

<https://www.zwischengas.com/de/SZ/zubehoer/Lamborghini-aus-Design-Perspektive-Buchbesprechung-.html>

The author Gautam Sen already writes it in the foreword: There are already a whole series of Lamborghini books. However, not all of these works consist of two volumes, 874 pages and 1070 illustrations.

Engines and designs

Lamborghini has only built five of its own engines in almost 60 years, the competitor from Maranello several times as much. Accordingly, the Lamborghini brand must not only be understood from a technical point of view, but from a design perspective. Because the appearance of the cars set the cars apart from the competition much more than the technology.

Accordingly, the author structures the work along the design epochs, beginning with Franco Scaglione, through Touring (Anderloni) to Marcello Gandini, perhaps the most important man in Lamborghini history. He was followed by Luc Donckerwolke, Walter de Silva, Filippo Perini and Mija Borkert. Gautam Sen was able to talk to five of them at length and have them explain the ideas behind the designs and drafts.

The author deliberately shows not only Lamborghini examples, but also cars from other manufacturers that preceded or followed in the line layout. You can find images of the Alfa Romeo Carabo, the Stratos Zero or the Jaguar Pirana.

Along the timeline

The type family tree forms the basic structure of the two books, starting with the 350 GTV, through 350 GT/400 GT, Miura, Espada, Islero, Jarama, Urraco, Countach, Cheetah/LM002, Jalpa, Diablo, Murciélagos, Gallardo, Aventador, Huracan and Urus. In between, the most important individual pieces and prototypes are introduced, i.e. Marzal, Bravo, Athon and the various concept vehicles of the eighties and afterwards. Of course, there are also the super-expensive one-offs of modern times and the prototypes of the 21st century.

They are all explained primarily from a design point of view and based on testimonies from contemporary witnesses and reports from the time.

Passion

Gautam Sen could not have made these two books without the active support of two enthusiasts. Branko Radovinovic and Kaare Byberg have both been Lamborghini fans since childhood. The Countach made them both dream and collectors.

Not only did these two present an extensive collection of brochures, they also collected magazines and books and they also photographed Lamborghini sports cars and prototypes on many occasions. They had designers sign their work and collected press materials.

Together with material from the various archives of the design houses and designers, the result is an arrangement in over 1000 illustrations that has probably never been seen before. It is clear that not every single photo is completely convincing in this pool. However, it was important to the author and his colleagues to show the cars in all their forms.

Bravo

The last chapter of the first book, mentioned here as an example, deals with the Lamborghini Bravo. What is a footnote elsewhere is dealt with here on 18 pages. And rightly so! Because, although never mass-produced, the Bravo was an important design milestone and perhaps the most elegant 1970s Lambo of them all.

The complete story is told from the initial idea, through the presentations, the journalists' test drives and the change of ownership. The two-seater built on a shortened Urraco chassis has survived and, as is well known, is now part of a Swiss collection. 27 photos/drawings document this very special concept car.

Comprehensive

Although Gautam Sen dispenses with pages of tables with technical data and production figures, he has compiled a fairly extensive bibliography, which lists most of the Lamborghini books ever published. There is also a listing of automobile magazines in various languages and a complete index with the Lamborghini models described, but also with other car models and brands mentioned. Places and people mentioned are also clearly referenced, so the two-volume is also suitable as a reference work.

The insides of the book covers should also be mentioned, because the most important Lamborghini models can be found there as "Chalk Drawings" by the current Lamborghini design boss, Mitja Borkert. Worth seeing!

Not just for Lambo fans

More than 200 euros have to be invested for the two-band, is it worth the purchase? For the Lamborghini enthusiast this should be out of the question, but design aficionados and sports car fans should definitely get their money's worth.

However, if you are only interested in the Miura or the Countach, and are primarily interested in technical data, quantities or sales statistics, you should look elsewhere. But actually you need both, the hard facts and the description of the design development.