

CLASSIC DRIVER

Geneva 2010: Bertone Pandion



After a two-year absence, Bertone returned to Geneva with a new and highly dramatic concept car to celebrate Alfa Romeo's centenary.

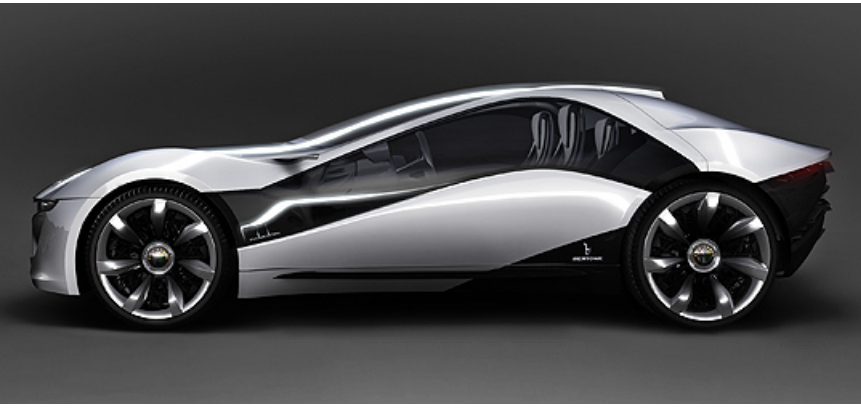
Based on an **Alfa 8C *Competizione***, the '**Pandion**' takes its name from a bird of prey (and at least some of its inspiration from **BMW's Vision Efficient Dynamics concept**).



This might be a concept car, pure and simple, with no plans to bring it to production, but it does suggest a possible new 'face' for **Alfa Romeo** as it develops into the next decade... and what a face it would be. While the rear-hinged scissor doors, more than 3.6m high when opened and creating instant impact even in the cave of wonders that is the **Geneva** show, resemble the wings of a bird of prey, the concept car's face is equally hawk-like - and every bit as theatrical.



The rear is no less creative, with a “striking array of crystal-like blades which are intertwined in various widths and lengths, protruding out into space”. The tail-lights are integrated into the ‘organic’ tangle of the blades – and disappear when turned off.



According to **Bertone**, the **Pandion's** design suggests an interpretation of the **Alfa Romeo** badge, where "the man-eating snake depicted there represents the attraction of elegance (what we call the **Skin**), and the aristocratic cross symbolises the rigour of rational thought, the technological aspect (what we call the **Frame**)". Whatever the explanation, the Pandion is a powerful and memorable statement that **Bertone** is back on the scene.

*Text: Charis Whitcombe
Photos: Bertone*





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