

What will we be driving in 2010? NY Auto Show debuts concept cars

by *Bend_Weekly_News_Sources*

Bold design, technological innovation, ultra-luxury interiors and future fuels are the latest concept car trends that will be arriving at the 2007 New York International Automobile Show. The Show opens to the public on Friday, April 6th through April 15th at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in Manhattan.

Dodge Demon

Jeep Trailhawk

Mazda Hakaze

Concept cars are often radical in engine or design. Some use non-traditional, exotic, or expensive materials, ranging from paper to carbon fiber to refined alloys, while others have developed engines or new propulsion systems that blend different powertrains to create cars that are powerful but efficient.

With an emphasis on new styling, technology and the environment, this year's stunning new concept cars offer a glimpse into the future, and perhaps a look at what we might be driving in the years ahead.

Here are some of the exciting concept cars that will appear at the Show:

HONDA ACCORD COUPE -- The Accord Coupe Concept demonstrates the styling direction for the upcoming, eighth-generation Accord. A more powerful and lower-emissions V6 engine will provide higher fuel efficiency with the incorporation of Honda's next-generation Variable Cylinder Management (VCM) technology. The Coupe features Honda's ACE Body Structure which incorporates a front-end frame structure that helps absorb and disperse crash energy over a large area in a frontal impact.

DODGE DEMON -- Designed as an attainable dream car, the 2.4-liter 172 hp Dodge Demon concept is a compact, nimble "roadster with an attitude," a balance of classic sports car proportion and simplicity blended with modern design and performance.

FORD AIRSTREAM -- The Airstream Concept is influenced by Airstream's iconic design and the optimism for the future that Stanley Kubrick captured in his 1960s cult film 2001: A Space Odyssey. The concept is powered by a plug-in hydrogen hybrid fuel cell drivetrain that operates under electric power at all times.

CHEVY VOLT -- Unlike any previous electric vehicle Volt uses an innovative rechargeable electric drive system and range-extending power source. It can be configured to run on electricity, gasoline, E-85 or biodiesel. So you have at least a couple of options for the most efficient drive -- all made possible by GM's innovative E-Flex Propulsion System. Off-the-line torque is instantaneous, giving you responsive acceleration. Plus, this four- to five-passenger sport sedan still maintains the passenger and cargo capacities of a production car.

LINCOLN MKR -- The Lincoln MKR concept is a dynamic premium four-door coupe that uses an all-new TwinForce(TM) 3.5-liter 415 bhp V-6 gasoline twin-turbo direct injection engine. Inside, the MKR features 'guilt-free' luxury details including chemical free leather and renewable resources such as a reengineered oak instrument panel, mohair carpet and soy-based seat foam provide the Lincoln MKR concept a premium look and feel that's also environmentally friendly.

TOYOTA FT-HS -- Pairing a potent hybrid powertrain with essential sports car fundamentals, the FT-HS hybrid sports concept is a mid-priced sports car that integrates ecology and emotion. This two-plus-two concept is a front-engine, rear-drive sports car with a projected zero-to-60 acceleration in the four-second range. A powerful V6, 3.5L-engine is coupled with a 21st century sports hybrid system with a target power output of approximately 400-horsepower.

MAZDA NAGARE -- The Nagare concept features butterfly-wing doors, a hydrogen-powered fuel cell drivetrain and a novel one plus three seating arrangement -- the driver sits alone up front, with the rear given over to 'lounge-seating' for three. It is also a celebration of proportions and surface language that examines the movement of nature's elements.

KIA RONDO SX -- The Rondo SX Concept is finished in a sophisticated four-stage metallic gray exterior color and features an aggressive front and rear fascias, sportier grille inserts and other exciting exterior details. Key front-end changes include a larger lower air intake, an integrated SX-styled front fascia, new brake cooling ducts as well as a restyled metal-mesh-insert front grille to match.

MAZDA HAKAZE -- The Mazda Hakaze is a four-seat coupe-style compact crossover SUV aimed at people in their thirties and forties who lead active, adventurous lifestyles. Outside, the side body panels are textured to give the impression of sand dunes rippled by the wind and the body shape creates a muscular and taut look. The rear part of its roof is removable which gives it a feel similar to a roadster.

SUZUKI ZUK -- Inspired by Suzuki's championship-winning sportbikes and derived from the new SX4 sport X-over (crossover), the Zuk concept offers solid functionality both on the road and the track. The sporty Zuk is powered by a 300-horsepower, 2.0-liter turbocharged and intercooled engine with alcohol injection system, matched to a five-speed manual transmission.

CHRYSLER NASSAU -- The Chrysler Nassau is a four-door, four-seat luxury coupe concept car. Though the arc of the roof resembles that of a coupe, the Chrysler Nassau concept is in fact a four-door hard top with front and rear side glass that retracts fully. Inside, the instrument panel features a personal control interface, and home theater-inspired entertainment. Gear selection is accomplished via a pod control mounted on the instrument panel.

JEEP TRAILHAWK -- The Jeep Trailhawk combines the core off-road features of the new four-door Jeep Wrangler Unlimited with the refined sophistication of an all-new on-road open-air concept vehicle. The designers wanted to create a refined highway cruiser without sacrificing any of Jeep's legendary off-road capabilities.

SAAB BioPOWER 100 -- The Saab BioPower 100 Concept showcases the first production-based turbo engine to be optimized for pure, eco-friendly bioethanol (E100) fuel. The result is a level of performance never seen before from a road car using this fuel: 300 horsepower with greatly reduced carbon dioxide emissions.

CHEVY CAMARO -- The Camaro convertible concept, wrapped in Hugger Orange pearl tri-coat paint with twin gunmetal gray sport stripes, blends a dramatic, forward-looking design that includes classic long

hood/short deck proportions and a wide, wheels-at-the-corners stance. A torquey V-8 engine sends power to the rear wheels of the Camaro via a manual transmission.

FORD INTERCEPTOR -- Powered by Ford Racing's 5.0-liter Cammer engine, Interceptor runs on E-85 ethanol, produces 400 horsepower while celebrating the best of American muscle with a four-door with the sporty elegance of 1960s sedans. It also incorporates Ford's patented four-point "belt and suspenders" design in the front and rear seats. In addition, inflatable safety belts are included for rear seat passengers.

LEXUS LF -- A Sports Car Concept -- The new LF-A is a supercar with world-class performance that is uniquely Lexus. It is powered by a high-revving 500-plus horsepower V10 engine. Its front mid-engine placement, along with a rear-mounted transaxle and rear-mounted radiators, allows for excellent weight distribution. The horsepower, superior aerodynamics, and revised styling makes a top speed of 200 mph not only possible but probable.

SUZUKI FLIX -- The Flix, based on the Suzuki XL7, is outfitted with an unprecedented in-vehicle movie system. After parking at the optimal film-viewing destination, Flix's clamshell roof opens, revealing a maximum-size moonroof that serves as a 40-inch movie screen. Additionally, the XL7 concept's front roof panel vents, giving way to a high-density digital projection system to display a family's movie of choice. For those who prefer the traditional drive-in movie experience, Flix's projection system can be positioned to display movies nearly anywhere.

Kicking off the springtime selling season, the 2007 New York International Auto Show will feature an impressive collection of cutting-edge design and remarkable innovation. More than four floors of displays from the world's automakers will feature the newest vehicles and futuristic concept cars. More than 1,000 cars and trucks will be on display at the Javits Center, filling 846,000 square feet of exhibit space. In addition, dozens of World and North American vehicle debuts are expected at the Show. NYIAS is owned and produced by the Greater New York Automobile Dealers Association.

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