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BUICK'S NEW SCEPTRE CONCEPT CAR REPRESENTS GLOBAL EXPRESSION OF PERSONAL LUXURY SEDAN

FLINT, Mich. -- Sceptre, Buick's personal luxury concept sedan, displayed in 1992 and 1993 auto shows, represents a global expression of Buick's premium American motorcar characteristics. It blends craftsmanship, exhilarating performance and an ergonomically sound interior.

The rear-wheel-drive five-passenger sedan is powered by an advanced 3.5-liter supercharged V-6 engine.

According to Buick General Manager Edward H. Mertz, Sceptre offers a realistic glimpse into the division's future. "Sceptre is a concept car that is dramatic in appearance yet realistic in its design and execution," Mertz said.

He characterized the domestic automobile market as a microcosm of the world market. "Today Buick and all other domestic manufacturers are competing in a global market right here in the United States. Sceptre is a design statement that could attract those purchasers who have been drawn to the international brands."

Supporting Sceptre's evolutionary design, Mertz pointed out that Buick has been

increasingly successful in appealing to the world market specifically with Park Avenue/Ultra, LeSabre and Regal models.

Mertz said Sceptre represents a tailored, future interpretation of Buick's premium American heritage and can be defined as a personal luxury sedan that would be competitive anywhere in the world.

"We see Sceptre as a self-confident design that would be correct in any environment. It would feel equally competent on a challenging American road or a European autobahn."

Sceptre "embodies the engineering technology and comfortable accommodations that go into all Buicks," Mertz said.

Chuck Jordan, vice president of General Motors Design, described Sceptre as "a contemporary, international design which embodies those aerodynamic qualities that would be expected in a future personal luxury sedan."

Sceptre's expressive grille is arguably the single most compelling exterior design element on the car. "This grille is a natural evolution of Buick's distinctive front end appearance," said Jordan. "Like Buicks of the past, it provides a lasting impression. It's unmistakably Buick."

Sceptre's striking pearlescent white exterior paint scheme is complemented with light beige accents.

Headlamps are high intensity projection units and, in addition, perimeter lights are high intensity strobe/hazard flashers.

Sceptre sits on a 111.8-inch wheelbase and has an overall length of 193.3 inches.

The powerful supercharged 3.5-liter V-6 engine, which produces 250 horsepower and 280 lb-ft of torque, was developed with a solid understanding of durability, reliability and quality. The engine features high-flow cylinder heads and exhaust manifolds, but is also fuel efficient by delivering an estimated 30 miles per gallon on the highway.

An advanced electronically controlled five-speed automatic transmission with automatic traction control is mated to the engine. Estimated zero-to-60 mph performance is under eight seconds.

There is also a strong emphasis on underhood serviceability with all fluids easily accessed and key components easy to reach by quickly removing panels.

Sceptre's 245 ZR40 X 18 tires were designed by Buick and made by Michelin specially for the car. Tire pressure is constantly and automatically monitored to help provide maximum tire life and fuel economy.

Its 18-inch aluminum alloy wheels have a flush design with fin intakes designed to ventilate the four-wheel anti-lock disc brakes.

A computer controlled automatic active four-wheel independent suspension helps make Sceptre sure-footed on uneven road surfaces.

Safety features include separate air bags for driver and front passenger. Air bags located in the back of the front seats provide protection for rear-seat passengers.

Front safety belts are mounted directly to structural seat frames to better control occupants in the event of a collision. The spatial design of the seats also provides a

more comfortable fit for the shoulder belts.

Sceptre's sculptured leather interior accommodates five passengers. Interior color scheme is a family of warm earth tones with rich gray and brown accents.

Instrument panel and center console controls feature jewel-like graphics which are crisp and clear through the use of cool-to-the-touch fiber optic illumination. For superior driver visibility and comfort, the instrument gage cluster tilts and telescopes with the steering wheel within the instrument panel.

Interior features include a hands-free cellular telephone with a key pad mounted on the center console; a new Concert Sound IV entertainment system with cassette and compact disc player; and four-zone ComforTemp climate controls to allow the driver, front passenger and two outboard rear passengers to control temperature from individual door-mounted outlets.

"The feel of the interior reflects the aerodynamic exterior," Jordan said. "The lines tend to flow and provide the occupants with the ultimate in safety, security, comfort, ease of operation and entertainment."

Mertz said Sceptre reveals the standard for future personal luxury sedans.

"Sceptre represents a standard that is substantial in its presence, distinctive in its styling,
powerful in its road capabilities, and mature in its amenities and interior design," he said.

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BUICK SCEPTRE SPECIFICATIONS

EXTERIOR: Height 54.7 in. INTERIOR FRONT: INTERIOR REAR:

TRANSMISSION:

Electronically Controlled 5-Speed Automatic with Automatic Traction Control

ENGINE: BRAKES:

3.5-Liter Supercharged V-6 Anti-lock

Net Installed Horsepower: 250 Net Installed Torque: 280 lb-ft







