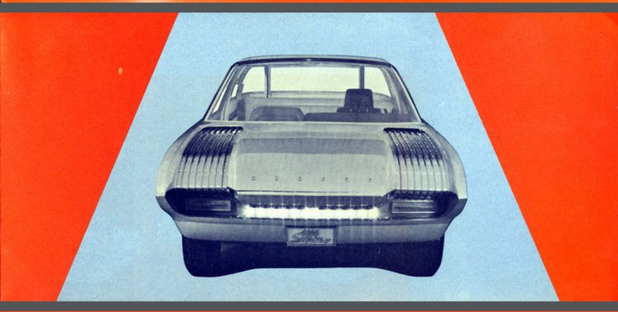
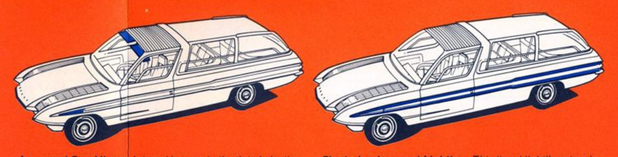
Aurora

A dramatically different "luxury lounge" station wagon with 23 unique design features, the Aurora is the central display in Ford Motor Company's exhibit of practical dream cars at the New York World's Fair. In introducing the styling experimental car, Gene Bordinat, Ford Motor Company vice president and director of styling, pointed out that Aurora is defined as the "beginning or rising light of morning." He said that the Aurora wagon could herald the dawn of a new era in luxurious interior appointments and unusual devices to produce and control light. "Of equal significance, it may foretell the day of station wagon designs with completely unique chassis components divorced from passenger car lines," Mr. Bordinat said. "It is a rolling laboratory of new ideas in styling and engineering for the future."



Aerohead Cooling System. The grille air intakes along each side of the hood permit air in the engine compartment to be sucked out by the air stream over the hood, thereby increasing the air flow through the radiator. This permits the use of a small radiator core to provide efficient cooling, thus allowing a more aerodynamic frontal design. **Heat Reflecting Roof.** The portion of the roof behind the roll bar is of textured, aluminum material that reflects infra-red rays.

Wrapover Windshield. The windshield "wraps" well into the roof, where it meets the polarizing sun roof. This affords excellent overhead visibility, even when the adjustable roof is in its opaque position. **Jalousie Windows.** Nearly flush jalousie windows provide smoother air flow and reduced wind noise. **Safety Rollover Bar.** The roll bar, which separates the polarizing sun roof from the heat-reflecting rear roof, is an integral part of the body design.



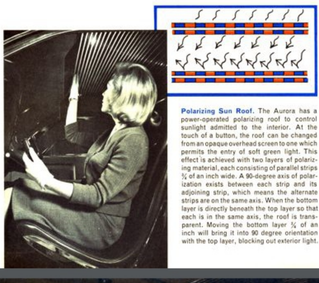
Louvered Sun Visors. Internal louvers in the tinted plastic sun visors make it possible to change the degree of transparency by simply altering the angle of the visor for safety and convenience. **Bodyside Turn Indicators.** Turn indicators mounted in the lips of the bodyside spears supplement the amber flashers in the front and the red flashers in the rear. These white flashers on the front fendersides give added warning of an impending change in direction.

Electroluminescent Lighting. This "cool light" system is utilized on the safety cove along the bodyside, on the front and rear license plates, and to illuminate the AURORA block letters on the hood and rear door. On the Aurora, this is accomplished by using a "heterojunction phosphur," a junction between two semiconductors, to produce light without first producing heat. This light source suggests many new safety and product identification design ideas.

Clamshell Rear Entry System. The tailgate opens down to reveal a carpeted step. The liftgate swings up with the aid of torsion bars and slides back over the roof by means of a sliding track mechanism to permit easier entry. **Children's Compartment.** This thoroughly equipped area can be sound-isolated from the rest of the interior by power-operated glass.

Command Post Driver's Compartment. The contoured cockpit seat has a high back for neck support and is designed for comfort and freedom from fatigue. The steering bar, with power assistance, would require only one-half turn from lock to lock because of variable ratio gearing. A turnpike lane indicator system on the instrument panel would inform the driver of the safe speed for any lane and would warn of blocked lanes ahead. Space is provided for a constant speed control device and an indicator showing the car's location automatically.

Communications Console. This unit would operate an AM/FM radio, a television set and a sound recorder. Below it is a convenient table top and a cabinet for storing ice and refreshments.



Polarizing Sun Roof. The Aurora has a power-operated polarizing roof to control sunlight admitted to the interior. At the touch of a button, the roof can be changed from an opaque overhead screen to one which permits the entry of soft green light. This effect is achieved with two layers of polarizing material, each consisting of parallel strips ½ of an inch wide. A 90-degree axis of polarization exists between each strip and its adjoining strip, which means the alternate strips are on the same axis. When the bottom layer is directly beneath the top layer so that each is in the same axis, the roof is transparent. Moving the bottom layer ½ of an inch will bring it into 90 degree orientation with the top layer, blocking out exterior light.

Minibank Headlamps. A bank of 12 one-inch sealed beam micro-lite units is used instead of two or four larger headlamps. This system can produce controlled road illumination with many stages between the dimmest and brightest extremes, and can provide excellent coverage of the road and shoulders. The multiplicity of lamps is an added safety factor if any should fail to operate.

The central lounge of the Aurora consists of a swivel armchair which can face forward or toward the curved sofa which accommodates four adults comfortably. Also visible in this photo are the command post driver's area, the polarizing sun roof, the communications console and storage cabinet, a television set at upper right and the suspended ceiling core that houses both direct and indirect lights.

Experimental vehicles such as the Aurora, which are viewed by millions of persons every year, are a source of useful information for stylists, engineers, product planners and other executives who must look ahead several years in making decisions for production.

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