

Buick Riviera Concept Wins Design Award

The new Buick Riviera concept vehicle, which was developed by GM's Shanghai GM and Pan Asia Technical Automotive Center (PATAC) joint ventures in Shanghai, won the 2013 Red Dot Award in the category of "Design Concept."

This is the first major international award for a Chinese automotive design, according to a Buick news release.

The new Riviera concept made its global debut in April on the eve of Auto Shanghai 2013 to showcase the design direction of future Buick models. It incorporates many innovative design elements, as well as advanced propulsion, infotainment and safety technology.

Designers and companies from 56 countries entered 4,394 products in the 2013 Red Dot Award program, an internationally recognized quality label for design achievement and one of the world's top three design honors. The new Riviera concept was judged on innovation, functionality, ergonomics, environmental friendliness and durability.

The Red Dot Award jury commented, "This vehicle is futuristic and provides a preview of future vehicle development . . . it stands out among all other designs."



Buick Riviera Concept, recently shown at Shanghai Auto Show

According to PATAC Chief Designer and Advanced Design Director Cao Min, "In addition to signature Buick design cues, the Riviera design team drew inspiration from nature and traditional Chinese cultural elements."

"The latest intelligent vehicle technologies were integrated with avant-garde aesthetics and flexible functions, in line with Buick's bold vision for the future."

The new Riviera is the follow-up to the 2007 Buick Riviera concept, which was also developed by PATAC, Buick reported. Since 2008, new-generation Buick models – including the new LaCrosse, Encore, Regal and Regal GS –

have drawn inspiration from the initial Riviera concept.

The Red Dot Award has been given out annually since 1955 by Germany's Design Zentrum Nordrhein Westfalen.

It has evolved from a German award into a global honor that covers the automotive industry, architecture, home appliances, electronics, fashion, life science, medicine and other areas.

Its impartial jury is made up of authoritative experts from each of these areas. Members of the jury change every year. Discussions and debates are held on entries to ensure fair and objective results and the highest standards.

Chrysler Minivan Turns 30; 13 Million Have Been Sold

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At that time, McElroy said, Chrysler really only had one platform – the K car platform. The company had to milk it for all it was worth while it was developing new platforms.

"Sperlich told Iacocca that they could stretch the K car platform out and build a minivan," McElroy said. "It was given to the truck division and they really engineered it, so when it came out, it was bulletproof. The rest, as they say, is history."

McElroy said that trucks by their nature have to be tougher than cars, so when the truck division was asked to engineer the first minivan, "they did it the way they usually did things. The result was a vehicle that was really well designed and was tougher than a car."

To this day, McElroy said, Chrysler's minivans are classified as trucks. And Chrysler has never dropped the ball with minivans. While they no longer have the market segment to themselves – both Honda and Toyota are known for their minivans – Chrysler is still the leader.

The Dodge Grand Caravan was the top-selling minivan in the world last year and combined with the Chrysler Town & Country, accounted for nearly half of all minivan sales in the United States in 2012, McElroy said.

The Chrysler Town & Country and Dodge Grand Caravan are built at the Windsor Assembly Plant in Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

The 2014 Town & Country 30th Anniversary Edition is based on the Touring-L model and features unique exterior and interior content. All Town & Country models come equipped with the award-winning Pentastar 3.6-liter V6 engine with a class-leading 283 horsepower and a refined six-speed automatic transmission. Exterior features on the 30th Anniversary Edition include 17-inch aluminum wheels with polished faces and painted Satin Carbon pockets, "30th Anniversary" badging and the availability of

Granite Crystal Pearl Coat paint.

The 2014 Dodge Grand Caravan 30th Anniversary Edition will be available on both the SE and SXT models, and will continue to set the mark in minivan value, according to Chrysler officials, who added that the Dodge Grand Caravan continues to be the best all-around vehicle for young families with more value-added features.

Equipped with the 3.6-liter Pentastar V6 with class-leading 283 horsepower and a six-speed automatic transmission, the exterior of the Dodge Grand Caravan SE 30th Anniversary Edition features unique 17-inch polished satin carbon aluminum wheels, body-color heated exterior mirrors and 30th Anniversary badging on the front fenders.

Dodge Grand Caravan SXT 30th Anniversary Edition features all the same equipment as

the SE, and adds premium appointments, including bright chrome window trim moldings and roof rack, fog lamps, automatic headlamps, Black Torino Leatherette seats with suede inserts and silver accent stitching, and a 10-way power driver's seat.

Both models are available in unique Granite Crystal Pearl Coat paint and are also available in Billet Silver Metallic Clear Coat, Brilliant Black Crystal Pearl Coat, Maximum Steel Metallic Clear Coat, Bright White Clear Coat, Deep Cherry Red Pearl Coat, Redline Red 2-Coat Pearl, Sandstone Pearl Coat or True Blue Pearl Coat.

Got News?

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Honeywell CEO to Speak at DEC

David Cote, chairman and CEO of Honeywell, will speak to the Detroit Economic Club on Monday, Sept. 23, in Cobo Center.

His speech, which begins at 12:30 p.m., is about the need for Americans to pull together toward common national objectives – with debt reduction as a

top priority – to continue America's legacy of world leadership.

Cote is a member of the steering committee of the Campaign to Fix Debt, a bipartisan effort to build support for a comprehensive U.S. debt reduction plan. To learn more about the event, go to www.econclub.org.

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