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AN UNBROKEN LINE

World of the Bentley Designer uncovered at new exhibition

(Crewe, England. 10 February 2011) Bentley's Design team are offering a rare opportunity to take a glimpse inside the usually secret and closed world of their studios and follow the development of a Bentley from the first sketch right through to the moment it sweeps through the factory gates.

The 'An Unbroken Line' exhibition – just unveiled at Bentley's Crewe headquarters – follows the compelling story of creativity and exacting technical precision behind the creation of the latest Bentleys including the Continental GT and Mulsanne.

Many of the very first drawings for the new Continental GT, including concepts consigned to the studio archives, are being shown publicly for the first time. The designers offer a step-by-step guide as to how the interior and exterior styles take shape both through computer virtualization and sophisticated full-scale clay models. They also provide an insight into how they employ state-of-the-art manufacturing techniques such as aluminium superforming, adapted from the aerospace industry, to shape the metal into the complex but clean lines that define the new Continental GT.

As well as capturing how the modern Bentley designer combines inspiration with technology – the exhibition also captures key moments of the company's lineage and the unbroken line of signature characteristics that define a Bentley to this day. Whether it is the particular shape and positioning of the headlights, the use of inverted needles on the dashboard or the pronounced 'powerlines' that sweep down the flanks of the car – the language of design comes to life.

Dirk van Braeckel, Bentley's Director of Design and Styling, explains:

"What I particularly like about the exhibition is the sheer number and variety of interesting objects we've been able to bring together for the very first time, it is quite a collection. It is also fascinating to see just how talented the early Bentley designers really were - the beauty of their concept sketches and sheer precision of their technical drawings still inspires my own team to this day."

Whilst designing the next new Bentley is serious work and a sizeable investment – the exhibition also highlights the lighter side of factory life with some design folklore. The slightly strange world of 'Teddy Bear Ears,' the 'Bentley Bat Cave' and 'Dame Ednas' are explained and there is the opportunity to see how the designers have turned their hand to creating beautiful and bespoke accessories with other luxury partners like Breitling and Tibaldi.

Right at the heart of the exhibition – illustrating the art of designers both past and present – are some of the finest examples of the cars that have made Bentley famous for over 90 years.

The new Continental GT and Mulsanne line-up alongside some classic and rare Bentley's including Woolf Barnato's exquisite 1930 'Blue Train' Speed Six Coupe which has been especially shipped in from America by a friend of the company. The car is renowned for its sleek and revolutionary Gurney Nutting coachwork and is also famous for winning one of the most intriguing wagers in motoring history when Barnato, a Le Mans-winning driver, drove all the way back to London from the south of France before his friend reached Calais on 'Le Train Bleu.'

'An Unbroken Line' will be based at Bentley's Headquarters in Crewe throughout 2011.

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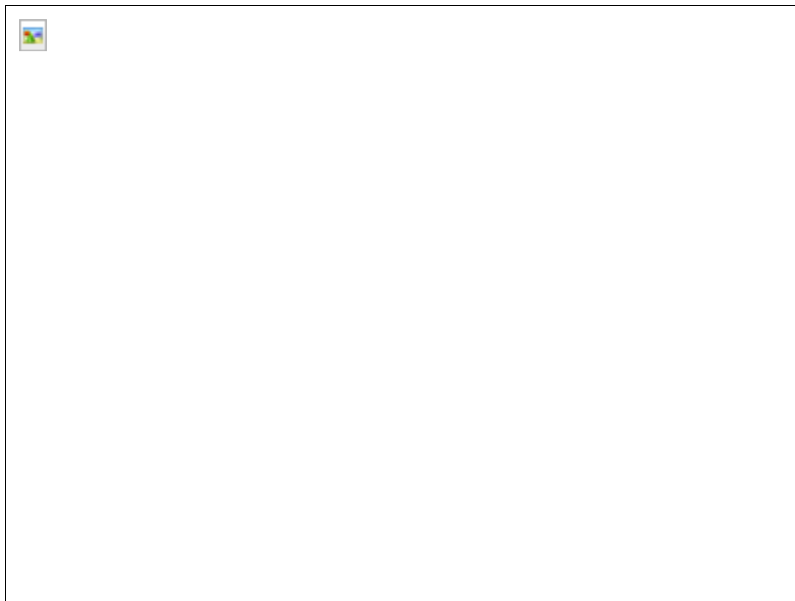
Notes for editors

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For full images to support this press release and a preview video please go to www.bentleymedia.com

An Unbroken Line is situated inside Bentley's Crewe factory and although it is not open to the general public, opportunities for groups of motoring enthusiasts to view the exhibition are available on several Fridays throughout the year. All visits must be requested in advance by emailing Public.Tours@Bentley.co.uk. The company regrets that it is unable to support unscheduled visits.



[Click here to download video \(MP4 File: 20.1 MB\)](#)



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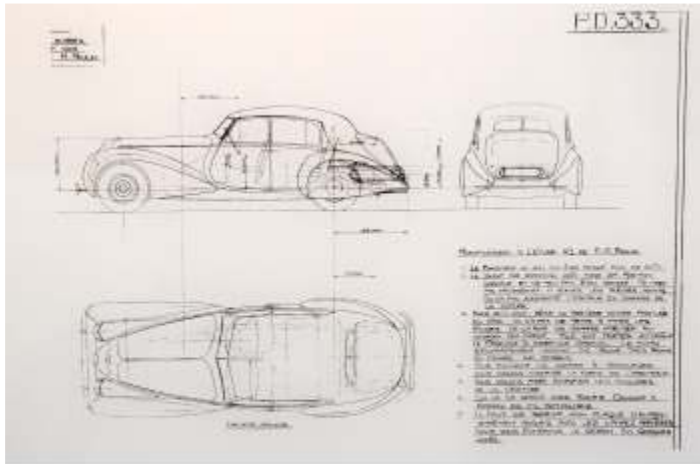


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DIRK VAN BRAECKEL (LEFT), ROBIN PAGE (BACK RIGHT) AND RAUL PIRES (FRONT RIGHT) REVIEW THE BLUE TRAIN CAR

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RARE AND EARLY EXAMPLE OF THE BENTLEY WINGED B MASCOT

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