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Entering the Fourth Dimension: The MINI Crossover Concept. (Short Version)



The MINI brand is continuing its overwhelming story of success – now taking a new approach with the MINI Crossover Concept.

This Design Study offers a fascinating outlook at a new facet of the brand powerfully expressed by a truly innovative body concept – the fourth body variant, to be precise, following the classic two-door, the MINI Convertible, and the MINI Clubman.

The MINI Crossover Concept is a new model variant for the first time measuring more than four metres in length, with four drive wheels, four doors and four single seats. These features alone place the new car right in the line of vision of new target groups seeking to combine the individual style of the brand with enhanced versatility within the interior and innovative functionality throughout.

A universal, multifunction fastening rail, the MINI Center Rail, extending between the seats on the centre console of the MINI Crossover Concept, offers not only offers unconventional storage options, but also provides a consistent link between the front row of seats and the rear.

A further highlight within the MINI interior is the innovative central instrument in three-dimensional finish, the MINI Center Globe.

This combined control and display unit formed as a globe featured for the first time in an automobile worldwide sets new standards for the integrated control of entertainment, communication, navigation, and vehicle functions.

The MINI Crossover reflects not only the potential of the MINI model family in growing further and further to new dimensions, but also the innovative power of MINI's designers. In this case, the outlook at an additional MINI concept is enriched by a wide range of visions expressing a unique driving experience and way of life only a MINI is able to evoke.

All innovations presented in the MINI Crossover Concept are conceived to expand that characteristic MINI feeling by yet another new dimension.

The innovative character of the new car comprises its body design as well as the drivetrain, the interior and the control concept. Indeed, offering options and versatility of this kind, the MINI Crossover Concept opens up new dimensions in mobility also beyond urban life.

All-wheel drive – the foundation for a new MINI feeling.

A new MINI offers more – and does so in unique style every time.

The MINI Crossover Concept clearly expresses this principle, its all-wheel drive serving to give the new model an even wider range of practical use in new areas and a new experience on routes already driven. But in doing so the MINI Crossover Concept is not limited to the usual status of a conventional all-wheeler. Rather, to offer its additional mobility potential even more consistently, the Concept Car comes with numerous design features making it an all-round talent for a unique experience in everyday life, for enjoying leisure time to the utmost, for adventure travels of all kinds and for travel planning. Hence, the MINI Crossover Concept looks at new objectives and, at the same time, new target groups.

Four metres in length – more calibre, more options.

As a consistent enhancement of the MINI model family, the MINI Crossover Concept offers new calibre and new format in every respect. This is the first MINI to measure more than four metres in length. And measuring 1,830 millimetres/72.0" in width as well as 1,598 millimetres/62.9" in height, the MINI Crossover Concept goes beyond the existing production models from MINI also in this respect. Wheelbase, finally, is 2,606 millimetres/102.6", again ensuring an even more powerful stance on the road.

These exterior dimensions of the Concept Car are a clear symbol of the quest for additional options in driving the car and in the new, enhanced driving experience.

The MINI Crossover Concept offers extra space and mobility at the rear as well as a capacity to transport never seen before in a MINI. Added to all this, there is enhanced flexibility in splitting up the interior space, catering for all individual wishes and demands.

Combining its unique design with outstanding agility by no means restricted to the beaten track alone, the MINI Crossover Concept holds a unique position within the MINI segment. At the same time it clearly stands out as a member of the MINI model family through the appropriate re-interpretation of design

elements typical of the brand. The MINI Crossover Concept thus symbolises the breakthrough into a new category of vehicles, broadening the appeal of the brand to an even larger target group.

Four doors – new diversity through asymmetric arrangement.

With two doors on each side of the car, the MINI Crossover Concept offers particularly comfortable access to the rear. Here again, therefore, the new model enhances the options and qualities offered so far by the existing body concepts of the MINI.

But even this is not all: The MINI Crossover Concept is not a four-door in the classic sense, as is clearly expressed by the asymmetric arrangement of the doors in the Design Study. A conventional arrangement of doors is to be found only on the front passenger's side, while on the driver's side the MINI Crossover Concept comes with a conventional door for the first row of seats plus a lift/sliding door moving along the outside for convenient access to the rear and for loading the car from the side. And by dropping the B-pillar on the driver's side, the MINI Crossover Concept exhausts the potential of this generous opening to an even higher degree. Frameless side windows, finally, are yet another feature of this truly exceptional four-door.

The rear door swivelling to one side, together with its frameless and retractable rear window, likewise offers an even higher standard of practical use and most convenient loading conditions. Thanks to the large opening and the low loading sill, sports equipment and other, even bulkier objects can be loaded conveniently into the luggage space offering even larger capacity when required by lowering the individually folding rear seats completely into the floor of the car with the help of a parallelogram kinematic mechanism.

Storage capacities may then be increased even further by a transport case fitted outside on the rear door. And last but certainly not least, the roof rail system available on the MINI Crossover Concept is simply ideal for fitting ski, snowboard and bicycle carriers as well as transport boxes of all sizes.

The roof structure of the MINI Crossover Concept offers further options in enhancing everyday driving qualities and leisure-time enjoyment. As a folding roof cover extending throughout the entire length of the roof, the roof structure may be opened both from the front and from the rear, letting either fresh air or warm sunshine into the car – or both, depending on the driver's and passengers' wishes.

The opening at the rear also serves to accommodate extremely long objects transported in the car, ranging from a surfboard all the way to cross-country skis. So even in this case, transporting anything the driver wishes to take along is easy and convenient.

Four single seats – for maximum comfort inside the MINI.

The MINI Crossover Concept stands out not only as an unconventional, but rather as a truly exceptional four-seater. The single seats at the rear, to mention perhaps the most significant highlight, come in the same contours as the driver's and front passenger's seats and are adjustable by 13 centimetres or 5.1" fore-and-aft. So depending on individual requirements, the rear seats offer either lounge-like legroom or additional storage capacity in the rear compartment.

The MINI Center Globe –

a new vision of the central instrument of the future.

Featuring their round Central Display right in the middle of the dashboard, the current MINIs already boast an interior design feature quite unique and unmistakable in its look. Indeed, this multi-function display serves to conveniently control all major entertainment, telecommunication and navigation functions, providing the speedometer function around its outer circumference.

Now the MINI Crossover Concept introduces the consistent enhancement of this display and control concept: the MINI Center Globe. For the first time, therefore, the central display and control unit is designed in this Concept Study as a globe. This three-dimensional layout allows even more consistent integration of functions and the appropriate presentation of information and entertainment options. In addition to the vertical and horizontal display features currently available, the new instrument adds a further, three-dimensional element with displays stratified on various levels and highlighted to a greater or lesser degree, depending on the driver's and front passenger's requirements. The current speed of the car, finally, is shown as before in typical MINI style on the display round the edge.

To clearly, flexibly and legibly present all information at all times, the MINI Center Globe comes with ultra-modern laser projection technology. With its unique optical features, the laser projector allows simultaneous presentation of pictures on various levels, with a varying focus and in powerful colours.

Benefiting from this technology never seen before in an automobile worldwide, the MINI Crossover Concept is also able to optically separate the MINI Center Globe into two hemispheres. These adjustable, moving hemispheres then enable the driver and front passenger to present and view different pictures recognisable only from their individual perspective. In other words, the front passenger may for example surf the net while the driver maintains his free view of all displays and instruments.

To provide this special effect, the hemisphere facing the front passenger closes down from the other side and acts as a projection surface presenting the pictures required.

The MINI Center Globe presented in this Design Study already shows today what options are conceivable in terms of navigation, communication and entertainment in the car of the future, using innovative technologies of this outstanding calibre.

The driver and/or front passenger operate the MINI Center Globe by a touch-sensitive surface, a trackball on the steering wheel, buttons and slide controls in the lower section of the MINI Center Globe, and a keyboard on the front passenger's side extending at the touch of a button from the dashboard.

Such versatile and flexible use of the MINI Center Globe gives this new control unit the character of an innovative travel companion adjusting at all times to the individual wishes of the driver and front passenger and helping them enjoy mobility in a new dimension wherever they go.

The MINI Center Globe is additionally linked to the starter system for the engine. Instead of a conventional key, the driver uses a start/stop unit referred to as the Keyball.

To start the car, all the driver has to do is insert the Keyball on the MINI Crossover into the appropriate opening in the upper edge of the MINI Center Globe. The Keyball then rolling towards the driver along the middle of the MINI Center Globe. In this position the driver is able to press the Keyball in order to start the engine. Pressing the Keyball again, in turn, he switches off the engine and the Keyball rolls down into its housing bay from where the driver can conveniently remove the ball.

The MINI Center Rail – a perfect connection bringing the MINI team front and rear together.

Instead of a conventional centre consol, the MINI Crossover Concept comes with a fastening rail referred to as the MINI Center Rail and extending from the dashboard all the way to the tailgate of the car. This is indeed the connecting unit between the front and the rear seats.

Holders for entertainment and telecommunication devices, cupholders, storage units and boxes may be conveniently attached to this rail and subsequently pushed forward or backward along the entire length of the car.

A special fastening system developed specifically for MINI serves to attach individual items to the Center Rail, for example an external music player and other devices, storage boxes and holders for sunglasses, gloves, tickets for parking, coins, writing utensils or a travel guide, as well as all other kinds of holders and supports.

An armrest with an integrated storage box, to mention another example, may be attached both at the front and at the rear.

The Center Rail also facilitates the common use of storage boxes and devices and makes it much easier to pass on food and drinks to the rear-seat passengers while driving.

In the MINI Crossover Concept this pleasure of enjoying all the benefits of motoring together is symbolised by a special collection of dishes and cups made of unique porcelain created specifically for the new Concept Car.

Four sophisticated materials for a truly exclusive ambience.

Such use of top-quality porcelain highlights the exclusive lifestyle character borne out in the MINI Crossover Concept also in conjunction with three further, particularly exclusive materials in the interior: Around the instrument panel genuine wood trim extends across the entire width of the car. The armrests on the doors and the inlays in the footwells, in turn, are made of massive lime wood. Inlays made of specially hardened, lagoon-blue glass, in turn, highlight the door linings as well as the surrounds on the air vents.

Like the door closing handles on the front passenger's side, the MINI Center Rail is made of massive, matt-polished aluminium. Looking at the appropriate colours for the interior, in turn, the designers opted for natural, authentic shades, the Dark Green leather on the driver's seat standing out

clearly from the Coffee Brown leather on the other seats. The remaining cloth surfaces are finished in Light Grey and Light Brown, with a soft rubber cover adorned by wood inlays in the footwells.

Entering the Fourth Dimension: The MINI Crossover Concept. (Long Version)



No MINI has ever been the same as this unique model. But still it is obvious at very first sight that this is a MINI, a genuine MINI.

The MINI Crossover Concept stands out through a brand-new interpretation of that unique look so typical of the brand, through its unmistakable design, and through unique quality features so typical of this small premium car with its unique character. Hence, the Concept Car offers a thrilling outlook at a new facet of the brand borne out by a truly innovative body concept, the fourth after the classic two-door, the MINI Convertible, and the MINI Clubman.

The MINI Crossover Concept stands out as a new model variant for the first time measuring more than four metres in length and with four drive wheels, four doors and four single seats. But at the same time the new model maintains the design language so typical of the brand, combining the striking signs of distinction at the front, side and rear with the specific proportions of a MINI and a new roof structure in a particularly robust and sturdy look.

The MINI Crossover Concept is looking at new targets and, at the same time, new target groups. It combines the individual style and aura of the brand with extra space and transport capacities of a standard unknown with MINI so far, plus supreme flexibility within the interior to meet all kinds of demands in everyday life and leisure-time activities through truly innovative solutions.

Boasting features of this kind, the MINI Crossover Concept is ideal for the discerning motorist seeking to combine the individual style of the brand with enhanced versatility within the interior and innovative functionality all round. So more than ever before, the Design Study symbolises MINI's principle of the car transcending the usual classes and barriers and meeting all kinds of mobility requirements in our modern age.

Within the MINI Crossover Concept the characteristic design of the new model is further enhanced by appropriate extension of the many design, colour and material features, as well as the individual arrangement of seats and innovative equipment pointing in an entirely new direction.

The MINI Crossover Concept comes with single seats also at the rear. The MINI Center Rail, in turn, positioned between the seats on the centre console, serves as a universal and highly versatile communication system

extending from the dashboard all the way to the rear end and not only offering unconventional storage options, but also providing a direct connection between the front and rear seats.

Yet a further highlight within the interior is the innovative central instrument in three dimensions, the MINI Center Globe. This combined control and display unit featured for the first time ever in an automobile as a distinctive globe sets new standards in the integrated management of entertainment, communication, navigation and vehicle functions.

The MINI Crossover Concept reflects not only the great potential in enlarging the MINI model family, but also the innovative power of MINI's exterior and interior designers. This outlook at an additional MINI vehicle concept is enriched by a wide range of visions for a truly unique driving experience and way of life only a MINI is able to offer.

All innovations featured in the MINI Crossover Concept seek to add a new dimension to that characteristic MINI feeling. The innovative character of the car comprises the body, drivetrain, interior and control concept all together. Indeed, it is through this diversity of outstanding features that the MINI Crossover Concept will conquer new forms of mobility also beyond the urban environment.

All-wheel drive – the foundation for a new MINI feeling.

A new MINI offers more – and it does so in unique style.

The MINI Crossover Concept follows precisely this very special principle, with all-wheel drive serving to give the new model an even wider range of practical use and at the same time enhancing the driver's and passengers' experience also on well-known routes and along the beaten track.

In the process the MINI Crossover Concept is not restricted to the status of a conventional all-wheel-drive car. Rather, to ensure a truly intense experience of this extra mobility, the Concept Car offers a wide range of features and equipment making it a genuine all-round talent in everyday life, in enjoying your leisure-time and on travels far and wide.

Four metres in length – more calibre, more options.

As a consistent enhancement of the MINI model family, the MINI Crossover Concept offers new calibre in every respect. First and foremost, this is the first MINI measuring more than four metres in length. And with its width of 1,830 millimetres/72.0" and height of 1,598 millimetres/62.9",

the MINI Crossover Concept goes beyond all MINI production models so far also in this respect – as does the car's wheelbase of 2,606 millimetres or 102.6".

These external dimensions of the Concept Car are yet a further symbol of the search for additional options in use and an even greater and more versatile driving experience. The MINI Crossover Concept offers extra space and mobility on the rear seats as well as transport capacity to a standard never seen before in a MINI. And added to this, there is greater flexibility also within the interior reflecting the occupants' individual wishes and requirements.

Combining unique design with outstanding agility not limited to hard tarmac alone, the MINI Crossover Concept ranks supreme within the overall MINI segment. At the same time, appropriate re-interpretation of typical design features clearly reveals that this is a fully-fledged member of the MINI model family. The MINI Crossover Concept therefore symbolises the brand's entry into a new segment, making the brand even more attractive to an even larger target group.

Design features typical of the brand re-interpreted in new style.

In the design of its body, the MINI Crossover Concept leaves no doubt as to the brand it represents. Unmistakable design features are to be admired at very first sight and at the same time the ongoing development of the design spectrum clearly reveals how the design language has been carried over to a new kind of vehicle.

The smooth but taut design of the body, the emphasis on the wide track front and rear, short overhangs at both ends, the high shoulder line and slender body pillars in a dark colour giving the windows around the passenger compartment the look of a band running round the entire car, enhancing the overall style and appearance so typical of the MINI. The particularly wide, dark body frame extending down to the road and also encompassing the wheel arches, finally, underlines the robust flair and appearance of this all-wheel-drive Concept Car.

Added to this there are the characteristic design features at the front, side and rear giving the MINI Crossover Concept a new look. The large round headlights integrated in the side panels, for example, are slanted at an unusual angle, the foglamps are integrated in the hexagon radiator grille particularly large in size and highlighted by three sturdy crossbars.

Viewed from the side: a matter of perspectives.

Seen from the side, the characteristic roof line of the MINI Crossover Concept comes out particularly clearly, merging down gently to the rear, with the upper edge of the side window running parallel to the roof railing.

Starting at the C-pillars, the roof continues to the rear at a lower point, giving the rear window extending round the flanks of the car a particularly low and dynamic look and making the roof look extra-robust especially at this point.

Like the MINI, the MINI Convertible, and the MINI Clubman, the MINI Crossover Concept comes with unique roof graphics immediately revealing that this is a very special car – the MINI Crossover Concept. Indeed, the roof of the MINI Crossover Concept reminiscent of a helmet underlines the unique concept of this four-door through its particularly graphic look.

Again in typical MINI style, a chrome bar extends round the entire body beneath the windows. In addition, the Side Scuttle, as it is called, bearing the side direction indicators, also comes in a new look.

The MINI Crossover Concept is characterised by its particular asymmetry from the side created by the car's special doors: The front passenger's side comes in the classic design of a four-door with two door handles. On the driver's side, on the other hand, you see only one door opener, a special feature giving the left-hand side of the MINI Crossover Concept a particularly coupé-like and sporting touch.

This asymmetric design and the unusual roof concept are additionally emphasised by the car's colour scheme. The body of the MINI Crossover Concept comes in Minimal Grey Metallic, the roof is in Emerald Green. The rear-view mirror on the driver's side is finished in Dark Green also to be admired on the wheel rims, again on the driver's side.

The MINI Crossover Concept comes on 18-inch six-spoke light-alloy rims, in split-spoke design on the right and in litestar classic on the left. Again, this distinction highlights the versatile character of the Concept Car combining highly functional qualities with a sporting and active look.

The rear end of the MINI Crossover Concept is characterised by the car's basic shape and design growing wider as you move down. The unique kinematics of the rear door, on the other hand, are not visible from outside, the high-rising rear window and the powerfully designed rear door underlining the strong and robust character of the car.

Slender and unusually high rear lights placed far to the outside and surrounded by a broad band of chrome bear clear testimony to the classic Mini models with their similar rear light contours.

Four doors – new diversity through asymmetric arrangement.

With two doors on each side, the MINI Crossover Concept ensures particularly convenient access to the rear, once again enhancing the options already offered by the MINI's existing body concepts.

But that is not all: The MINI Crossover Concept is not a four-door in the classic sense of the word, as the asymmetric configuration of the doors on the Design Study clearly proves. Rather, a conventional arrangement is only to be found on the front passenger's side, with the MINI Crossover Concept featuring a conventional door for the first row of seats and a lift/sliding door at the rear running back at the outside also for loading the car on the driver's side with utmost convenience.

This is a four-joint door patented by MINI and offering particularly long travel front-to-rear through additional force control on the rail.

Dropping the B-pillar on the driver's side, the extra-large opening offers even better loading conditions and easier access.

The lift/sliding door for accessing the rear seats can only be opened once the front door is open. The handle for the sliding door is located on the front door edge, with frameless side windows offering another sign of distinction quite unique on a four-door and emphasising the transparency of the overall concept.

The rear door swivelling in one piece to the side together with its likewise frameless, electrically retractable window again offers even greater practical value and loading options. The rear door is unlocked by the contact switch in the door itself and subsequently swivels to the right around the car. And through its elaborate kinematics, finally, the door offers a particularly large opening angle.

Thanks to this large opening and the low loading sill, sports equipment and other bulky objects fit easily into the luggage compartment, with extra capacity provided inside by lowering the folding rear seats into the door of the car by means of a special parallelogram kinematic mechanism.

To stow small objects in the luggage compartment, in turn, all the driver or passengers have to do is open the rear window instead of the complete door, the window moving down electrically at a touch of a button.

Additional storage capacity is offered by transport boxes fitted on clamping rails specially installed for this purpose outside on the rear door. And last but not least, the roof rail system featured on the MINI Crossover Concept is ideal for carrying ski, snowboard and bicycle racks as well as transport boxes of all sizes.

Flexible roof structure: open for open-air driving pleasure and all kinds of transport requirements.

The roof structure of the MINI Crossover Concept offers further options for the enhancement of everyday driving qualities and leisure-time enjoyment. As a folding roof stretching across almost the entire length of the roof area, it opens from both the front and from behind, ensuring an ample supply of fresh air and/or warm sunshine in the car, depending on the driver's and passengers' wishes.

A further advantage is that the opening at the rear end is simply ideal for stowing away extremely long objects ranging from a surfboard to cross-country skis, allowing the driver to take along virtually every kind of cargo in the MINI Crossover Concept.

The folding roof is made of a highly resistant textile also used on convertible roofs. Extra-stable elements made of a special plastic material front and rear ensure a precise fit to the body. The variable opening mechanism is a consistent enhancement of the roof system, allowing the driver and passengers to position the folding roof at any point in the roof opening.

Thanks to this unique option, the roof may be opened up to 40 centimetres or nearly 16 inches at the front for a pleasant supply of fresh air. And at the same time it may be raised at the rear in order to lift bulky objects into the loading space.

The roof of the MINI Crossover Concept also offers passengers at the rear the opportunity to enjoy the sliding roof function, giving the car in this position the unique style and character of a classic open tourer saloon with the rear passengers enjoying the world around them in every respect.

Yet a further point is that the car's designers provide individual customisation options right from the start, one possible option being to fit a glass sliding roof of the usual size or a panorama glass roof with a particularly large opening as an alternative to the folding roof. And even that is not all: A further option might be a so-called yacht roof with contours similar to the deck of a yacht as well as glass openings for extra light and style. Then the roof might also come with two storage boxes accessible from inside the car as well as folding LCD monitors in the roof lining.

Four single seats for maximum comfort inside the MINI.

The MINI Crossover Concept is not just an unconventional four-door, but really a truly exceptional four-seater. The single seats at the rear come with the same contours as the driver's and front passenger's seats and are adjustable fore-and-aft by no less than 13 centimetres (5.1"). So depending on individual requirements, this provides lounge-like legroom or additional storage room at the rear of the passenger compartment.

The backrests on the front seats come with transport nets and elastic lashing straps on the back, serving to conveniently stow away travel utensils such as road maps, CDs, magazines, game consoles or beverage cans and bottles. The headrests may also be fitted with lashing straps or LCD monitors at the back, the latter serving to offer a high-class rear-seat entertainment system.

The MINI Center Globe – the vision of a central instrument of the future.

Featuring their large circular central instrument right in the middle of the dashboard, the current MINI models come with an interior highlight quite unique in its function and unmistakable in its looks. This multifunction display serves to mastermind all major entertainment, telecommunication and navigation functions, with the speedometer extending round the edge from one end to the other.

The MINI Crossover Concept now consistently enhances this display and control concept to an even higher level through the introduction of the MINI Center Globe: For the first time on this Concept Car the central display and control unit are finished as a globe allowing use and operation from all sides.

The three-dimensional design of the MINI Center Globe allows even more consistent integration of functions and the appropriate presentation of information and entertainment options. In addition to conventional displays currently limited to vertical and horizontal presentation, the new instrument

also uses the third dimension, the depth of space. Display functions may therefore be stratified on various layers, then being highlighted to a greater or lesser degree, depending on the driver's and front passenger's wishes.

The current speed of the car is presented in typical MINI style on a display round the outside with a red liquid in a tube surrounding the MINI Center Globe moving round in a circle as a function of speed.

This display is combined with the so-called heartbeat function: Depending on the driver's style of motoring, a red light flashes on and off in the lower section of the central instrument in varying frequency. So the faster the MINI is driving and the quicker the speed indicator beats, the higher the heart rate of the car itself and the driver.

Unique the world over: laser projection technology in the car.

The most advanced laser projection technology serves to present all information clearly, flexibly and in perfectly legible style at all times. Thanks to this new technology never featured in an automobile before, the projection globe may be split up into two hemispheres allowing the driver and front passenger to use and enjoy different functions recognisable only from their respective position.

As an example, the front passenger may surf the internet while the driver retains his free vision of all displays and indicators presented the MINI Center Globe. To do this, the hemisphere facing the front passenger is closed off and serves as the projection surface for the functions and features the front passenger would like to enjoy.

With its unique optical qualities, the laser projector is able to present images on various levels at the same time, in all cases in excellent focus and with unusually powerful colours. Indeed, the colour saturation achieved by this technology is far better than that of an LCD display.

Yet a further point is that the laser projector is most suitable for presenting pictures on a curved surface. The central instrument featured in the Concept Car therefore already offers an impression of the navigation, communication and entertainment options the car of the future may well provide through innovative technology.

Versatile control, clear operation.

The MINI Center Globe may be controlled in four different ways: To use the touch-sensitive surface of the globe, all the driver or front passenger have to do is touch the appropriate point on the surface in order to activate a function,

overriding a tangible resistance in the process. The second option is for the driver to choose information and specific functions via a trackball on the steering wheel, allowing him to keep both hands on the wheel while driving.

The keys and slide controls for functions used particularly often such as the main menu, audio functions, Ambient Light and even a fragrance function are located in the lower section of the MINI Center Globe, enabling the driver and front passenger, simply by pressing a button or pushing a slide, to vary the colour of the Ambient Light or to create various fragrances inside the car, depending on their personal preference. And last but not least, the front passenger has direct access to a number of additional functions via a keyboard moving out of the instrument panel at the touch of a button.

The MINI Center Globe is connected directly to the starter system for the engine. Instead of a conventional key, however, the driver in this case uses a start/stop unit referred to as the Keyball. All he does is insert the Keyball on the MINI Crossover Concept into the opening provided for this purpose along the upper edge of the MINI Center Globe, the Keyball then rolls along the side facing the driver towards the middle of the central instrument. Now the driver may press the Keyball to start the engine. Pressing it again, he subsequently switches off the engine, the Keyball rolls down into a storage bin from where it may be conveniently removed.

The MINI Center Globe is activated automatically during the starting process, the two hemispheres previously closed at the top opening up to provide a clear view of the MINI Center Globe inside.

The contours of a world map are engraved in the surface of the MINI Center Globe, which therefore resembles a genuine globe of the world – a symbol universally acknowledged for its significance as a universal travel companion and orientation aid. Precisely this is why a line around the “equator” tilts in all directions as a function of the car’s current position, assuming the role of an artificial horizon as on a compass. At the same time a model MINI on the same line shows the movements of the actual car.

As long as the MINI Center Globe remains closed, laser projection in this mode shows the current location of other MINI drivers in contact with the car owner on a world map.

Smaller globes on the right-hand side of the MINI Center Globe help the driver and passengers communicate with the world around them. So depending on whether they have received an e-mail, voice mail or a text message, one of these three globes will light up, the respective message being presented or played back as soon as the user presses the appropriate globe.

Over and above these features, the MINI Center Globe offers new options for customised use of the car. So in addition to their personal profiles already saved in a modern car key on a production model these days, the Keyball may be configured specifically to the driver. Apart from the driver's preferred seating and steering wheel position, as well as the set-up of the entertainment system, telephone lists, music files or navigation routes may also be saved on the Keyball, offering the driver all the information he needs while travelling.

The MINI Center Rail:

the ideal connection between and the front and rear seats.

Instead of a conventional centre console, the MINI Crossover Concept comes with a fastening rail extending all the way from the dashboard to the tailgate and referred to as the MINI Center Rail. This is the connecting element between the front seats and the rear, enhancing the joint driving experience in the MINI.

Holders for entertainment and telecommunication devices, cupholders, storage bins and boxes may be fitted to this rail and then pushed forwards or backwards throughout the entire length of the car.

The MINI Center Rail is equipped with an integrated cable channel for connecting mobile phones or external MP3 players to the rail in any position desired, thus linking up to the car's entertainment system. A special fastening system developed for this very special MINI serves furthermore to fit all kinds of units and items to the Center Rail, such as an external music player and other devices, boxes and storage bins for sunglasses, gloves, tickets for a car park, coins, writing utensils or a travel guide as well as all kinds of holders.

Yet a further option is to fit an armrest with an integrated storage box both front and rear. And last but not least, the Center Rail may take up cupholders and transport boxes of various size, laptop holders, additional sources of light for interior illumination, or even a cooling box.

These innovative fastening options offered by the MINI Center Rail allow the user to fasten all kinds of holders and boxes firmly in position. At the same time the Center Rail also provides the possibility, through its rail structure, to use individual items alternately at the front or rear, simply by pushing such

items to and fro. Clearly, this facilitates the common use of an external music player, just as it allows the front and rear occupants to exchange food and drinks conveniently while driving.

In the MINI Crossover Concept this joint experience on wheels is enhanced to the maximum by a special series of porcelain dishes and cups created specifically for the Concept Car. Fitting conveniently on the MINI Center Rail, this special porcelain may then be pushed up and down through the entire car along the rail.

These sophisticated dishes and cups may also be stored conveniently on top of one another for use outside the car, for example on a picnic while travelling. Through their classic quality, these individual items of porcelain made elaborately by hand and designed specifically for the MINI Crossover Concept offer genuine French lifestyle of the highest standard. And at the same time they provide an attractive contrast of traditional and modern values within the interior of this visionary Design Study.

Four sophisticated materials for an exclusive ambience.

Use of the finest porcelain clearly accentuates the exclusive lifestyle character offered by the MINI Crossover Concept also through three other particularly exclusive materials featured within the interior: Genuine wood trim across the entire width of the car adds a particular touch of elegance to the dashboard. The armrests on the doors and the inlays in the footwells are likewise made of solid lime wood, and both the door linings as well as the air vent surrounds come with inlays made of specially hardened glass shimmering in Lagoon Blue.

Like the door closing handles on the front passenger's side, the MINI Center Rail is made of massive, matt-polished aluminium. The choice of colours in the interior, in turn, places the emphasis on natural, authentic shades, the leather on the driver's seat in Dark Green standing out clearly from the Coffee Brown leather on the other seats.

To emphasize the car's clear focus on the driver, the door closing handle on the driver's side, the gearshift lever knob, the spokes on the steering wheel and the exterior mirror on the driver's side all come in Emerald Green.

The remaining cloth surfaces are finished in Light Grey and Brown, with soft rubber covers incorporating wood inlays in the footwells.

The surfaces within the car gain additional appeal through the intentional contrast of matt and glossy surfaces on interior units positioned directly next to one another. The use of colours and materials also featured on the exterior of the MINI Crossover Concept serves in addition to create a visual link between the outside and the inside of the car. As an example, the surface structure on the back of the seats resembles the texture of the folding roof, while the paintwork on the roof is the same as the colour on the equipment and interior elements facing the driver. And last but not least, the lower part of the instrument panel comes in Minimal Grey, the same colour as the body of the car.

The MINI Crossover Concept: visions for mobility of the future.

Introducing the MINI Crossover Concept, MINI is presenting not only a fascinating option extending the brand family by an innovative new philosophy, but also a progressive vision of mobility of the future. The concept study takes up the great potential of the MINI brand in catering for all kinds of target groups, a standard of diversity already confirmed clearly by the success of the three existing models, the MINI, the MINI Convertible, and MINI Clubman. And now this new rendition of the MINI with its typical features comes in authentic style, naturally maintaining the core values, driving pleasure, lifestyle and premium quality so typical of the brand.

The MINI Crossover Concept is the answer to the changing demands made by a modern target group oriented to a modern way of life. It comes with outstanding innovations in technology, features and equipment never seen before even beyond the MINI segment. In particular, however, the MINI Crossover Concept stimulates our fantasy and offers a taste of the MINI driving experience in store for the future.