

LUIGI COLANI

1928

Born in Berlin

Studies at the Berlin Academy of Art

1947

Paris: illustrations for automobile magazines

1952

Publication of a turbine motorcycle in the French magazine 'Motocycles'

1953

Studies aerodynamics at the Sorbonne

Works at Douglas in the department for new materials

Works on the first Simca Coupé with an entirely synthetic body;
works for the Baron du Bouget on various Le Mans vehicles,
1-in-5 streamlined models for Deutsch et Bonnet

1954

Paris fashion prize for the invention of his elevator shoes

1955

Works for carbody builder Rometsch as well as Erdmann & Rossi in Berlin

1957

Speed record with Colani Abarth Alfa at the Nürburgring

1958

First entirely synthetic monocoque for a small sportscar based on a BMW 700; as of
1958: kit for Colani GT's based on VW

1965

Introduction of Colani GT with winged doors based on a VW Beetle

First Pop furniture appears at Kusch + Co, Germany

1967

Patent for a wing-like auto body design for thrust production

1968

First high-speed record for a propeller aircraft with a Wankel engine

1969

Completion of the design for a spherical kitchen

1970

Alternative proposal for Mercedes C 111

1971

Aerodynamic consultant for the Eiffelland Grand Prix racing team

Tear-drop shaped tea service for Rosenthal

Colani joins the ranks of anti-culture pamphlets with the publication of the YLEM Manifesto by Archigram (GB), Superstudio (I) and Sottsass (I)

1972-1981

Design factory at Harkotten Castle in Central Germany

1973

First collection of sanitary ceramics for Villeroy & Boch with flowing ergonomic designs

Influenced by the oil crisis, Colani presses ahead with the development of energy-saving transport systems (experiments with fuel-saving propellers, trucks and compact cars)

Begins studies of large gliders

1974

Bathroom fittings based on hydrodynamic insights for Grohe

Development of a 'grand style' for Le Mans on the basis of the Colani C-shape

Development work on light motorized vehicles for commuters

1975

First vintage roadster as a retro-design

1976

VW Spar-Polo using 1.2 liters less fuel yet increasing the maximum speed by 12 km/h

Introduction of a record-breaking Colani racing Polo

New types of helicopters, hovercrafts, hydrofoils and high sea yachts which are harbingers of a new bio-design

Further development of the Ford GT40 as 'grand style' for Le Mans in Colani's C form

First flight of the VFW Fokker FAN Liner streamlined by Colani

1977

Development of a successor to the Beetle for VW – positioned between Polo and Golf

Newsweek reports on the 'Lord of the Castle'

Presentation of the first streamlined trucks at the IAA in Frankfurt

1978

Concept for mega-transport aircraft according to the wing-in-ground (WIG) effect

Lecture to Boeing engineers in Seattle

First utopian designs for a future generation of Mach 1+ transport aircraft

Aerodynamic concepts for the development of a magnetic levitation railway for Thyssen/Henschel

Publication of the first critical summary of Colani's work:

Luigi Colani – Designing Tomorrow, Car Styling in Tokyo

1981-1984

Work in Japan

1981

Fuel saving record with streamlined 2CV at the Contidrom in Hanover (1.7 liters for 100km)

Publication of a follow-up critical summary of Colani's work: Luigi Colani – for a Brighter Tomorrow, Car Styling in Tokyo

Alternative proposal for Guigiaro's BMW M1 for the Le Mans race driver, Jean Rondeau

1982

Major Colani exhibition at the Futurama in Winterthur, Switzerland

First Colani eye-glasses with new type of side piece

Designer of the year in Japan

Start of a designer exhibition tour through the department store chain Takashimaya

1983

SLR T90 camera for Canon comes out, a trailblazing model

Prediction of digital camera

Peter Ustinov presents a Colani show on US TV network NBC

1983

Development of the scientific Biocity in human form

Shogakukan publishers in Tokyo bring out the book The Colani Line

1984

Publication of a third critical summary of Colani's work: Luigi Colani – Biodesign of Tomorrow, Car Styling in Tokyo

Miniature Cobra headset for Sony in biomorphic design

Shell-shaped performance stage in Otaru, Japan

Colani designs a shoe and sports fashion collection for Adidas

Start of the construction of the life-size model of the Hexaplan with solar wings

1986

Designs uniforms for Swissair

1988

Collaboration with the Russian national institute, Nami

Honorary professorship at the Bremen Academy of Arts, Germany

1989

Roadster with a 4 cylinder BMW motorcycle engine

Colani Corvette Charisma

Automorrow project as a major road-show and lecture tour through the USA with 14 record-making vehicles

1991

Speed record (365.552 km/h) certified by the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile with Colani Lotec Ferrari at the Utah Salt Flats in Bonneville together with the Strasburg racing team

First water bottle with an asymmetrical design for Valser, Switzerland

Colani exhibition at the Centre Pompidou in Paris, France
(Kormoran, Le Mans Study 1991, Camera Prototypes, Loudspeakers Shaped like Ears)

1992

Airbus cockpit in new ergonomic form

Ph.D. thesis by Peter Dunas: 'Colani and Organic-Dynamic Design since Art Nouveau'

Exhibition at Westfalenpark, Dortmund, Germany

1993

First organic computer design in the world for Vobis, Germany

Colani exhibition in the Transport Museum, Dresden, Germany

1994

Centre Pompidou makes Colani pieces part of their permanent design collection

1995

Honorary professorship at Tongji University, Shanghai, China

1996

Design of a Horch luxury automobile for the revival of the great tradition of the East German automobiles

Gorbi all-terrain vehicle for desert rallies based on a Lada platform

2000

DAF Colani truck

Opening of a design development studio in Karlsruhe

2001

Redesign of the East German design icon, Trabant

2002

Colani's large sculptures in the Neue Sammlung,
Design in the Pinakothek der Moderne in Munich

Colani completes his 7th streamlined truck, an aerodynamic bulk tanker truck

2003

Design of a health center with sanatoriums and spa

Realization of a ready-to-drive Opel speedster

Die Neue Sammlung, Staatliches Museum für angewandte Kunst purchases Colani's
1973 motorcycle study for the Pinakothek der Moderne in Munich

2004

Lecture at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland

Opening of the permanent exhibition "Colani _ The Oeuvre" across 4,000 square
meters
of show space at the Nancyhalle in Karlsruhe, Southern Germany.

Publication of the book: Colani – The Art of Shaping the Future, which the journal
Wallpaper votes "best design book of 2004"

Completion of a life-size rotor house – a residential unit with a swivel rotor for the
bath, bedroom and kitchen.

2005

Completion of a Colani Supertruck with extreme streamlining

Design study for a passenger airplane with 1,000 seats

Study for a robot shaped like a baby

Completion of a series of 140 sculptures of athletes for the Olympic Games in Beijing

Participation in the "Germany in Japan 2005-6" event in the form of the "Colani Back in Japan" exhibition in the Museum for Kunst and Design attached to the Kyoto Institute of Technology