

Auto Show Season part 2



DETROIT

NAIAS: North American International Auto Show

COBO CONFERENCE/EXHIBITION CENTER
JANUARY 13-21, 2007

50 new vehicles revealed, nine days of activities, and a midwinter break from our relentless beautiful desert weather

The Detroit show (renamed a few years ago as the North American International Auto Show, though most will still just say "Detroit") is a biggie. Over a few months' time, the biggest announcements come at Detroit, Tokyo, Paris, Frankfurt and Geneva. Out of these, Detroit is the most accessible to most of us.

While tradition would have you wait until next fall to see the 2008 models, Detroit brings quite a few of them to you now. It also gives you a very good idea of what's in store for 2009, 2012 and beyond. Sometimes the line between new release and concept is very thin indeed. A list of new product reveals and concept vehicles at the 2007 show was presented in our January-February issue. Here is information on just a handful of highlights:

Chevrolet Camaro Convertible Concept

The convertible version of the well-received Camaro Concept arrives. Now we all look forward to this new Camaro being produced. It has some catching up to do, with the new retro Mustang already selling like hotcakes for a couple of years. GM overall introduced:

Chevrolet Volt Concept

GM's most electrifying advanced technology vehicle introduction, literally, is the Chevrolet Volt concept, a battery-powered, extended-range electric passenger vehicle that uses a gas engine to create additional electricity, making pit stops practically passé. The technology behind the Volt concept, GM's E-flex System, allows electricity to be produced from gasoline, ethanol, bio-diesel or hydrogen, helping to provide a global solution to diversifying transportation energy sources.

Chrysler Nassau Concept

The four-door, four-passenger Chrysler Nassau luxury coupe is, as Alan Barrington, principal exterior designer of the concept said, "a more emotional and artistic articulation of what it means to be a Chrysler."

Though built on a full-size 120-inch wheelbase, the Nassau appears more visually compact than a

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Acura Advanced Sports Concept



Chevrolet Camaro Convertible Concept



Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm and the Chevrolet Volt Concept



Chrysler Nassau Concept

comparable Chrysler 300C. Traditional exterior proportions have been enhanced with a silhouette that recalls the classic English 'shooting brake.' The Nassau has deliberately concise front and rear overhangs, with the body surface wrapped around large 10-spoke 21-inch wheels.

Dodge Viper SRT10 2008

The new 600-horsepower 2008 Viper SRT10 has an additional 90 horsepower on tap from its new 8.4-liter Viper SRT10 V-10 engine, a dramatic new hood with restyled, functional air extractors, does 0-60 mph in under four seconds, 0-100-0 mph in just over 12 seconds, and brakes in under 100 feet. The Viper SRT10 also has new exterior and interior colors for increased customization options.

Ford Airstream Concept

Ford Airstream Concept speaks to the future of crossovers as the market segment is projected to top 3 million units annually by the end of the decade. Green Journey : Ford Airstream Concept is powered by a new plug-in hydrogen hybrid fuel cell—called HySeries Drive—that operates under electric power at all times and delivers the combined city/highway equivalent fuel economy of 41 miles per gallon.

Jaguar C-XF Concept

AutoWeek announced that the Editors' Choice Award for Best in Show 2007 was awarded to Jaguar for its new C-XF concept car. The all-new Jaguar C-XF, a stunning four-door sedan that blends dynamic, modern features with classic heritage cues, made its debut here. The C-XF, with a 4.2-liter supercharged V8 engine, signifies a new era for the company and is a clear indication of the design direction for the company's next-generation of sport sedans.

Jeep Trailhawk Concept

The Jeep® Trailhawk concept combines the core off-road features of the new body-on-frame four-door Jeep Wrangler Unlimited with the refined sophistication of an all-new on-road open-air concept vehicle, more of a refined highway cruiser but without sacrificing Jeep's legendary off-road capabilities. Fender flares enclose large 22-inch, five-spoke wheels, each with hefty 34-inch specially-crafted tires accented by a red stripe, with the color repeated on exposed brake calipers.

Mazda Ryuga Concept

Ryuga builds on Mazda's concept of flow. Japanese for "gracious flow," Ryuga reflects a higher level of sophistication through the use of rich fabrics, engineered fits and hidden details. Ryuga is elegant

Dodge Viper SRT10



and refined, but radiates spirit and edge while portraying unique Japanese beauty.

Mazda Tribute HEV 2008

Mazda also debuted the 2008 Tribute HEV, one of the least-polluting vehicles on the road, yet still delivering the performance required by SUV owners. With a combined power output of its gasoline engine and electric motor of 155 hp, the Tribute HEV provides plenty of power yet meets strict Super Ultra Low Emissions Vehicle (SULEV7) and Advanced Technology Partial Zero Emissions Vehicle (AT-PZEV) standards in California – the strictest emission regulations a gasoline-fueled vehicle can meet.

Mitsubishi Prototype X

Prototype X hints at the next production version of the world-renowned Mitsubishi Motors rally-winning Lancer Evolution, which will be released later in 2007. The high performance engine, excellent dynamics and striking design will appeal to enthusiasts worldwide—as a daily driver with street credentials or for those anticipating weekend club or rally performance. The Prototype X is closely related to the all-new 2008 Lancer, which also made its show debut in Detroit.

Nissan Bevel Concept

The Nissan Bevel Concept is a dynamic, multi-purpose vehicle that places its focus strictly on the primary user—male empty-nesters actively engaged in hobbies, recreation and community service. Bevel offers unique, function-inspired asymmetrical styling, a high-utility three-zone interior and technology ranging from glass roof-mounted solar panels to drive-by-wire steering, throttle and braking.

Porsche Cayenne 2008

The world debut of the more powerful second generation of Porsche's sport utility vehicle, with engines offering as much as 500 horsepower and with new dynamic technologies that allow the Porsche of SUVs to perform like a nimble sports car while being fully capable of carrying five people, towing a trailer and blazing over unpaved terrain and through inclement weather.

Suzuki Flix Concept

Built by the Carlab of Orange, Calif., and based on the all-new 2007 XL7, the Flix concept offers film and entertainment enthusiasts the ultimate mobile movie experience. In addition to its eye-catching exterior appearance, the Flix is outfitted with an unprecedented in-vehicle movie system.

See you in Detroit next year? ■

Suzuki Flix Concept



Mitsubishi Prototype-X Concept



Volvo XC60 Concept

