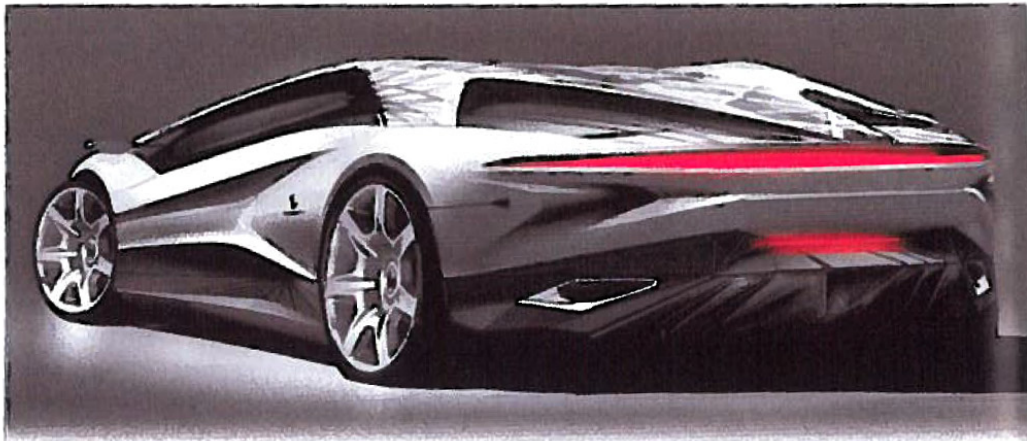




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Bertone Nuccio

Legendary Lancia Stratos Zero inspires futuristic concept

One of Stile Bertone's most famous cars, the legendary 1970 Lancia Stratos Zero, inspired a concept for a high-performance coupe that will be unveiled in Geneva to mark the Italian design house's centenary. The mid-engine concept is called Nuccio after Giuseppe "Nuccio" Bertone, who transformed the little-known family business into an Italian design icon during his 60-year leadership of the company. He died in 1997 at 83.

Bertone design director Mike Robinson took inspiration from the Lancia Stratos Zero concept to create the Nuccio, which has innovations such as a tensile steel roof that offers high structural resistance at a low weight.

The rakish, 42-year-old Stratos Zero is still modern today in terms of design, but it's only 830mm tall, making it almost impossible for a big man like Robinson to drive it. The Nuccio has a height of 1220mm. "We decided to take one of the most spectacular concept cars in the history of the company – and in the history of the automobile for that matter – and create a futuristic interpretation of it," Robinson said. Previous attempts to make a modern interpretation of the Stratos Zero fell short of auto enthusiasts' expectations. Robinson said.

"The problem with reinterpreting masterpieces is simple: If you come too close to the original, you've created zero added value," Robinson said. "If you stray too far from the original, it ends up having nothing to do with the masterpiece."

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