

# GINA Concept Car | BMW

A New Way To Skin A Car



**At first, the idea** of a fabric-skinned car seemed intriguing yet impossible to former BMW Design Director Chris Bangle. But after seeing a temporary exhibition about flexible skin architecture at Material ConneXion, Bangle was inspired to pursue the concept further, and soon began researching high-strength and tear-resistant textiles with our team of experts. Their efforts led to the “GINA” (an acronym for “Geometry and Function in ‘N’ Adaptations”) —a visionary shape-shifting sports car made from polyurethane-coated Lycra stretched over a wire aluminum frame. While only a concept car, the GINA’s innovative design is already inspiring a new wave of sleek, lightweight, and fuel-efficient automobiles. ■

*“... it dawned on me that we invest so much in sheet metal, we could be creating incredible emotion at virtually zero cost...I dedicated a team to work around this idea of fixed tooling, and for that we went back to Material ConneXion, who we used as a very valuable resource to help us identify swatches that we could then develop into what would become the GINA.” —Chris Bangle*

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