

Fueling Passion, Driving the Future

Art Center College of Design: Transportation

Art Center College of Design has been home to a world-class transportation design program for more than 80 years. Graduates have designed many of the most memorable and iconic automobiles of our time including the Corvette Stingray, Mazda Miata, VW Beetle, BMW Mini and Ford F-150, not to mention the exotic Ferrari F430 and the electric Tesla Model S plus almost all of the modern era Batmobiles.

In the late 1930s, as America's automotive industry was just recognizing the value of good design, Art Center alumni such as Strother MacMinn began to strongly influence the look of vehicles making their way into showrooms across the country. As the industry expanded, so did Art Center's impact. Graduates like Dick Teague at AMC, Peter Brock, Larry Shinoda and Wayne Cherry at General Motors, and Jack Telnack at Ford were among the most highly respected creative minds in the car design business. Over time, that influence became global; and Art Center soon had alumni such as Chris Bangle leading BMW's studio in Germany, Shiro Nakamura at Nissan in Japan and Ken Okuyama designing Ferraris for Pininfarina in Italy.

Art Center continues to dominate the field internationally. And its reach has extended into even more markets as graduates lead design teams at motorcycle companies like Harley-Davidson, Piaggio and Polaris; aircraft companies like Gulfstream and even yacht studios like Glade Johnson Design.

As the transportation industries evolve and our mobility needs shift dramatically, Art Center College of Design will continue to fuel the passion of the next generation of talent and undoubtedly remain at the lead of the innovation economy, driving the future.