Media Information

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Inspired by Tradition: GT X Experimental Gives Glimpse of Opel Future

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- Opel's design future: Combining a pure and bold design with progressive technology

Rüsselsheim. The Opel GT X Experimental is much more than just another concept car. The a bold, 4.06-metre, 5-door, all-electric compact SUV with coupé appeal and brimming with innovative ideas gives some key indicators of what the Rüsselsheim-based carmaker's models will be and look like later in the 2020s. Two main elements of the new exterior design philosophy are the so called Opel Compass and the Opel Vizor, both of which can be closely linked to iconic Opel models of the past – such as the first generation Opel Manta. Moreover, the new Opel Vizor is not just a design statement, it is also the entry ticket into the world of electric and autonomous driving and makes all Opel models 'future ready' by housing the sensors and cameras required by modern vehicles. In addition, the GT X Experimental shows a purity of design achieved by removing all unnecessary design elements and provides a bold outlook for the next phase of Opel's future while simultaneously also paying tribute to the company's 120-year tradition.

"The Opel GT X Experimental embodies the spirit of our core brand values – German, approachable, exciting. It's an 'approachable' concept that people can identify with. It confidently combines a pure and bold design execution with progressive technology that makes life easier. Clearly, this vehicle signals a very exciting future for the brand," said Vice President Design, Mark Adams.

Over the years, Opel has not only brought modern technologies to a wide audience – the company has also managed to stand out from the crowd with iconic highlights of automotive history such as the first generation Manta launched in 1970. Perfect

proportions, clear lines, the low waistline, stretched bonnet on short rear end gave the Manta a sporty appearance. Straightforward and striking, the uncluttered front design characterised by a widely stretched black grille integrating dual headlamps and framed with chrome has been a great source of inspiration for today's Opel designers. The Manta already showed many of the characteristics now summarised under the name Opel Compass. The centre crease of the bonnet formed the vertical axis while the dual headlamps formed the horizontal axis with the Opel Blitz proudly sitting where the two lines intersect.

This clear organisation rooted deeply in Opel's heritage has been revisited and taken a step further in Opel's new brand concept – the GT X Experimental. The Opel Compass once again organises and composes the design elements along two strong axes that intersect the Blitz. The legendary brand emblem is now the focus point more than ever before. In a crisper and purer execution, the centre-crease line on the bonnet represents the vertical axis, which is prolonged under the Blitz. In the GT X Experimental, the horizontal axis is symbolised by the Opel-typical wing-shaped daytime running light signature, which will continue to feature on all future Opel vehicles. The rear echoes the front fascia and shows the Opel Compass in its purity, with the Blitz solidly anchoring the horizontal line of the wing-shaped rear lights and the vertical line from the roof fin antenna to the accentuated crease in the bumper.

From cooling to cool

Following the theme of the Manta's front fascia and in line with the approach of creating the purest possible design, Opel designers have also created a new brand face that expresses the company's pioneering spirit: the Opel Vizor. It looks like a widely stretched, single black module that integrates the front lighting system and the brand emblem. However, while the purist grille of the Manta mainly served the purpose of cooling the internal combustion engines with displacements of 1.6 and 1.9 litres, the Opel Vizor, which will replace the classic grille going forward, will have different functions and meet different requirements relevant to future mobility.

Given the electric drive of the GT X Experimental with the power delivered by a 50-kilowatt hour lithium ion battery with inductive charging, the area previously housing the grille no

longer needs to allow cool air to flow into the engine compartment. Instead, the Opel Vizor is a full, single module that houses and frames all of the high-tech and brand elements such as the cameras and sensors of the assistance systems and autonomous driving functions, the latest in LED matrix headlight technology, the wing-shaped daytime running lights and the LED Blitz emblem that shows the car's operation state by lighting up in different colours under darkly tinted Plexiglas. The new, distinctive Opel Vizor is set to be a hallmark design element for all Opel models later in the 2020s.

Visual detox and fresh and modern interpretation

The GT X Experimental presents innovative technology with sophisticated simplicity. Vice President Design Mark Adams and his team have developed a whole philosophy for Opel's specific, German design, blending purity with emotional boldness. In the GT X Experimental, each usual function, each module of an automobile has been questioned with the aim of achieving purity of design by removing all unnecessary design elements. This is something the design team calls "visual detox".

Overall, the body of the GT X Experimental shows bold proportions coupled with beautifully structured, pure flowing surfaces. Its strong silhouette is accentuated by the bold graphic identity separating the upper and lower areas. The lower section is painted in a luminous light grey, and the whole upper part including the bonnet, glass and roof are held in a very dark blue. Actually, one of the most striking features of the compact SUV is the complete absence of the black – there is none on the steering wheel, the tyres or even on the buttons of the centre console.

Between the upper and lower areas there is a bold Opel yellow signature accent that flows through the car to give it structure and dynamism. This colour scheme re-visits Opel's traditional grey/black/yellow colour but reconfigures it to create a fresh modern feel. The GT X Experimental welcomes passengers with spacious, unobstructed access thanks to rear-hinged rear doors and all four doors opening wide to 90 degrees to give the concept

an approachable character. The sweeping panoramic windscreen/roof reaches far back to the rear seats, enhancing the SUV's light and open sense of spaciousness.

Opel designers have also reduced the traditional, so-called "cut lines" in the bodywork – made necessary by the different openings such as doors and bonnet – to an absolute minimum. The upper cutline of all doors is hidden in the yellow accent and the one of the rear doors coincides with the opening of the boot. Forgoing conventional elements such as door handles and exterior mirrors, the body is a smooth canvas that wraps around surprising details such as small cameras embedded in the yellow graphic lining the sides of the bonnet pop out, replacing the exterior mirrors.

To counterbalance this visual detox, rare graphical details energise the appearance of the GT X Experimental. Cropped triangles are engraved along the sill under the driver's side rear door: one of them contains a small, hexagonal LED screen that shows the electric charge level of the battery. The 17-inch wheels look much bigger thanks to robust rubber covers that flow over the rim to visually enlarge the size of the dark blue tyres. Yellow graphic lines on the rim echo the yellow signature accent of the body and surround the electronic Blitz emblem that stands still as the wheels rotate. And to underline the SUV character of the car, protective cladding wraps around the lower body, giving the GT X Experimental's solid, robust stance a rugged look.

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