



AMERICA'S CAR MUSEUM®

Alex Tremulis

Alex Tremulis began his automotive career without any formal training in either engineering or design at the age of 19 when he was hired as part of the design team at Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg in 1933. Among the projects that he worked on were the classic Cord 810 and 812 series and a custom Duesenberg roadster with a removable hard-top. Tremulis was named the Chief Stylist in 1936 and remained in that role until the company failed in 1937. Alex would go on to work for General Motors and then for the coachbuilder Briggs-Le Baron before settling with Custom Motors of Beverly Hills in 1938. In 1939 he began consulting for Crosley and American Bantam. His designs for American Bantam remained in production until the firm began work on the vehicle that would become the Jeep. Alex rounded out the prewar years designing the Chrysler Thunderbolt concept car in 1941.

When World War II was over Alex went to work for the design firm Tammen & Denison until Preston Tucker hired him to design the Tucker 48. It was as sole designer of the Tucker that Alex Tremulis became best known. Tremulis went on to work for Kaiser-Frazer from 1950 until 1952. From 1952 through 1963, Tremulis worked as the Chief of Ford Advanced Styling. In the 1960's he continued in a consulting role to help build vehicles that would challenge for the automotive world land speed records. His designs included the first rocket powered car to reach 250 mph, the "Goodyear Wingfoot Express" and the "Green Monster", which failed to set the record when it lost a wheel at 600 mph. Among the final designs for Alex Tremulis were the 1978-1987 Subaru Brat and three-wheeled, 150 miles per gallon concept car the Subaru X-100.

In addition to automotive design, Tremulis contributed designs to the aero-space industry while in the Army Air Corps during World War II. The "Tremulis Zero Fighter", later renamed "Operation Dyna-Soar" was the first exercise of the current Space Shuttle concept. Also from his World War II days with the Army Air Corps were the first conceptual drawings of a flying saucer.

References:

- <http://www.tuckerclub.org/html/tremulis.php>
- <http://www.coachbuilt.com/des/t/tremulis/tremulis.htm>