVILTÀ DELLE MACCHINE” IN TURIN	
1990	GLOBALIZATION OF MARKETS	
1990	THE MOBILE PHONE ON THE MARKET	
1990	AMUSEMENT PARKS BECOME ESTABLISHED IN EU	
1991	THE “FAB FIVE” SHOWS FOR GIANNI VERSACE	
1991	END OF THE BUBBLE ECONOMY IN JAPAN	
1991	ON AUGUST 6, THE “WORLD WIDE WEB” IS BORN	
1992	NISSAN MICRA	
1992	BILL CLINTON WINS THE ELECTION	

1990s

1992	RENAULT TWINGO	
1993	“DESIGN, MIROIR DU SIECLE” IN PARIS	
1993	OPENING OF BORDERS IN EUROPE	
1993	MCLAREN F1	
1994	AYRTON SENNA DIES	
1994	SONY PLAYSTATION ELECTRONIC GAME	
1994	CHANNEL TUNNEL INAUGURATED	
1996	SEQUENTIAL GEARBOX ON MASS-PRODUCTION CARS	
1996	NITERÓI MUSEUM, OSCAR NIEMEYER	
1997	MERCEDES-BENZ CLASSE A	
1997	BILBAO GUGGENHEIM, FRANK GEHRY	
1997	END OF BRITISH RULE IN HONG KONG	
1997	ASIAN FINANCIAL CRISIS	
1997	LADY DIANA DIES IN A CAR ACCIDENT	
1997	KYOTO PROTOCOL SIGNED IN JAPAN	
1998	VOLKSWAGEN NEW BEETLE	
1998	ON SEPTEMBER 27, “GOOGLE” IS BORN	
1999	PAGANI ZONDA C12	
1999	SMART	
1999	ANXIETY OVER THE “MILLENNIUM BUG”	

1989



BMW Z1 ROADSTER

Designed by Harm Lagaay, this roadster with a front-mounted engine was produced from 1989 to 1991. A car with a self-supporting steel sheet monocoque structure with a synthetic floorpan glued in a sandwich. The bodywork is made of completely removable thermoplastic technopolymers and is distinguished by a wide windshield functioning as a roll-bar and doors that descend downwards.

1992



NISSAN MICRA

Designed by Ryoichi Kuraoka, this two-box car with a transverse engine was produced from 1992 to 2002. Its bulbous flank shape, the almost horizontal beltline, the arched C-pillar incorporating the second window, and the not very inclined windshield are all volumetric concepts that may recall the Morris Mini Minor designed by Alec Issigonis, especially in architecture and the proportionate engine hood and cabin.

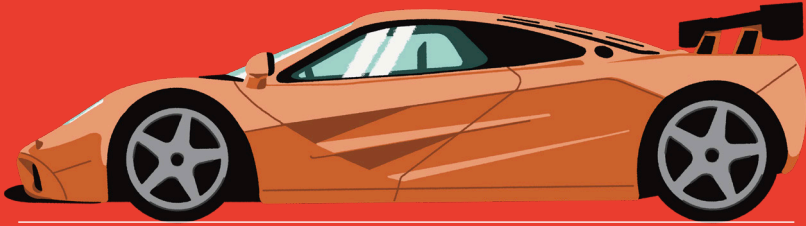
1992



RENAULT TWINGO

Designed by Patrick Le Quément, this one-box car with a front-mounted engine was produced from 1992 to 2007. A small-sized MPV replacing the Renault 4, it has an element in the front that determines its personality, with two “half-moon” headlights protruding from the hood line and three small air intakes on the right. More than 2.4 million units were produced.

1993



MCLAREN F1

Designed by Gordon Murray, this coupé with a mid-rear engine was produced from 1993 to 1998. It is the first road car equipped with a carbon fiber monocoque and the first road car with ground effect. The cabin has three seats with the driving position in the center, while the very simple bodywork features oblique lines on the flanks highlighting the large air extractors. This car is the progenitor of modern hypercars. 64 units were produced.

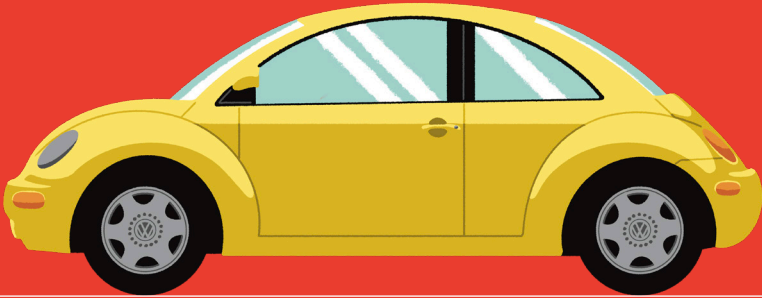
1997



MERCEDES-BENZ CLASSE A

Designed by Bruno Sacco, this one-box car with an underfloor engine was produced from 1997 to 2012. A small-sized MPV, 3.6 m long, with a particular architecture in which the cabin is raised with the engine underneath: it is the first front-wheel drive Mercedes-Benz. The bodywork has an evident rear pillar inclined backward which determines an unusual line with a panoramic rear window and a flank with an oblique beltline.

1998



VOLKSWAGEN NEW BEETLE

Designed by Hartmut Warkuss, this sedan with a front-mounted engine has been produced since 1998. A striking example of a “Revival Car”, it retraces, albeit with completely different architecture, the classic stylistic elements of the Beetle (fenders, front and rear headlights, smooth door, running board). It is characterized by a very rounded roof and circular lines intersecting with lines perpendicular to each other.

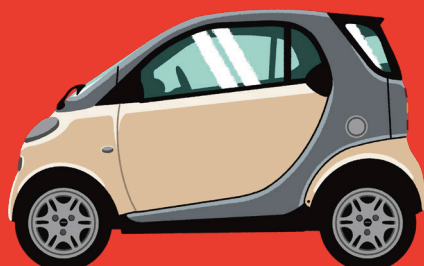
1999



PAGANI ZONDA C12

Designed by Horacio Pagani, this coupé with a mid-rear engine was produced from 1999 to 2011. With a monocoque made entirely of carbon, it has a low line with a forward cabin and an elongated tail. This model introduces the design guidelines for subsequent models: the distinctive rearview mirrors and the four clustered exhausts. In its dozen different versions, more than 210 units were produced.

1999







SMART

Designed by Johann Tomforde, this one-box car with an underfloor engine has been produced since 1998. The cabin is mounted on a sandwich structure, engine and mechanics below and passengers above; the bodywork, instead, is made of interchangeable plastic panels. Only 250 cm long, it takes up various structural and stylistic concepts of the Mercedes-Benz A-Class: it is characterized by simplicity of assembly, a reduced number of parts, and two-tone coloring.

RENEWED DESIGN

The innovative process takes over new fields of application, with references to less tangible themes, through the applications of the new-digital: moving towards an understanding of the authentic, where values shift, tending towards new modes of enjoyment. New scientific visions, technological opportunities, and aesthetic creations are increasingly founded on a process of generating the new.

2000	TOMTOM CAR GPS NAVIGATOR	
2000	NEW ECONOMY CRISIS	
2000	THE “MILLENNIUM BUG” PROVE UNFOUNDED	
2000	“MAD COW” DISEASE SPREADS IN EUROPE	
2001	MINI ONE	
2001	SUCCESS OF THE HARRY POTTER LITERARY SAGA	
2001	ON JANUARY 15, “WIKIPEDIA” IS BORN	
2001	THE “TWIN TOWERS” IN NEW YORK COLLAPSE	
2002	ONLY UNLEADED “GREEN” PETROL IN EUROPE	
2002	BMW Z4	
2002	EURO CURRENCY CIRCULATION BEGINS	
2003	ROLLS-ROYCE PHANTOM	
2003	THE UNITED STATES INVADES IRAQ	
2003	THE SPACE SHUTTLE COLUMBIA DISINTEGRATES	
2003	BENTLEY CONTINENTAL GT	
2004	THE SOCIAL NETWORK “FACEBOOK” IS BORN	

2000s

2004 "THE GHERKIN" IN LONDON, NORMAN FOSTER

2005 POPE JOHN PAUL II DIES

2005 ON FEBRUARY 14, YOUTUBE IS BORN

2006 SADDAM HUSSEIN IS SENTENCED TO DEATH

2006 NINTENDO WII VIDEO GAME

2007 LAMBORGHINI REVENTON



2007 SMARTPHONE APPLE IPHONE

2007 ALFA ROMEO 8C COMPETIZIONE



2007 AIRBUS A380

2007 FIAT 500



2007 AUDI A5 COUPÉ



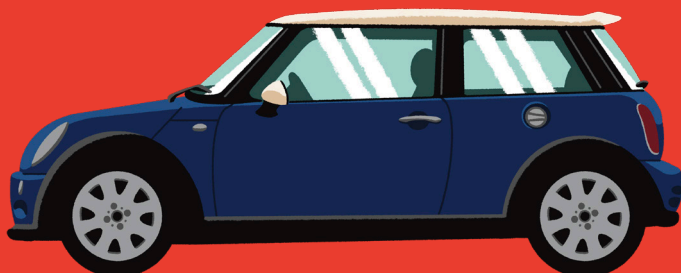
2008 BEGINNING OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS

2008 BARACK OBAMA 44TH PRESIDENT OF THE USA

2009 MICHAEL JACKSON DIES

2009 THE SOCIAL NETWORK "WHATSAPP" IS BORN

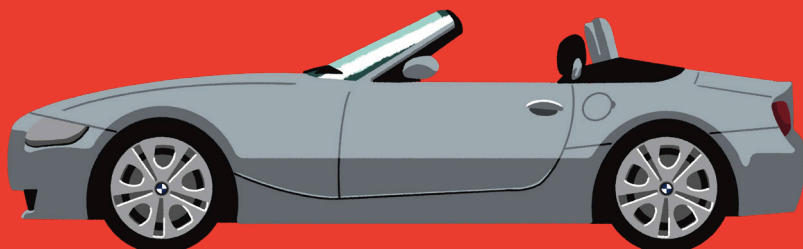
2001



MINI

Designed by Frank Stephenson, this two-box sedan with a front-mounted engine has been produced since 2001 in multiple series. The line is characterized by lines that decidedly recall the Mini Minor by Alec Issigonis, with updated proportions and dimensions, in addition to the possibility of a wide variety of customization. It is offered in various versions: One, Cooper, Clubman, Station wagon, Countryman, etc.

2002



BMW Z4

Designed by Anders Warming under the supervision of Chris Bangle, this spider with a front-mounted engine was produced from 2002 to 2008. The body style reinterprets the long-hood and set-back cabin layout of the 507 in a modern key, with a high level of experimentation in the treatment of surfaces characterized by the alternation between taut and sinuous lines. The most distinctive element is the flank which stylistically evokes the Z and the 4.

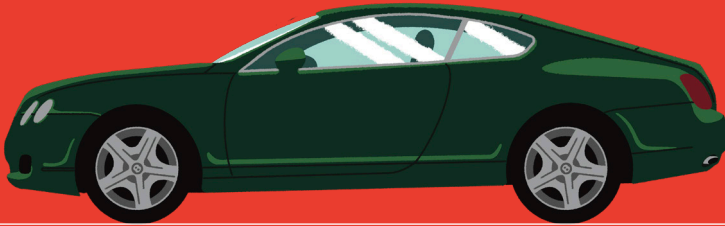
2003



ROLLS-ROYCE PHANTOM

Designed by Ian Cameron, this sedan with a front-mounted engine was produced from 2003 to 2016. This car, also named Phantom VII, is the progenitor of the new BMW era and effectively introduces the new Rolls-Royce family feeling. The body shell is characterized by a traditional yet extremely recognizable line. The reverse-opening rear doors with large handles give a very strong mark to the flank.

2003



BENTLEY CONTINENTAL GT

Designed by Dirk van Braeckel, this 2+2 grand tourer coupé with a front-mounted engine has been produced since 2003. It is the first model of the Volkswagen era in which Bentley's stylistic canons are skillfully redefined to clearly detach from Rolls-Royce. Despite having a large mass, it is characterized by a skillful balance of proportions, a wide mesh grille, and a flank with two large creases that determine the muscles of the fenders.

2007



LAMBORGHINI REVENTON

Designed by Filippo Perini, this two-seater coupé with a rear-mounted engine was produced from 2007 to 2010. The bodywork is made of a carbon fiber-based composite material with a particularly angular and squared line that determines its aeronautical character, accentuated by the opaque gray color of the body and the metal inserts. 20 units were produced.

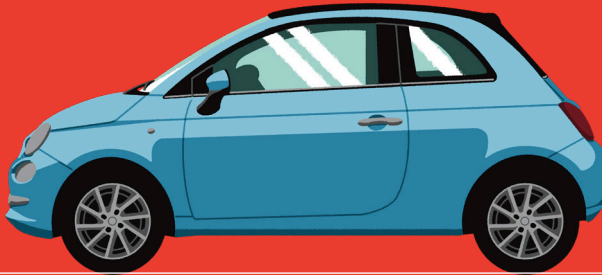
2007



ALFA ROMEO 8C COMPETIZIONE

Designed by Wolfgang Egger, this two-seater coupé with a front-mounted engine was produced from 2007 to 2010. The particularly soft line takes inspiration from the Alfa Romeo 33 Stradale of 1967 and is characterized by very wide and radiused glass surfaces. The chassis, of the “dual frame” type, is made of multi-material, while the bodywork, like part of the cabin, is made of carbon fiber. 500 units were produced.

2007



FIAT 500

Designed by Roberto Giolito, this two-box sedan with a front-mounted engine has been produced since 2007. It picks up the stylistic traits of its 1957 progenitor, updating dimensions, proportions, style, and technology. The bodywork indeed remains decidedly rounded; the front end keeps the double circular headlights well in evidence, while the flank is marked by the four bulbous and prominent wheel arches.

2007




AUDI A5 COUPÉ



Designed by Walter de Silva, this coupé with a front-mounted engine has been produced since 2007. It is characterized by a low and sporty line; the expressive front with the typical "single frame" grille and the equally incisive tail give rise to an extremely elegant coupé. Daughter of the "Nuvolari" concept car presented at the Geneva Motor Show in 2003, it has a body that fuses Italian style with German dynamism into one.

THE FUTURE OF NOVELTIES

The aim is towards a simplification and elevation of design through continuous research in selecting the most suitable materials, with a particular balance between matter and finishes, textures and colors, so as to enhance sensory performance. We are witnessing an increasing engagement of design stylistic elements with those of fashion, which are effectively generating new exchanges and opportunities for increasingly diverse product sectors.

2010	ISS AFTER UNDOCKING OF STS-132	
2010	“IPAD”, APPLE (THE FIRST MODERN TABLET)	
2010	“BURJ KHALIFA” IN DUBAI	
2010	“BIKE SHARING” SPREADS IN MAJOR EU CITIES	
2011	STEVE JOBS DIES	
2011	RENAULT TWIZY	
2011	THE KING’S SPEECH BY TOM HOOPER IS RELEASED	
2011	SINGER AMY WINEHOUSE DIES	
2012	BCE: ANTI-SPREAD SHIELD APPROVED	
2012	TESLA MODEL S	
2013	LIBERALIZATION OF CAR SALES IN CUBA	
2013	POPE FRANCIS IS THE NEW POPE	
2014	SOLAR IMPULSE II	
2014	“BOSCO VERTICALE” IN MILAN, STEFANO BOERI	
2014	THE FCA GROUP IS BORN, FIAT AND CHRYSLER	
2015	EXPO MILANO	

2010s

2015	BMW I8	
2016	THE BREXIT REFERENDUM PASSES IN UK	
2016	DONALD TRUMP 45TH PRESIDENT OF THE USA	
2016	EYE ROBOT VACUUM 360 DYSON	
2018	FACEBOOK'S TERRIBLE YEAR	
2019	PORSCHE TAYCAN	
2019	COVID-19 VIRUS IDENTIFIED IN WUHAN	
2019	LAND ROVER DEFENDER	
2020	BREXIT RUNS ITS COURSE	
2022	RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE	
2022	FERRARI PUROSANGUE	
2022	ELIZABETH II DIES	

2011



RENAULT TWIZY

Designed by Luciano Bove, this one-box car with an electric motor has been produced since 2011. A small quadricycle crossing the concepts of a small city car and a scooter, whose main characteristic is a car body devoid of doors and with protruding fenders, and a cabin with two seats arranged in tandem. The front also retains the nose with double single circular headlights, while the tail lacks a rear window and central light.

2012



TESLA MODEL S

Designed by Franz von Holzhausen, this five-door sedan with a fully electric engine and all-wheel drive has been produced since 2012. The first mass-produced electric car combining high performance and electric traction, it is characterized by a grille-less front end and soft, clean lines that determine a very aerodynamic aesthetic, accentuated by polished chrome details.

2015



BMW I8

Designed by Benoit Jacob, this 2+2 grand tourer coupé with a plug-in hybrid electric engine was produced from 2014 to 2020. Characterized by futuristic lines, the result of aerodynamic innovations, it has a low and wide front end determining a flat silhouette of the car body, further accentuated by gull-wing style doors. The materials used range from carbon to plastic materials and recycled materials.

2019



PORSCHE TAYCAN

Designed by Mitja Borkert under the supervision of Michael Mauer, this 4-door coupé sedan with an electric modular platform has been produced since 2019. Compared to the internal combustion sedan Panamera, which shares its generous dimensions, the Taycan exploits the electric architecture to approach the proportions of the 911: short hood, forward cabin, with the unmistakable muscular hips widening towards the rear.

2019



LAND ROVER DEFENDER

Designed by Gerry McGovern, this SUV with a monocoque chassis and longitudinal front engine has been produced since 2019. The off-road imprint remains thanks to the adoption of reduced overhangs, high sills, and an external spare wheel. The horizontal lines and clean surfaces give it a monolithic, refined, and modern appearance, with details destined to become iconic such as the body panel that lightens the side glazing.

2022



FERRARI PUROSANGUE

Designed by Flavio Manzoni, this five-door crossover with a front-mid-mounted engine has been produced since 2022. The first high-riding car from Maranello interprets the DNA of the Prancing Horse's V12 grand tourers, proposing a long hood and a strongly set-back cabin. The rear doors with rear-hinged opening and hidden handles are dramatic, as are the thin lighting clusters, decomposed into multiple elements and levels.

ICONICAR SERIES: AUTOMOBILE CULTURE

The ICONICAR editorial series intends to explore the diverse themes related to the “automotive system”—concerning historical, creative, stylistic, social, and economic aspects, among others—focusing attention on the contents of archival and bibliographic sources and on the importance of disseminating and networking all the knowledge present in museums, collections, and archives on the subject of the automobile.

In the first place, the ICONICAR editorial series intends to give due prominence to a cultural heritage (consisting mainly of documents, images, drawings, scale models, prototypes, and cars) that, until today, has not been fully perceived as such. Secondly, thanks to structured collaboration with key players in the sector, the aim is to achieve the sharing of this extraordinary capital.

The intent of this project is also to make known and valorize an inestimable heritage, increasing the awareness of those who possess such assets. Through the continuous implementation of research, content development, and communication, ICONICAR constitutes a privileged venue for debating the automobile theme, cementing related roles and disciplines within a unique context, while acting simultaneously as promoter and cataloger of a more systematic automotive culture.

In summary, the ICONICAR editorial series develops its projects through “method” and “interaction” fused together in six coordinated areas: research; publishing; communication; conferences; curatorship; events.

Putting automotive aesthetics at the heart of everything: the evolution of knowledge through history, modernity, and the future of the world. By exploring historical, cultural, social, technological, and artistic paths, new knowledge is constructed, enhancing and intertwining heritage and storytelling through new modalities and values.

ICONICAR represents, in every respect, a laboratory of ideas—an agile platform for testing new formats that may find further development in the future. In this context, archives are critically explored in innovative ways. Through the in-depth study of key concepts, a possible glossary of automotive style is established to analyze its history and identity.

Each entry brings together multiple projects realized from the early twentieth century to the present across various fields of action: art, cinema, dance, music, architecture, and philosophy. By publishing archival images and videos, unpublished texts, excerpts from catalogs, and press commentary, thematic paths and ideal dialogues are created between these various activities.

ICONICAR explains and illustrates the quality, culture, value, and meaning of the car in relation to the arts, fashion, design, architecture, lifestyle, economics, sociology, etc., consistently emphasizing its cultural significance.

ICONICAR serves as an itinerant narrative on the evolution of design—not just automotive—which, like an open book, interacts with the visitor's eye as an experience and a stimulus for design evolution, with the automobile always at the center of attention. Through meticulously designed graphics, a chronology is outlined, marked by key events according to an itinerary that spans several sectors: economics, technology, customs, art, design, publishing, exhibitions, and design products. This approach aims to provide a deeper understanding, suitable for both a sophisticated audience and a broader public, characterized by a graphic and descriptive language accessible to all.

The project unfolds through clear “contaminations”: hypertextual pages that allow users to explore the evolution of the automobile in a different way through intersecting languages. The goal is to investigate the culture of automotive bodywork, expanding its typical scope within a social context by creating a complete model—a methodological process where stylistic creativity is the fruit of intersections, navigations, influences, and migrations.

ICONICAR presents itself as a “cultural project” supporting teaching

and research activities, fostering a sense of reciprocity between the world of museums/archives and the corporate sector.

The automobile has always prioritized a strong design-oriented connotation and, consequently, a stylistic formalization based on aesthetics. The car has also revolutionized the human way of life, and it is likely that future historians will identify the automobile as the fulcrum of contemporary evolution: the development of the motor vehicle is indeed the result of visionary dreams, infinite work, and experimentation. However, automotive history is also economic history, as well as a history of social conflicts and transformations, exchanges with the arts and customs, and a history of technology and science.

It was in America that the automobile, as a social phenomenon, developed rapidly starting in the early years of the twentieth century. The Ford Model T gave Americans the opportunity to expand their horizons, overcoming the vast distances between inhabited centers and the lack of adequate public transportation.

Designing an automobile with the goal of solving a social problem necessarily led to prioritizing technical-production elements over formal ones, thereby satisfying the needs of a single generation. The situation was different in Europe, where the automobile took on a luxury and elitist character: cars were designed and built primarily for a wealthy public, where "Two-Tone" bodywork served as a determinant of social status.

It is therefore important to emphasize the clear diversity in the car/society relationship which, although converging today, still renders American and European realities quite distinct. Later, again in the United States, "Styling" was born when, in a saturated market, manufacturers competed in a climate of absolute rivalry on themes of formal preciousness and continuous aesthetic renewal.

Styling did not seek to psychologically condition public taste through advertising alone; rather, it interpreted moods and aspirations, taking them into account in the design process to the extent that consumers could recognize themselves in the product. Styling thus became a tool for product re-systematization, originating not only from "above" (the designer) but also from "below" (the consumer's moods, profiled with increasingly sophisticated research tools).

Furthermore, no other product represents our time better than the automobile. The car, as an icon of our era, has focused the interest of artists and designers: from being a symbol of progress for the Futurists to its role

in 1930s America (where its “streamlined” speed lines became an attribute of modernity extended to the world of static objects). It serves as a medium full of meaning and a yardstick for judging the evolution of technology through the search for aerodynamics, which finds its most natural essence in the geometry of the tail.

The 1930s and 1940s represent a crucial point for automotive development, not only in terms of lines but also for the integration of bodywork and structure at the design level. Further revolutions were to occur when the adoption of the monocoque became possible across all production processes.

The most surprising element in the most forward-looking cars is the complete revision of proportions; the engine hood drops below the fender line, revolutionizing the formal importance the engine compartment held in the cars of that era, and consequently, the radiator as a differentiating element. Work was also done on the “envelope” body (*fiancata continua*), where fenders are merely hinted at, emphasizing the idea of speed implicit in the momentum of the lines and the very smooth blending of volumes.

During these years, the bodywork underwent substantial modifications through its “moderation”: these are the eras in which the “Italian Line” rose to prominence, but it is also the time when fashion became inextricably linked to design. The professional figure called upon was no longer just the “stylist,” but the “designer.” Design, in fact, is not an autonomous activity but a system within which several variables interact, characterizing the entire design process not only through formal and technological identification but also through the inseparable relationship linking the various phases of the creative cycle.

It was only after World War II that major manufacturers understood the advantages that mass-produced unibody (load-bearing) bodywork could provide, such as weight reduction, increased torsional rigidity, faster production, and a significant reduction in costs. Conversely, automotive production planning was destined to change: designing a shell meant defining the car’s stylistic characteristics from the start, which could not be modified without massive reinvestment. The use of the monocoque allowed designers to perfect an integrated design methodology. In this way, the cabin became one with the bodywork, which in turn remained perfectly integrated with the mechanical components.

Sheet metal stamping techniques made it possible to execute highly blended, rounded, and enveloping lines—even if still massive—typical of

1950s automobiles. While it is true that in the 1950s and 1960s European style adopted American “Streamlining” first and the “boxy” line later (deriving them from trends already popular in America), it is also true that with the 1973 oil crisis, the stylistic trend reversed abruptly. Americans began to copy European and Japanese products in an attempt to produce smaller, human-scaled cars characterized by increasingly sober lines.

Over the years, the evolution of technologies applied to the automotive sector would bring significant changes to all fields of design, in both methodologies and materials used. This required advanced design methods and greater precision in tolerances between separate components, forcing a revision of the methods for joining them to the shell.

There has been an increasing use of plastics, driven primarily by characteristics such as reduced weight (which translates into fuel savings), corrosion resistance, lower production and maintenance costs, dimensional stability at various temperatures, and sound and heat absorption capabilities. This provided wide creative freedom for forms and production efficiency. Furthermore, the use of plastics in bodywork allows for frequent variations on a theme with faster and less expensive “face-lifts” compared to sheet metal.

However, it is certainly the themes of graphics and design that solidify the new role assumed by the automobile—no longer seen merely as a functional object, but elevated to something that completes the daily way of conceiving life and interacting with others. The automobile presents itself in a new guise through a vast range of body styles realized in multiple forms with diverse chassis, shells, and stamped panels. Attention to shapes, lines, and surfaces focuses on the tactile quality of the material at contact points, as well as its visual aspect—its transparency, opacity, surface finish, and color.

The detail thus becomes a quality “plus”—one that exists not only because it is in tune with current shifts in taste and design trends but, rather, because it establishes itself as a new presence in the landscape of lived experience, capable of stimulating curiosity.

Experience the passion for the automobile by participating in the ICOTICAR experience: a vast opportunity for activities, workshops, conferences, interviews, study days, and talks that allow for the exploration of the variety and richness of knowledge in the automotive world in new ways—a sort of ideal connection between different worlds where the aesthetics of the car and its icons define the very structure of the project.

THE COLLECTION

1900	MERCEDES 35 HP
1901	OLDSMOBILE CURVED DASH
1907	ROLLS-ROYCE 40/50 CV "SILVER GHOST"
1908	FORD T
1912	FIAT ZERO 12-15 HP
1913	ALFA ROMEO AERODINAMICA 40/60 HP
1919	HISPANO-SUIZA H6 B
1920	ISOTTA FRASCHINI TIPO 8
1921	RUMPLER TROPHEN-AUTO
1922	AUSTIN SEVEN
1922	LANCIA LAMBDA
1924	BUGATTI TYPE 35
1926	HANOMAG 2/10 CV
1927	MERCEDES-BENZ SS
1927	CLAVEAU 4 CV
1930	BURNEY STREAMLINE
1931	ALFA ROMEO 6C 1750 GS "FLYING STAR"
1931	ADLER STANDARD 8
1932	FIAT 508 BALILLA
1934	CHRYSLER AIRFLOW
1934	TATRA 77
1934	BUGATTI ATLANTIC TYPE 57 SC
1934	DYMAXION CAR

1934	CITROËN TRACTION AVANT 7 CV
1935	FIAT 1500 6C
1935	VOLVO CARIOCA PV 36
1935	PEUGEOT 402
1935	STOUT SCARAB
1935	CORD 812 BEVERLY SEDAN
1935	MAYBACH SW 35 JARAY
1936	PANHARD DYNAMIC
1936	BMW 328
1936	FIAT 500 TOPOLINO
1937	LANCIA APRILIA 238
1938	LINCOLN ZEPHYR
1941	CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY
1941	JEEP WILLYS-OVERLAND
1946	VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE
1947	CISITALIA 202
1947	STUDEBAKER CHAMPION
1948	JAGUAR XK 120
1948	LAND ROVER DEFENDER
1948	PORSCHE 356 A
1948	TUCKER '48
1948	CADILLAC 62 COUPÉ
1949	SAAB 92
1949	ALFA ROMEO 2500 SS "VILLA D'ESTE"
1949	CITROËN 2 CV

1950	ALFA ROMEO 1900
1951	NASH-HEALY
1952	BENTLEY CONTINENTAL
1953	FORD THUNDERBIRD
1953	ISO ISETTA 200
1954	ALFA ROMEO SPRINT COUPÉ
1954	MERCEDES-BENZ 300 SL COUPÉ
1954	PANHARD DYNA
1955	BMW 507
1955	CITROËN DS 19
1955	LANCIA AURELIA B 24 "AMERICA"
1956	FIAT 600 MULTIPLA
1957	FIAT NUOVA 500
1957	LANCIA FLAMINIA
1957	FORD FAIRLANE 500 SKYLINER
1957	CADILLAC ELDORADO BROUGHAM
1958	ASTON MARTIN DB 4
1959	FERRARI 250 GT SWB
1959	MORRIS MINI MINOR
1960	FIAT ABARTH 1000
1960	CHEVROLET CORVAIR
1961	JAGUAR E-TYPE
1962	STUDEBAKER AVANTI
1962	FERRARI 250 GTO
1962	TRIUMPH SPITFIRE 4

1962	ALPINE-RENAULT A 110
1963	PORSCHE 911
1963	CHEVROLET CORVETTE STING RAY
1964	FORD GT40 MK1
1964	LAMBORGHINI 350 GT
1964	FORD MUSTANG
1966	LAMBORGHINI MIURA P 400
1966	ALFA ROMEO 1300 JUNIOR "DUETTO"
1967	NSU RO 80
1967	ALFA ROMEO 33 STRADALE
1968	VOLVO P 1800
1968	FERRARI 365 GTB/4 "DAYTONA"
1969	FERRARI DINO 246 GT
1969	PORSCHE 917 K
1970	CITROËN MEHARI
1970	RANGE ROVER
1970	CITROËN SM
1971	LAMBORGHINI COUNTACH
1971	FIAT 127
1971	ALFA ROMEO ALFASUD
1972	RENAULT R5
1972	FIAT X1/9
1973	LANCIA STRATOS
1974	VOLKSWAGEN GOLF
1975	AMC PACER

1978	BMW M 1
1980	AUDI QUATTRO
1980	FIAT PANDA
1981	DE LOREAN DMC-12
1982	FIAT UNO
1982	AUDI 100
1982	MERCEDES-BENZ 190
1984	FERRARI TESTAROSSA
1984	RENAULT ESPACE
1987	FERRARI F 40
1988	LANCIA DELTA HF INTEGRALE
1989	BMW Z1 ROADSTER
1992	NISSAN MICRA
1992	RENAULT TWINGO
1993	MCLAREN F1
1997	MERCEDES-BENZ CLASSE A
1998	VOLKSWAGEN NEW BEETLE
2001	MINI
2002	BMW Z4
2003	ROLLS-ROYCE PHANTOM
2003	BENTLEY CONTINENTAL GT
2007	LAMBORGHINI REVENTON
2007	ALFA ROMEO 8C COMPETIZIONE
2007	FIAT 500
2007	AUDI A5 COUPÉ

2011	RENAULT TWIZY
2012	TESLA MODEL S
2015	BMW I8
2019	PORSCHE TAYCAN
2019	LAND ROVER DEFENDER
2022	FERRARI PUROSANGUE