

Five amazing American concept cars that never made production

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1965 Bertone Mustang

The list of cool mustang prototypes are as varied as they are vast. But few stand out so visually as the one-off made by the Italian design studio Bertone. Designed by Giorgetto Giugiaro, the Italian Mustang made its debut at the 1965 New York Auto Show with high praise. Features included beautiful Italian styling, retractable headlamps, and side vents. The car was allegedly powered by a Ford Windsor V8, making 200Hp and 382 Nm of torque. Sadly, the design was only meant to be a display model and never earmarked for production. This is also the only concept car on this list whose whereabouts are unknown, as the car pretty much disappeared from public eyes after the auto show.



2004 Chrysler ME Four-Twelve

We can make another full list with all the cool cars that were axed during the Daimler-Chrysler era, but for this list, we are sticking to two examples. The Chrysler ME Four-Twelve —mid-engine, four-turbo, twelve-cylinder— was a coup for the Chrysler design team, as it was everything the brand was not known for at the time. Powered by a mid-mounted quad-turbo AMG V12, this 850 HP, 1,150 Nm of torque monster weighed only 1,310 kg, meaning it had a power to weight ratio of 1.5 kg/HP. 0-100 was achieved in only 2.9 seconds, and the estimated top speed was 400 Kph. Chrysler seriously considered putting this wonderful beast into production, but ultimately relented for murky reasons. Rumors persist that Daimler for the car’s cancellation, as the designers of the Mercedes SLR McLaren simply couldn’t stomach the fact the American company made a better car using the same engine. The beast was put on display at Walter P. Chrysler Museum, but since its closers, it has been moved into Chrysler inventory.

2002 Lincoln Continental

Before the revival —and eventual demise— of the new Continental, Lincoln tried once before to bright back the prestigious nameplate in 2002. Unveiled at the 2002 Los Angeles Auto Show, this retro-futuristic luxury barge had suicide doors and a powered trunk with three sliding storage drawers. In terms of luxury features, the concept was decades ahead of its time. Morden luxury features such as ambient lighting, fully digital gauge cluster, individual infotainment system for rear passengers, all were present. Power came from a 6.0-liter V12 engine producing 414 hp and 412 558 Nm of torque, all smoothly sent to the rear wheels through a six-speed automatic transmission. In the end, the design proved too costly for production, with Lincoln auctioning off the sole prototype in August 2010 for \$56,100. The vehicle currently remains in private hands.



1976 Chevrolet Aerovette

Although the latest generation finally made the switch to a mid-engine layout, the designers at Chevrolet had been trying to do this for a long time. The last time they almost managed to make their dream a reality was in the ‘70s, with the Aerovette concept. Originally, the XP-895 mid-engine prototype was made by none other than Zora Arkus-Duntov, the fabled “Father of the Corvette”. It was built to test a 420-h, four-rotor Wankel engine, which sadly never went anywhere. Three years after the wanked project was shelved, GM’s styling boss Bill Mitchell had the experimental motors swapped for a 6.6-liter Chevy V-8 and greenlit the Aerovette for production as the new C4. Sadly, Duntov’s replacement Dave McLellan decided for several reasons to stick with the front-engine layout, setting the mid-engine ‘Vette back for another 44 years. The concept itself still exists to this day, and is now part of GM Heritage Collection.



2005 Chrysler Firepower

Shown off in 2005 North American International Auto Show, the Firepower was a Dodge viper that went to college. Finished in a Hydro Silver Pearl paint, the Viper-based grand tourer had elegant lines, smooth curves, and an overall beauty that one would only expect from brands such as Aston Martin. The luxury theme continued on the inside, where the GM plastic had been cast away to make rooms for a two-tone Ocean Deep Blue plus Oyster leather upholstery combined with maple accents and polished aluminum switchgear. In the heart of this beast was a 6.1 liter V8 making 425 HP and 725 Nm of torque. Being a grand tourer, that car was given a five-speed automatic which still managed a 0-100 of 4.5 seconds. Sadly, as beautiful as this car was axed because GM “couldn’t find a viable way to do it,” according to former senior vice president of design, Trevor Creed. The sole Firepower is now preserved at the National Auto and Truck Museum in Auburn, Indiana.



2005 Chrysler Firepower concept vehicle.



Looking back at 2020: THE ONES WHO MADE US PROUD

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2020 has been a very challenging year for all of us. The pandemic has led to seismic shifts in our day-to-day lifestyles. Alongside the effect of compulsory isolation caused by the demoralizing pandemic, the year has been unbearable for those who have lost their loved ones and insupportable to those stranded across a vast periphery of areas around the world unable to see or physically contact their loved ones due to the norms of medically mandatory social distancing.

With the gradual commencement of mass vaccination throughout the world, we look forward to a more vibrant 2021 which we hope gives all of us a chance to eke out our own meanings of our lives. In what was a terrible and ominous year, many individuals stood out to make the world a better place for the present and future. These are towering paragons of virtue who have made enormous strides in ensuring a more intellectually vibrant and medically safe world.

Senjuti Saha – The first Bangladeshi appointed to the World Health Organization’s Polio Transition Independent Monitoring Board, Dr Senjuti Saha has been tasked alongside others with advising on the progress of the polio transition progress and the efforts needed to improve health infrastructure. Earlier in May of 2020, Dr Senjuti and her team of scientists had completed the genome sequencing of virus causing Covid-19, helping to understand the nature of the virus paving way for vaccine developers

to understand it and incorporate necessary arrangements when creating them. Dr Senjuti and her father, Dr Samir Saha have also been lauded by Bill Gates for their tireless efforts in advancing adequate healthcare in combatting the infectious diseases in the country. Dr Senjuti was also featured in the 360-video, “Infectious Disease Detectives” which was based on how and her institution, Child Health Research Foundation, detect the source of a meningitis outbreak in Bangladesh using IDseq technology, a pathogen detecting surveillance dashboard. Created by the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, the video went on to win the People’s Voice in the 360-video category in the Webby’s – the Oscars of the Internet.

Tonima Tasnim Ananna – Lauded by Science News’s top 10 scientists of the year, Dr. Tonima Tasnim has been at the forefront of pushing scientific inquiry regarding the black holes and their subsequent origins and expansions. She was chosen alongside nine other pioneering scientists by Nobel laureates and esteemed members of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. This is a unique celebration of the years to come as we delve deeper into the secrets of the cosmos. Rumaan Alam – In the scene of literature, Bangladeshi-American novelist, Rumaan Alam, has been making a buzz as his new novel, *Leave the World Behind*, was nominated as the finalist for the prestigious National Book Award for fiction. Tackling the nuanced

complexities of parenthood, race, and class, the book has been highly praised by major literary outlets and famed novelist-essayist, Roxane Gay.

Shaheen Akhtar – The literary scene at home has much to celebrate as Shaheen Akhtar won the 3rd Asian Literary Award for her 2004 novel “Talaash”, a novel centred on the Birongonas. The award, sponsored by the Asia Cultural Centre in South Korea, was announced on 1st November at the 2020 Asian Literature Festival. Tackling topics such sexual violence, imperialism, and the harsh realities of warfare, the book will be adapted as a performance piece for the upcoming year’s Asia Literature Festival with the author scooping prize money of 20 million Won.

Sadat Rahman – Sadat Rahman, a 17-year-old, won the 2020 KidsRights International Children’s Peace Prize, an award won previously by Malala Yousafzai and Greta Thunberg, for creating a mobile app to help vulnerable teenagers to report cyberbullying and cybercrimes. His anti-cyberbullying app, which goes by the name, “Cyber Teens”, gives its users tips about internet safety and a platform to report any cyberbullying without fear. The app, which has brought together social workers and police, has helped over 300 victims of cyberbullying halting the spread of fake social media accounts and providing support for mental health issues. Starting in his district of Narail, Sadat has created “Cyber Clubs” in the

schools in his area expanding the frontier of digital literacy and hopes to broaden the use of the app further in the country to curb the scrounge of online criminality targeted at teenagers.

SM Anamul Arefin – In a time where wearing masks has been declared mandatory, Anamul Arefin developed face shields using his 3D printer helping doctors, nurses, and health workers as they treat people infected with COVID-19. The idea was so successful that BRAC and other innovative labs picked up the idea to order face shields for frontline workers.

Saiful Islam – Architect Saiful Islam, an associate professor at North South University, won an award under the Residential Building Category for his project in Brahmanbaria, the Jamshedpur High School Hostel. The hostel caters to a small group of children from poor families lacking the resources to educate their kin. The International Academy of Architecture (IAA), an NGO of Consultative Status with the UN (ECOSOC), gives the INTERARCH award since 1981.

Ruhul Abid - Bangladeshi- American professor at Brown University, Ruhul Abid and his organization, Health and Education for All (HAEFA) was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize this year. His non-profit organization provides free health care to underprivileged people and competency training to aid in managing the curbing of coronavirus transmission in Rohingya refugee camps.