Beijing Auto Show 2026: 71 concept cars and the front end turned into a light signature

27/04/2026

Auto China 2026 (24 April to 3 May) filled 17 halls and 380,000 m², with around 180 press conferences on press day and **71 concept cars**. It is by far the show with the most prototypes in the world, and the one that sets the tone for what will reach Europe with Chinese brands and with the European brands that design there.

The most visible trend is at the front. The SAIC-Audi E7X replaces the grille with a **light loop of over a thousand triangular elements**; the Volkswagen ID. Aura T6 integrates an illuminated logo into a continuous light bar; Dongfeng Peugeot's Concept 6 and 8 carry illuminated logos in the centre of the closed grille and on the fenders; and the Zeekr 8X debuts wraparound taillights with a "shattered glass" effect and blacked-out chrome on its performance version.

There were also surfaces that change: the BMW iX3 Flow Edition carries E Ink in the bonnet with eight animations, and the Buick Electra Zenith paints its glass the body colour for one continuous volume. BMW also presented the new 7 Series with the illuminated "Iconic Glow" grille and an interior of leather, textile, wood, crystal glass and metal. The reading for an exterior-parts maker is unambiguous: the grille is no longer a mesh, it is an optical part.

Sources: Car Design News · Car Design News (review) · BMW Group · Wallpaper*