

THE ORIGINAL AUTOMOTIVE LIFESTYLES MAGAZINE

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ENERGY MOTOR SPORT

BMW i8

WORDS: KRISTIE BERTUCCI PHOTOS: TAKANORI ARIMA



Stunning is the first word one might think of when seeing BMW's i8 in person. The plug-in hybrid from BMW is no ordinary sports car, using eDrive technology that combines the efficiency of an all-electric motor with the power of a TwinPower Turbo engine. While it provides an exhilarating driving experience, its bold looks highlight the vehicle's aerodynamics, with every detail created toward channeling airflow for even more efficiency. It's a thing of perfection in many eyes as is.

But like other sports cars that have come before it, tuners don't see a thing of perfection, but a blank canvas to build their masterpiece. One such company that creates aftermarket parts for the i8 is Japanese tuner Energy Motor Sport, which has been specializing in making Bavarian beauties more unique and personalized since 1995. While some might consider the design of the i8 a perfect balance of sport and luxury, Energy Motor Sport took it upon themselves to enhance the styling by adding lines and a muscular feel. "We wanted to produce a grandiose piece of 'work' and felt the i8 was the best car for us to do that with," mentions Energy Motor Sport's store manager Yu Aoki. "We felt that we could complement the beautiful design by refining the front end to be more aggressive and came up with a kit that made it still look like a supercar, but with a futuristic design." >

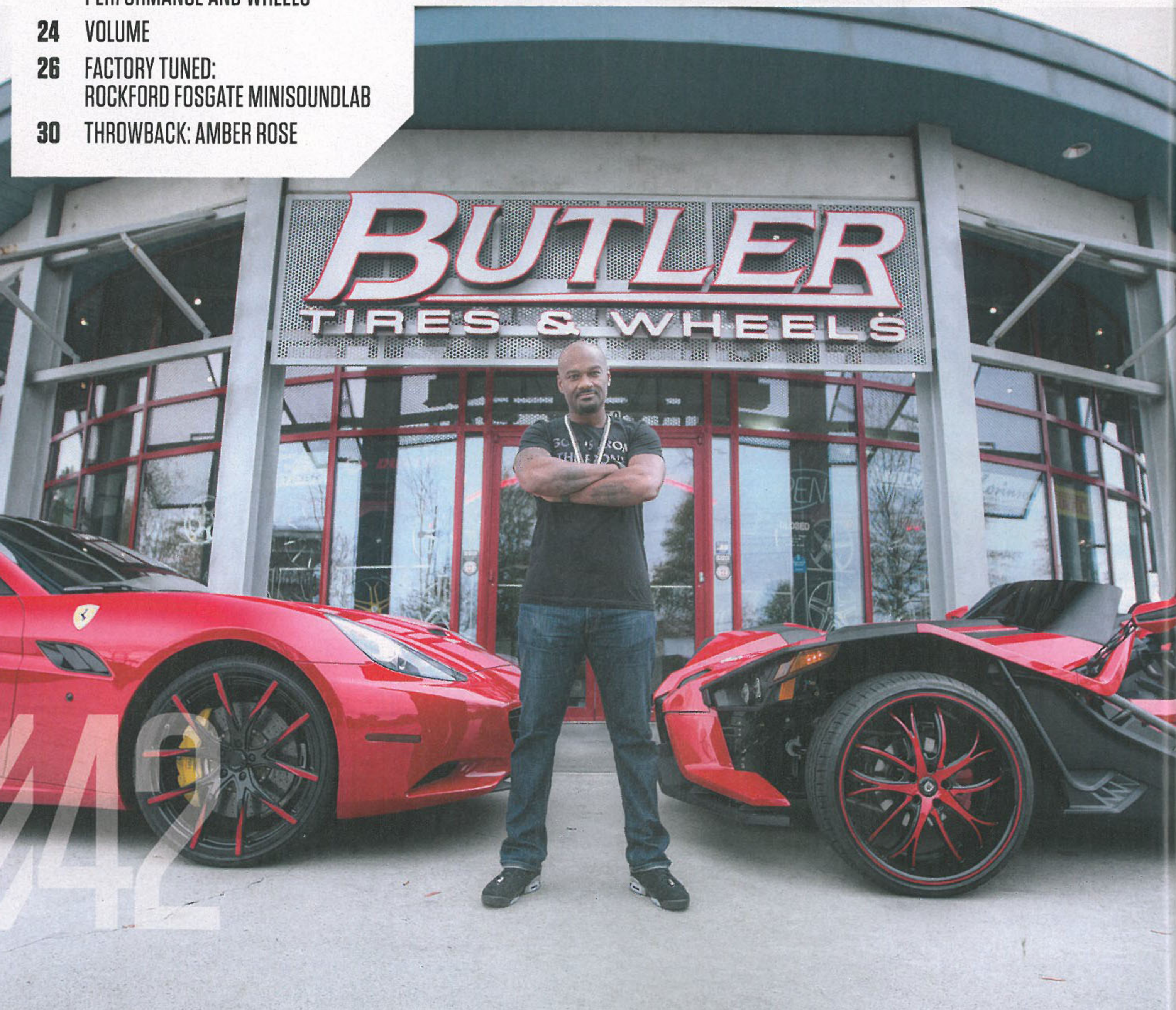
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To complete the enhancements, a custom designed set of 21" BBS x Energy Motor Sport forged concave wheels were matched with Pirelli P Zero tires. The interior was modestly dressed in key carbon fiber accents that coordinated with the exterior styling cues.

No performance modifications were given to the i8 for its debut at the 2016 Tokyo Auto Salon, but they do plan on producing a custom exhaust system for the i8, with the possibility of producing it for sale. Because of this eye-catching build, Energy Motor Sport has already received a few orders for their Evo i8 kits from Japan, China, Vietnam and a few BMW dealerships here in the U.S. With the positive international response to the silver i8, Energy Motor Sport is currently creating other color editions of their EVO i8, including one dressed in a matte black color that they'll call the "Darknight Edition." "We're also waiting for the release of the i8 Spyder, so when that's delivered, we'll definitely produce a new design for it!" Energy Motor Sports is looking forward to the possibility of bringing the EVO i8 to the upcoming SEMA Show where it can stun onlookers stateside. 📷



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The result is what they call the "EVO i8," which consists of a front fascia that incorporates sharp, downward fins, a custom hood and flared wheel arches in addition to the two half wings are reminiscent of Ferrari's FXX K track-only hypercar. To visually highlight the modifications, a matte silver wrap that features polished chrome and gloss black accents was chosen and installed by P.G.D. Wraps. "P.G.D is a famous professional wrapping team here in Japan," Aoki says. "They also wrap SEMA builds every year for the ARLON Film booth and had their work showcased on the cover of Arlon's Automotive Restyling Brochure since they won their social media competition, WrapWars." >



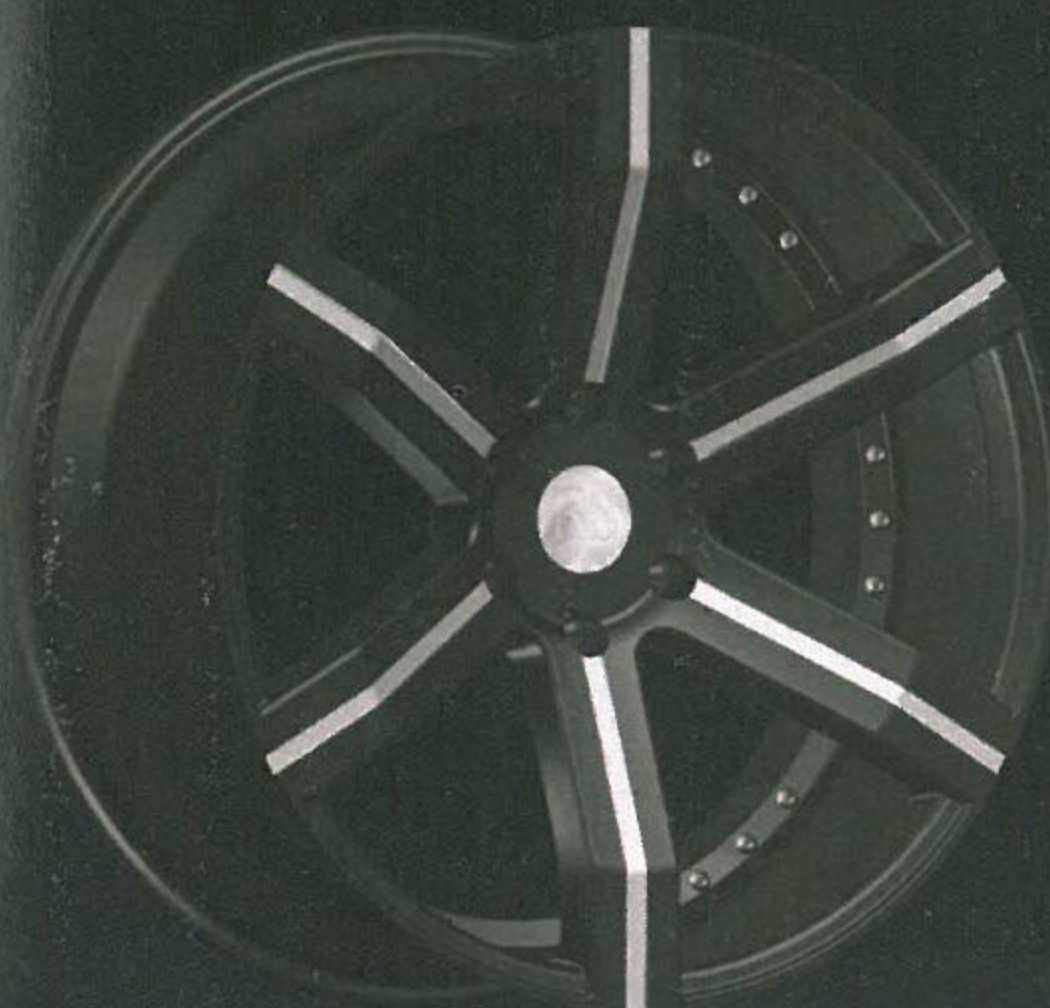
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