

## AUTOS

Selecting our most winning wheels on an annual basis gets trickier with time. These days,

calling a car "best of the best" is, admittedly, presumptuousand possibly myopic. Even after factoring in the constant advancements in autonomous driving and alternative power-

train technology, any decision is still subjective. But the exercise does act as a centrifuge for the market, separating the truly innovative from the merely derivative. This year, the tribute to automotive excellence continues with coverage that now includes more than a dozen categories, a nod to iconic engineering, and a conversation with design legends who continue to shape the industry even further. Fasten up.

## **VIJU MATHEW**

AUTOMOTIVE EDITOR

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Becker's ultrapersonalized vehicles transport executives, dignitaries, and celebrities while providing them with all the accoutrements found on first-class flights. Take, for instance, this Mercedes-Benz Sprinter

van, which is outfitted with a fully functioning kitchen inspired by an aircraft galley. "The idea is that during your transportation time, you can do everything you could do if you were on a private jet," says Howard Becker, the founder and CEO of Becker

Automotive Designs. "And what private jet doesn't have coffee if you want it?"

The JetVan's interior designer, Natalia Wilner, worked in the aviation industry for nearly 20 years and learned to make the most of limited dimensions. "I love the challenge of a small space," she says. "We collaborated to fit in everything from a blender to a vacuum to three large-screen TVs."

The JetVan is also comfortable, thanks to a customized air suspension and additional noise-reduction

and heat-insulation materials. Filtered fresh-air ventilation keeps oxygen at optimum levels. Each vehicle is built to the client's exact specifications and can take as long as six months to complete. (from \$225,000) beckerauto design.com −Laura Burstein 🎛

